

HB21-1330: Higher Education Student Success

November 17, 2021

American Rescue Plan

Colorado and its local governments received **\$5.7 billion** in total:

- \$3.8 billion for the state;
- \$1.1 billion for counties;
- \$551 million for metropolitan cities; and
- \$265 million for local governments with 50,000 or fewer people.

Governor Polis implemented the proposal for **\$3.8 billion** in state funding as:

- 1/3 to shore up Colorado's budget;
- 1/3 towards workforce development, housing, and mental and behavioral health; and
- 1/3 creating jobs in transportation, public lands, and agriculture.

Future of Higher Education Task Force

- Charged the Commission on Higher Education to convene a task force by August 1, 2021 and deliver a report to the Colorado General Assembly by December 15, 2021
- Task force membership:
 - a representative from each governing board
 - Colorado Workforce Development Council
 - postsecondary students
 - advocacy groups
 - public K12 partner
 - and chaired by the CCHE (actually, co-chairs)

Future of Higher Education Task Force, cont.

- 1) role and mission of each public postsecondary institution
- 2) the history, purpose and effectiveness of service areas
- 3) leveraging best practices and data for student success and developing responsive and equitable postsecondary pathways
- 4) examine ways to increase student retention and completion, and the impact of debt for students in achieving these things
- 5) strategies to leverage future federal higher education reforms such as making the first two years of college tuition-free
- 6) ways to reduce overlap and provide efficiencies to meet workforce needs
- 7) Review possible uses of the rest of the ARP federal workforce money

COSI Finish What You Started (FWYS)

- \$46.5M to be allocated between all public institutions of higher education
- Indirect and Direct support for students
- Allows flexibility in student award using last-dollar plus model so students get what they need financially
- Gives guidance on areas of focus and activities to support students founded in national, evidenced-based best practices to increase college affordability and completion



COLORADO
Department of
Higher Education

Eligible Student Populations

Some College, No Degree

- CO resident
- Not currently working towards a degree (unenrolled for at least 2 semesters)
- Earned some postsecondary credits, but did not complete a credential

Or

First-Time Students

- CO resident
- Not currently working towards a degree
- Admitted to a CO public IHE in AY 2019-20 or 2020-21 but did not enroll

Implementation Options

Partner with One Million Degrees (OMD)

- OMD is an evidence-based service provider & COSI's current FWYS pilot service provider
- As a sub-grantee, OMD can help IHEs develop & manage the FWYS program
- IHEs utilizing the OMD service model may operate in a cohort benefitting from shared learnings, free program evaluation, and other resources TBD

Design & Implement Own Program

- Expand outreach & target recruitment towards eligible student populations
- Building on existing infrastructure, tailor and/or add additional indirect and direct support services for eligible student populations

Colorado Re-Engaged (CORE) Initiative

- CORE could help as many as 13,000 former students from just from the past 3 years earn associate degrees, and in many cases continue on to the bachelor's
- Authorizes universities without associate degree programs to award associate degrees to eligible students who left college before earning their bachelor's
- To be eligible, students must have completed at least 70 credits, have been out of school for at least two semesters, and have finished all associate degree requirements
- The CORE associate degree is a completion award only
- Students are eligible if they left college as many as 10 years ago
- Students who are eligible for Reverse Transfer are not eligible for CORE



Bachelor of Applied Science Degree Programs and Colorado Mountain College Role and Mission

- Makes the community college Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree program approval process consistent with the process for approval of Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs
- Governing boards must ensure that BAS degree programs align with student and workforce demand, are cost effective for students, institutions, and the state, and meet accreditation and licensing requirements
- Asserts the Colorado Mountain College is a “dual mission institution”



Financial Aid Completion Strategies

- Financial Aid Working Group
 - Recommend measures for increasing the number of high school graduates to complete the student aid applications to the Colorado General Assembly
 - Thirteen experts from the field appointed by the Governor
 - First meeting held August 15, 2021
- Financial Aid Application Completion Grant
 - Provide competitive grants to assist school districts in increasing their student aid application completion rate
 - A local education provider must require students to complete the student aid applications before graduation unless the requirement is waived under conditions described by the local education provider

Thank you for listening.

If you have any questions, please reach out to
Ben.Boggs@dhe.state.co.us

Visit our [webpage](https://bit.ly/3eENyTA) for implementation updates:
<https://bit.ly/3eENyTA>