



# California Community Colleges

A Plan for An Equitable Recovery

## May Revise Points

Investments presented in the May Revision generally fall into six general categories:

- **Restoring College Resources**
- **Post-Pandemic Recovery**
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
- **Affordability and Basic Needs**
- **Workforce**
- **Pathways**

**Restore College Resources.** Community colleges shouldered \$1.5 billion in deferrals this year. We support paying down the full balance of deferrals and a compounded COLA of 4.05%

**Post-Pandemic Recovery.** Community colleges have deferred maintenance backlogs of over \$1 billion. Supporting investments in outreach and deferred maintenance make re-opening safely possible.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.** The budget presents an opportunity to continue our important work to dismantle structures and practices that perpetuate systemic racism. Supporting the following investments is in line with the Vision for Success to close equity gaps: Equal Employment Opportunity Programs, CCC Registry Modernization, and base increase for Student Equity and Achievement Program.

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### WE ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**Colleges Are Workforce Engines.** California Community Colleges are glad to partner with the California Workforce Development Board on May Revise proposals that leverage our strength as a system – developing workforce programs in emerging industries to get Californians back to work, including the High Road Training Program and Regional Partnerships, Work-Based Learning in new industries, Competency-Based Education Pilots, and based increase for the Strong Workforce Program.

**Pathways.** Guided Pathways is a framework that seeks to streamline a student's journey through college by providing structured choice, and revamped supports—ultimately helping more students achieve their college completion goals. The proposed investments in Guided Pathways, Program Pathways Technology, Common Course Numbering, and Dual Enrollment will strengthen existing efforts.

### AREAS OF FURTHER ADVOCACY

**Cal Grant Reform.** Now is the time to reform Cal Grants from an exclusionary system to one that supports California Community College students. Reform the Cal Grant program to address the real cost of attendance (not just tuition) and to provide equitable access to aid.

**Chancellor's Office Capacity.** The California Community Colleges are the largest system of higher education in the country yet have fewer than 150 individuals to make its important work possible. Supporting system office capacity can enable the success of these laudable proposals possible.

**Basic Needs & Affordability.** For too many students, finances are the main barrier to achieving their educational goals.

*Student Basic Needs.* The Governor's Recovery With Equity Taskforce report included a goal that “learners will receive support to meet basic needs through a simplified, integrated system.” The concept is simple yet profound – redesign structures to holistically and intentionally support students' basic needs without the need to constantly ask them to prove they are poor. We urge the Legislature to apply this concept to the various basic needs proposals in the budget.

*Student Housing.* The budget provides an innovative opportunity to expand affordable student housing through a revolving funds *Zero-Textbook Costs.* Transitioning from our dependency on textbooks to more innovative models such Open Educational Resources can support the affordability agenda in this budget.

**Support for Categorical Programs.** Many categorical programs which serve the diverse needs of our students have been excluded from resources increases. Investing in these programs can support their continued success.

**Streamlined Enrollment.** One-time investments in the modernization of CCCApply would streamline the application process, improving the drop-off rate of student applicants, and providing better analytics to enable outreach to prospective students.