

## **FISCAL YEAR 2023 COMMUNITY COLLEGE FEDERAL FUNDING PRIORITIES**

AACC and ACCT are members of the Student Aid Alliance and the Coalition to Invest in America's Workforce and support their appropriations requests. Community college funding priorities for FY 2023 include:

### **The Federal Pell Grant Program**

We strongly urge Congress to double the Pell Grant maximum award via mandatory and/or discretionary spending. We welcome the administration's proposed increases of \$500 of discretionary funding and \$1,275 of mandatory funding in FY 23 and its intent to double the maximum Pell Grant by 2029. However, we urge Congress to move more quickly to that goal. The time has come for Congress to make a historic investment in this crucial program. While community colleges offer the lowest tuition by far of the major higher education sectors, the average annual cost of attendance for a community college is over \$18,000. This makes a doubling of the grant hugely beneficial to our students, who have lower incomes, on average, than students in other sectors. If doubling the Pell Grant is not possible immediately, we urge you to increase the discretionary maximum award by at least \$750 in FY 23.

Additionally, all reserve funds should be kept in the Pell Grant program. Diverting these funds to finance other programs undermines the program's future financial stability and the ability of millions of students to succeed in college.

### **Strengthening Community College Training Grants**

Community colleges strongly support the Strengthening Community College Training Grant (SCCTG) program, which was funded at \$50 million in FY 22. SCCTG provides direct support for expanded workforce training capacity at our institutions, in a similar vein as the Community-Based Job Training Grants and the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College to Career Training grants that came before it. We deeply appreciate the administration's request to double this program in FY 23 to \$100 million, the same amount provided by the committee last year. Since applications for the program have far outstripped available funds, we believe a slightly larger increase is warranted. Accordingly, we recommend increasing funding for the program to \$125 million in FY 2023.

### **Support Under-Resourced Institutions and Students**

The Higher Education Act Strengthening Institutions Program (Title III-A) helps community colleges and other institutions serve low-income students by providing funds to improve academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability. Funds may be used for planning, faculty development, establishing endowments, and other purposes. Title III-A also supports improvements in administration and academic programs, and many recent grantees

have focused on increasing student completion. We urge you to meet the administration's request and fund this program at \$210 million in FY 2023.

### **Perkins Career and Technical Education**

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (CTE) programs are the largest ongoing source of federal institutional support for community colleges, helping them improve all aspects of cutting-edge CTE programs. Community colleges use Perkins grants to prepare students for high-skill, in-demand fields by helping them meet challenging academic, vocational, and technical standards; improve curricula; purchase the equipment students need to know how to use in today's jobs; integrate vocational and academic instruction; and foster better links between colleges and the business community. We urge Congress to make a significantly increased investment in this program of at least 10% above the FY 22 appropriation.

### **Create Career-Connected High Schools Program**

At this time of great shifting in the labor market, it is crucial that students understand the career options available and the pathways of postsecondary education that lead to various opportunities. For this reason, we urge Congress to support the administration's proposal to create a career-connected high school initiative with a \$200 million investment. This competitive grant program would bring together local education agencies, institutions of higher education, and employers. As a hub of workforce training, community colleges look forward to this opportunity for further support of and partnership with high schools and local businesses.

### **Strengthen Workforce Development and Adult Basic Education**

Federal workforce education programs authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) are needed to help individuals navigate the changing economy. The best opportunity for displaced and economically disadvantaged workers is to augment their skills with education. Adult Basic Education (ABE) State Grants help serve 1.8 million participants each year to gain reading, numeracy, English literacy, and GED preparation. Demand for these programs far outstrips supply, as tens of thousands of individuals remain on waitlists for services. We recommend at least \$790 million for the ABE State Grants and strong increases for the other WIOA programs.

### **Additional Funding Priorities for Community Colleges**

We strongly support the administration's \$110 million request for Retention and Completion Grants within the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). Affordable childcare is also essential to increasing student retention and completion, so we urge Congress to fund the Child Care Access Means Parents in School program at \$110 million in FY 23 and retain the provision from the FY 22 appropriations bill that lifted the statutory cap on program grants to 1% of an institution's Pell Grant funds.

Community colleges strongly support Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work Study, international education, TRIO and GEAR UP programs, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Predominantly Black Institutions, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions, and other programs supporting Minority Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The Student Aid Alliance request, which we support, encompasses some of these programs. We urge robust increases for the others.