

## **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Fact Sheet**

On November 15th, 2021, President Biden signed into law the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, H.R. 3684](#). The House approved the legislation on November 5 in a bipartisan 228 – 206 vote. The Senate approved the legislation much earlier, on August 10, also in a bipartisan 69 – 30 vote. The bipartisan infrastructure bill provides \$1.2 trillion over 8 years for infrastructure improvements, including more than \$500 billion for core infrastructure projects such as roads, broadband, and electric utilities improvements.

The bipartisan legislation does not contain substantial investment in higher education, and notably left out much needed investments in community colleges infrastructure. However, investments in broadband deployment infrastructure and workforce training could indirectly benefit community colleges and their students.

Below is a summary of provisions of interest to community colleges.

### **Broadband Investments**

#### **Division F – Broadband**

- Title I – Broadband Grants for States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Territories
  - Sec. 60102. Grants for Broadband Deployment (pg. 754)
    - Creates a \$42.5 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment formula grant program for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Territories “to bridge the digital divide” through broadband deployments to unserved and underserved areas.
    - Establishes a minimum of \$100 million to be allocated to each of the 50 states, with an additional \$100 million set to be divided equally among U.S. territories.
    - To participate, states must submit a proposal outlining long-term objectives for deploying broadband, closing the digital divide, and enhancing economic growth and competition.
    - Among many other purposes, funding can be used for competitive subgrants for connecting eligible community anchor institutions, which includes institutions of higher education.

- Title III – Digital Equity Act
  - Sec. 60304. State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program (pg. 784)
    - Creates an annual \$125 million formula grant program for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to fund the creation and implementation of comprehensive digital equity plans in each State.
    - Provides \$60 million for grants to States to develop their digital equity plans.
    - Institutions of higher education and other anchor institutions are available for subgrants under this program from their state to support digital equity and inclusion activities.
  - Sec. 60305. Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program (pg. 794)
    - Creates an annual \$125 million competitive grant program to achieve digital equity, promote digital inclusion activities, and spur greater broadband adoption among covered populations.
    - Institutions of higher education and other anchor institutions are available for subgrants under this program.
- Title IV – Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure
  - Sec. 60401. Middle Mile Grant Program (pg. 803)
    - \$1 billion competitive grant program, available through September 30, 2026, to fund the construction, improvement, or acquisition of technology- neutral middle mile infrastructure.
    - Middle mile infrastructure is defined as broadband infrastructure which does not connect directly to an end-user location and can include leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral exchange facilities, undersea cables, and transport connectivity to data centers.
    - Grant can help improve broadband service in rural areas and for other under served communities.
- Title V – Broadband Affordability
  - Sec. 60502. Extension and Modification of Emergency Broadband Benefit (pg. 2170)
    - The bill provides an additional \$14.2 billion for the Affordable Connectivity Fund, a successor of the Emergency Broadband Benefit program.
    - The bill lowers the monthly subsidy rate to \$30 from the current \$50 subsidy rate but also includes \$100 for devices.

## **Workforce Training Investments**

### **Division C – Transit**

- Sec. 30018. Grants for buses and bus facilities (pg. 487)
  - Grants to retrain existing workers to operate zero emission vehicles.
  - \$206 million per year in total grant funding; at least \$4 million per state and \$1 million per territory.
  - 5% of grant amounts awarded can be used for workforce training activities.
  - Community colleges may be able to provide some of this training, but it varies per state and the plan proposed on the grant application (Community colleges could not apply directly for the grant funding).

### **Division D – Energy**

- Title V – Energy Efficiency and Building Infrastructure
  - Sec. 40503. Energy auditor training grant program (pg. 628)
    - \$40 million in funding to train energy auditors.
    - Community colleges may be able to use these funds, depending on proposed State curriculum in the plan for the grant,
    - States could leverage community colleges to deliver this training.
  - Sec. 40512. Building, training, and assessment centers (pg. 631)
    - \$10 million in FY2022 for grants to institutions of higher education to establish building training and assessment centers to educate and train building technicians and engineers on implementing modern building technologies.
  - Sec. 40513. Career skills training (pg. 632)
    - \$10 million in funding for workers to get certifications in installing energy efficient building technology.
    - Grant program with a 50% federal share for career skills training programs under which students concurrently receive classroom instruction and on-the-job training for the purpose of obtaining an industry-related certification to install energy efficient buildings technologies.
    - Community colleges are eligible recipients for the grant.

### **Division E – Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure**

- Title II – Clean Water
  - Sec. 50211. Water infrastructure and workforce investment (pg. 742)
    - \$25 million in funding to train workers in the water and wastewater utility sector.
    - Community colleges are eligible recipients for the grant.