



2024 Federal Legislative Priorities

Invest in Workforce Development

With the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Inflation Reduction Act, and CHIPS Act, significant investment in workforce development continues to fuel a strong economy and global competitiveness. Further, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act was last reauthorized in 2014 and has been due for reauthorization since 2020. We applaud the House's efforts to advance a bipartisan WIOA reauthorization bill and urge the Senate to move forward as well.

LACCD strongly supports:

- Continuing to ensure that the IIJA helps leverage workforce training programs to expand the number of skilled workers necessary to upgrade our nation's infrastructure.
- Expanding federal funding to address healthcare and STEM workforce shortages through training and education programs, focusing on programs to address nursing shortages and bolstering career pathways to STEM professions.

LACCD supports WIOA reauthorization with the following additions:

- Ensuring the highest possible funding levels for critical workforce programs.
- Codifying and increasing funding for the Department of Labor's Strengthening Community College Training Grants.
- New competitive grant programs to expand employment and training activities for high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations.



Address Student Basic Needs

The actual cost of attending community college extends beyond tuition. A recent study of more than 33,000 community college students found that one-third faced food insecurity and over fifty percent were housing insecure. Fourteen percent of those students surveyed were homeless. These statistics mirror the challenges facing LACCD students, who experience unmet financial needs to pay for necessities such as food, housing, transportation, child care, and medical expenses, 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 critical services.

This includes:

- FY 25 funding for the Department of Education's Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students program, which provides grants to eligible institutions of higher education to support these programs.
- Increased support for existing childcare programs for student parents, including the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS), and developing new programs to address the childcare workforce shortage.
- Ensuring that the Farm Bill reauthorization lifts eligibility restrictions for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will make it easier for community college students to access this program and oppose efforts to limit SNAP eligibility.

Provide robust support for student, faculty, and employee mental health

The demand for mental and behavioral health care in schools continues to be overwhelming, while shortages of professionals exist nationwide. This has been particularly harmful for the most vulnerable students, including students of color, first-generation, and LGBTQ+ students.

LACCD urges Congress to support legislation to ensure all students, faculty, and employees can access comprehensive mental health services.

Expand College Access and Affordability

The college affordability gap continues to grow. Additional 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.

LACCD supports programs like dual enrollment that help increase college access and degree attainment should be expanded.

This includes:

- Increasing Pell Grant funding annually to maintain its purchasing power. Pell Grant 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 college. States should also be incentivized to improve their support of higher education.

LACCD supports federal investments in higher education, including:

- Supporting the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) and Federal Work-Study (FWS) programs enhances community college student enrollment and success.
- Increasing funding for vital institutional aid programs, including the Strengthening Institutions (Title III-A of the HEA), Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions, and Predominantly Black Institutions programs.
- Strengthen TRIO, GEAR UP, and other student support programs.

Support Dream Act & Comprehensive Immigration Reform

As one of the nation's leading educators of 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. Further, federal restrictions on states that offer in-state tuition to undocumented students should be eliminated. DREAM Act students should be eligible for federal student financial aid.

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