



COMMUNITY COLLEGE FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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FEDERAL PRIORITY AREAS

- Strengthen Pell Grants
- Invest in Education and Workforce Development
- Reauthorize the Higher Education Act
- Support Dreamers



STRENGTHEN PELL GRANTS

Short-Term Pell Grants

- Community colleges offer many short-term, workforce-oriented programs that do not currently qualify for Pell Grants because they are below 600 clock hours (or 15 weeks) in length.
- Short-term training programs offer opportunities for students to quickly increase their skill level and earning potential.
- Lowering the threshold for Pell Grant eligibility to 150 clock hours will enable more individuals to access training programs for jobs in high-need fields.
- The bipartisan JOBS Act (S. 839 and H.R. 3497) recognizes the need in this area by establishing Pell Grant eligibility for short-term programs.



STRENGTHEN PELL GRANTS

Increase the Pell Grant Maximum Award

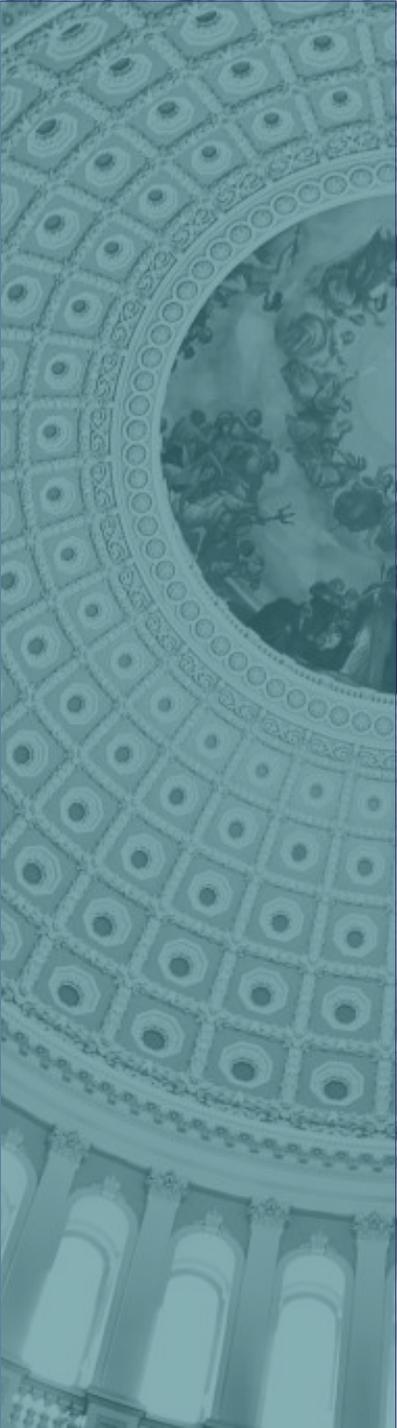
- Increase the Pell Grant maximum award by indexing it to inflation.
- Pell Grants assist low-income students with tuition and fee payments and also cover other expenses of the full cost of attendance. Increasing the maximum award reduces the need for student borrowing.
- Raising the maximum award level also increases the minimum award level, thereby expanding the number of students who receive a Pell Grant.



STRENGTHEN PELL GRANTS

Second Chance Pell Grants

- Since 1994 incarcerated individuals who would otherwise be eligible to receive Pell Grants to cover tuition, fees, and course materials have been barred from receiving assistance.
- Overturning the ban on Pell for incarcerated individuals will increase their likelihood of securing employment upon release, thereby reducing recidivism.
- Currently, the U.S. Department of Education is operating an experimental sites initiative permitting 67 colleges the ability to offer Pell Grants to incarcerated individuals seeking a postsecondary credential.
- ACCT has endorsed the REAL Act, S. 1074 and H.R. 2168.



INVEST IN EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Support Student Access and Success

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

Strengthen Under-Resourced Institutions

- Increase current 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.

Bolster Job Training And Career And Technical Education

- Increase funding for Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Adult Basic and Literacy Education state grants, state grants under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and NSF's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program to support needs in these areas.



REAUTHORIZE THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

Oppose New Risk Sharing Penalties

- Risk sharing unfairly penalizes institutions that serve high percentages of academically at-risk students.
- Community colleges administer federal programs but cannot guarantee all related outcomes.
 - For example, institutions cannot control who receives student loans and do not collect them, so holding them responsible for student loan repayments is not reasonable.
- Community colleges currently engage in “risk sharing” through the existence of state and local financial support. This funding exceeds 50% of annual revenues.
- Community colleges simply do not have the resources to absorb financial penalties. Risk sharing would almost inevitably result in either increased student costs or reduced educational services.



REAUTHORIZE THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

Reduce Debt For Community College Students

- Maintain subsidized federal loans for low-income students.
- Reform allocation formulas for Federal Work-Study and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants to should ensure that needy students at all institutions have equitable access to funds.

Enhance Transparency And Data

- Create a national student unit record data system to track completion and earnings.
- An effectively implemented unit record data system would reduce administrative costs and produce more relevant and comprehensive data than are currently being generated.



REAUTHORIZE THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

Support State Investments in Lowering the Cost of Community College

- Congress should create a federal-state partnership to dramatically enhance college affordability or create tuition-free community college. The federal investment should require states to increase their support of postsecondary education.
- Increasing federal need-based student aid has a limited impact on college affordability if states subsequently disinvest in higher education.
- Tuition matters for low-income students. In the fall of 2019, the average cost of attendance for a full-time student at a two-year public institution was \$18,420, including \$3,730 in tuition and fees. The maximum Pell Grant for the current academic year is \$6,195.



SUPPORT DREAMERS

Assist Students Impacted By The DACA Rescission

- Enact the Dream Act to provide Dreamers with permanent legal status.
- The Dream Act provides a path to citizenship for undocumented young people, including the thousands of students who are currently enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.
- The administration's DACA rescission, which has been blocked by federal courts, leaves thousands of young people, including many students, in a precarious status.
 - Current recipients of DACA may still renew their status under direction of the court.
 - The Supreme Court heard the DACA case this fall with a decision expected in first half of 2020.



Q & A