

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

Building Institutional Capacity for Social and Economic Mobility



MAY REVISION 2018

Quality Public Community Colleges for All Californians

California's Community Colleges are an invaluable investment and an open door to a better life for generations of low-income and working-class students. Our 114 colleges are driven by an enduring vision of equity, and a recognition of their indispensable role in strengthening the state's economy, closing achievement gaps, and providing quality educational access for all Californians.

A FUNDING FORMULA THAT BUILDS INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

• Funding That Aligns with Our Values of Access, Equity, and Student Success

The current enrollment-driven formula fails to capture the comprehensive mission of CCCs or to compensate for the counter-cyclical nature of enrollment. An essential component of an effective funding formula is building the institutional capacity of the 72 districts. This necessitates a substantial infusion of base funding for California's 114 community colleges. We appreciate the improvements in the May Revision and support the creation of a new funding formula that promotes quality, budget stability, access, equity, and success for all students. For these reasons, we respectfully urge consideration of the following:

- Provide two years of "hold harmless" funding at a new, higher base level with COLA;
- Allocate the \$104 million in one-time funds, included in the May Revision, on an ongoing basis;
- Provide an opportunity to refine the proposed formula metrics during the hold harmless period, including an evaluation of a phase-in of the formula metrics;
- Support funding predictability and informed planning with a three-year average for enrollment - as included in the May Revision - and uncap growth to further student access; and
- Analyze the impacts of assigning Summer FTE to a specific fiscal year and provide recommendations by 2020 to ensure districts have sufficient time to adjust to changes in attendance accounting procedures.

We believe these amendments can support colleges in building long-term capacity and quality to advance access, equity, and success for all students.

QUALITY PUBLIC ONLINE OPTIONS FOR CALIFORNIANS

• Online Education That Meets the Needs of Californians

We appreciate the Governor's innovative vision to further expand public online education for underserved Californians. We request the Governor also consider strengthening the existing online programs of California community colleges by empowering us to make the changes necessary to better meet the needs of these students. The time is right to explore a public option that serves students wherever they may search for education. However,

further modifications are necessary to ensure that the online education programs of our 72 districts effectively compete with for-profit providers. These modifications include:

- Integration of the new online college into the existing online ecosystem to ensure all colleges simultaneously benefit from design and delivery innovations;
- Identification of a third-party entity that prevents duplication of programs offered by existing community colleges;
- Streamlining the statewide approval process allowing community college districts to offer and receive apportionment for online courses under a flexible calendar.

Additionally, we urge commitment and continued financial support for the full implementation of the Online Education Initiative so that California's 114 colleges may continue building their online infrastructure.

SUPPORT FINANCIAL AID TECHNOLOGY AND MODERNIZATION

• Invest \$5 Million Ongoing for Financial Aid Improvements

Complicated, outdated, manual financial aid processes create barriers to student enrollment and retention. Financial aid offices can simplify their entire student aid processing lifecycle by implementing software that streamlines the workflow. We strongly support the allocation of \$5 million ongoing and \$13.5 million in one-time resources to modernize financial aid offices, and to permit financial aid staff, (who are a primary source of information for students to understand how to pay for college), to focus on providing students with critical support such as advising and training workshops, and financial literacy.

ADDRESS STUDENTS' MOST PRESSING COSTS

• Support \$6 Million for Community College OER Expansion and Availability

Textbooks comprise an estimated 40% of the total cost of attendance at community colleges. This continues to be one of the most pressing affordability issues college students face. We support an investment of \$6 million for the establishment of a program to implement open educational resources (OER) systemwide, coordinate state-level activities to increase OER availability, and to support local OER curation and implementation.

COLLEGE FACILITIES

• Honor Voters' Will and Fund All 2018-19 Capital Outlay Projects

In 2016, California voters approved a facilities bond providing a \$2 billion infrastructure investment in California's community colleges. The budget funds only six (6) of 15 ready-to-go capital projects; dismissing voter support for Prop 51 and an extensive facilities need of \$42 billion over the next 10 years. Failing to fund these capital projects represents a missed opportunity to create jobs in communities throughout the state.

EQUITY & AFFORDABILITY

• Equitably Fund Cal Grants for Community College Students

The 2018-19 Budget continues to distribute less than 10% of Cal Grant resources to California community college students despite the fact that our students comprise two-thirds of the higher education population. The lack of adequate financial aid leads students to take fewer classes, extends their time to graduation, and makes college unaffordable and a degree unattainable.

