



2023 Federal Legislative and Funding Priorities

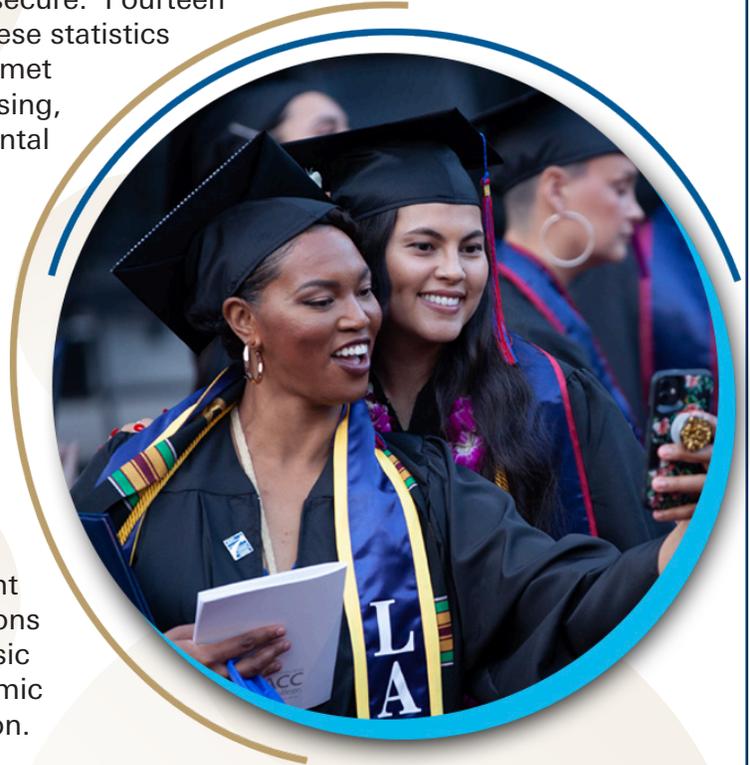
Address Student Basic Needs

The actual cost of attendance at community college extends beyond tuition. A recent national study of more than 33,000 community college students found that one-third had the lowest levels of food security, and over fifty percent were housing insecure. Fourteen percent of those students surveyed were homeless. These statistics mirror LACCD students' challenges, who experience unmet financial needs to pay for necessities such as food, housing, transportation, child care, and health care, including mental health.

LACCD supports policies that allow students to access vital basic needs services and increase the capacity of community colleges to connect students with the necessary supports to help them persist and succeed in their post-secondary pursuits.

To address students' basic needs, LACCD supports:

- Increasing funding for the Department of Education's Basic Needs for Post-secondary Student Program, which provides grants to eligible Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to support access to basic needs, which are critical for ensuring strong academic performance, increasing persistence, and graduation.
- Increasing support for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) child care programs for student parents.
- Lifting eligibility restrictions for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to increase SNAP access for community college students.
- Increasing funding for mental health services ensures that all students can access comprehensive mental health services. There is growing evidence that mental health crises have increased since the COVID-19 pandemic.



Support the Dream Act and Comprehensive Immigration Reform

As one of the nation's leading educators of undocumented, Dreamer and DACA students, LACCD urges Congress to enact legislation that would establish a path to citizenship for qualifying undocumented students who entered the U.S. as minors.

- LACCD supports eliminating federal restrictions on states that offer in-state tuition to undocumented students.
- DREAM Act students should be eligible for federal student financial aid.

Expand College Access and Affordability

Student financial aid is critically needed to help address racial and economic inequities and performance gaps in college completion rates and increase overall educational attainment. In addition, programs like dual enrollment that help increase college access and degree attainment should be expanded.

LACCD strongly supports:

- Increasing funding for Pell Grants. Pell is the foundation of student aid for millions of financially needy undergraduate college students, and the maximum Pell Grant should be increased annually to maintain its purchasing power. Pell Grant Program eligibility should also be extended to short-term training programs offered by higher education institutions.
- Establishing a federal-state partnership to enhance college affordability and enrollment by creating tuition-free community colleges.
- Supporting programs that help community colleges meet the needs of diverse, historically underrepresented populations, such as the Federal Work Study (FWS) and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG).
- Increasing funding for vital institutional aid programs, such as Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and other student support programs that help community colleges meet the needs of diverse, historically underrepresented and underserved populations.

Invest in Workforce Development

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) was due for reauthorization in 2020. It was last reauthorized in 2014.

We urge Congress to:

- Reauthorize and prioritize the modernization of WIOA for colleges to prepare students with the skills they need to thrive in a dynamic 21st century economy. Colleges will then be able to restructure their job training programs and meet the needs of employers in emerging and in-demand industry sectors, and reskill and upskill incumbent and dislocated workers.
- Codify and increase funding for the Department of Labor's Strengthening Community College Training Grant program to help build community colleges' capacity to address equity gaps and meet the skill development needs of employers in in-demand, high growth industries.



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