
FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Congress must adequately fund the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS-ED) funding bill to provide necessary support for key community college programs. This can only be achieved by raising the non-defense discretionary spending cap in FY 2020.

SUPPORT STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS

Strengthen the Pell Grant program by providing additional aid to students and increase funding for the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Federal Work-Study, TRIO, GEAR UP, and the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) programs.

- **Pell Grant:** The Pell Grant program is a needs-based program and grants are awarded to eligible undergraduate students who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree. To determine eligibility for a Pell Grant, the U.S. Department of Education uses a formula established by Congress. This formula evaluates financial information a student supplies, the cost of attendance at their institution, full- or part-time status, and whether the student attends for a full academic year or less. Approximately 2.3 million community college students receive Pell Grants annually, with an average award of \$3,498. Congress should increase the Pell Grant maximum award in FY 2020 which protecting the Pell Grant reserve fund.
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG):** The SEOG program provides an additional source of grant aid for low-income students. Supplemental Grant recipients use these funds in combination with other types of grant, loan and work-study assistance to meet their total educational expenses. Pell Grant recipients receive priority for SEOG awards. The federal share of the award cannot exceed 75 percent; the remaining 25 percent must be matched by the participating institution. The grants range from a minimum of \$100 to a maximum annual award of \$4,000. Nearly 400,000 community college students receive aid from the SEOG program annually. This program is currently funded at \$840 million.
- **Federal Work-Study:** The Federal Work-Study program leverages resources from schools and the private sector to provide opportunities for students to earn money to pay for college. The program also is designed to encourage students receiving federal financial aid to participate in community service. In addition to providing self-help assistance to students, Federal Work-Study funds help support partnerships between the federal government, postsecondary schools, students, and communities. This program is currently funded at \$1.13 billion.
- **Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS):** The CCAMPIS program supports the participation of low-income parents in postsecondary education through campus-based child care services. It is essential to many of our students who would invariably face additional barriers to postsecondary education in its absence. This program is currently funded at \$50 million.
- **TRIO:** The federal TRIO programs (TRIO) are outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRIO includes eight programs targeted to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs. Many community colleges receive grants for Student Support Services and Upward Bound. TRIO programs are funding at \$1.06 billion.
- **Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP):** GEAR UP works to increase income-eligible students' academic skills, help them graduate from high school, and help them enroll in college. The program also helps students persist from their first year to second year of college. This program is funded at \$360 million.

DEDICATED FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORKFORCE TRAINING CAPACITY

Included in the House's FY 2020 LHHS-ED funding bill is \$150 million to support a new Strengthening Community College Training Grants (SCCTG) program. If enacted, SCCTG will build on the success of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grants, which helped many individuals find jobs coming out of the great recession and bolstered community college job training capacity. Funding for the TAACCCT program's lapsed in 2017, and since that time there has not been a dedicated source of federal funding to support community college's grown job training programs in in-demand industries.

STRENGTHEN UNDER-RESOURCED INSTITUTIONS

Increase funding for institutional aid programs, including: Title III-A Strengthening Institutions program; Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities; the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions programs; and other programs serving traditionally underrepresented populations.

- **Grants Supporting MSIs, HBCUs, and Tribal Colleges: Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)** are colleges and universities serving a large percentage of minority students, including: Hispanic-Serving Institutions; Asian American and Native Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions; Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions; Predominately Black Institutions; Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions; and Alaska Native-Serving Institutions. Grant funds are used to build capacity and support for institutions that serve a large portion of students who have been underrepresented in higher education. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges are also eligible for grant funding to strengthen the institution, academic programs, and student supports under the Higher Education Act based on their historical mission.
- **Strengthening Institutions Program:** The Strengthening Institution Program, also known as Title III, Part A, provides competitive grants for institutions with relatively limited resources and serving a high percentage of low-income students. Funds may be used for improving academic programs and student services, faculty development, instructional facilities, technology, and establishing endowment funds. This program is currently funded at \$100 million.