JOHN BURTON Advocates for Youth

FACT SHEET

2021-22 State Budget:

Community College Student Basic Needs

The 2021-22 California state budget includes ongoing funding to address community college student basic needs. Provided below is an explanation of the pertinent provisions of the 2021-22 State Budget bill (AB 129), which appropriated these funds.

HOW MUCH FUNDING WAS ALLOCATED?

The state allocated $30 million annually to the California Community College (CCC) system.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE FUNDING?

The budget bill specifies that funds should be used to establish basic-needs centers as a centralized location on campus where students experiencing basic-needs insecurity can be identified, supported, and linked to on- and off-campus resources to support timely program completion.

Colleges are also required to designate or hire dedicated basic-needs coordinators for the basic-needs centers who will serve as a single point of contact for students.

HOW WILL THE FUNDING BE ALLOCATED TO INDIVIDUAL CAMPUSES?

The Community College Chancellor's Office will be tasked with developing a protocol for allocating the funding across the system. Based on similar funding for other uses, it is likely that each campus will receive a fixed base amount with additional funding based on either total enrollment, the number of Pell Grant-eligible students, or some combination of the two.

WAS THERE ANY OTHER FUNDING ALLOCATED FOR STUDENT BASIC NEEDS?

In addition to the $30 million annual allocation for basic needs centers and basic needs coordinators, the community college budget also included $100 million in one-time funding to be spent over three years to address food and housing insecurity. Eligible uses include meal donation programs, food pantries for students, CalFresh enrollment, other means of directly providing nutrition assistance to students, and assisting homeless and housing-insecure students to secure stable housing.

The California State University (CSU) system also received an allocation of $15 million ongoing funding to address basic needs and the University of California (UC) maintained its preexisting $15 million allocation.

Each system also received funding to address student mental health needs in the amount of $15 million ongoing for UCs, $15 million ongoing for CSUs and $30 million ongoing for CCCs.

WILL THERE BE ANY ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ABOUT THE USE OF THESE FUNDS?

The legislature is working on a series of additional bills, known as "Trailer Bills," which will provide additional policy guidance related to items included in the budget bill. It is expected that this trailer bill language will include additional guidance regarding the allowable uses for ongoing CCC basic need funds, campus requirements and reporting expectations.

For more information, contact Debbie Raucher at debbie@jbay.org