



Increase Funding for the Strengthening Community College Training Grants Program

Community colleges urge Congress to increase funding for the Strengthening Community College Training Grants (SCCTG) program to \$100 million in the FY 2024 Labor, HHS and Education (LHHS) appropriations bill. The program is currently funded at \$65 million.

SCCTG expands and improves community college workforce education capacity and business productivity through competitive grants to community colleges. The colleges serve as lead grantees, either individually or in consortia with other institutions. As a condition of receiving support, community colleges also must work with other key partners, particularly businesses. The program is funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Dislocated Workers National Reserve account.

The SCCTG program enables community colleges to expand and implement new job training programs to help employers fill the unprecedented number of job openings. SCCTG grant funding is closely aligned to other federal support for community colleges and their students, including the WIOA formula programs, Perkins CTE funds and Title IV student aid programs.

The program has had three grant rounds to date, with applications far outstripping the number of grants available. Grants of up to \$1.6 million are made to single institutions and up to \$5 million for institutional consortia. Approximately 15 grants have been made in each grant cycle. The \$65 million appropriated in FY 23 will fund the fourth grant round. Program grants are helping to prepare workers in industry sectors such as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and clean energy.

SCCTG is the latest iteration of successful, direct federal support for community college workforce education programs. The reality is that without federal support, community colleges cannot fully meet the needs of business. The program is a successor to both the Community-Based Job Training Grants and the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grants. Both programs were larger in scope (the TAACCCT program awarded nearly \$500 million per year over 4 years), and AACC urges Congress to rapidly grow SCCTG over time to match these previous efforts.