



## Community College Funding Priorities, September 2023

Community colleges urge Congress to increase investments in their students and campuses. These locally-oriented institutions provide millions of Americans with the skills and education they need to thrive in today's economy and society. Community colleges ask Congress to build on existing support and pass appropriations legislation that increases investments in a wide array of education and workforce training programs, such as Perkins CTE, HEA Titles III and V, CCAMPIS, TRIO and Gear-Up. Furthermore, Congress must reject the massive cuts to higher education programs found in the House Labor, HHS and Education (L-HHS-ED) appropriations bill. Community colleges particularly emphasize the following requests:

- **At least \$65 million for the Strengthening Community College Training Grants.** SCCTG helps expand workforce training capacity at community colleges in their partnerships with businesses and other workforce development organizations. Applications for this essential program have far outstripped available funds. The House level-funded this program at \$65 million in the L-HHS-ED appropriations bill, whereas the Senate cut it by \$10 million. Community colleges urge Congress to restore this cut in final legislation.
- **At least a \$250 increase in the Pell Grant maximum award.** Pell Grants enable millions of low-income students to pay tuition and fees and meet other college expenses. Independent community college students have total annual educational costs that exceed \$19,000, so Pell Grant increases are vital even to students in the lowest-cost higher education sector. Community colleges urge Congress to enact the \$250 increase that is contained in the Senate L-HHS-ED funding bill.
- **At least level funding for the HEA Title III-A Strengthening Institutions program.** The Higher Education Act Strengthening Institutions Program (Title III-A) helps community colleges and other low-resourced institutions serving low-income students improve academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability. Funds may be used for planning, faculty development, establishing endowments, and other purposes. This program was cut by \$10 million in the Senate L-HHS-ED appropriations bill and community colleges urge a reversal of this cut in final legislation.