



**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

# Denver College Success Corporation

March 4, 2020

Safety, Housing, Education, & Homelessness  
Committee

FOR CITY SERVICES VISIT | CALL  
**DenverGov.org** | **311**

- Ordinance passed by Denver Voters in November 2018
- Created new Charitable Organization - DCSC
- Funded by .8% Sales Tax increase
  - About 1 cent on \$10 purchase
  - Total projected revenue for 2019: approx. \$11.8 million

- **Stephen Kurtz** (*DSCS Chair*), Chair/CEO MuscleSound, Inc.
- **Theresa Peña** (*DCSC Vice Chair*), Coordinator Outreach & Engagement Denver Public Schools
- **Akasha Absher** (*DCSC Secretary*), Chief Consulting Officer, Syntrinsic Investment Counsel, LLC,
- **Mark Goodman** (*DCSC Treasurer*), Chairman, Colorado Nut Company, Inc.
- **Angela Cobián**, Denver Board of Education
- **Christopher Herndon**, Denver Councilman District 8
- **John H. Kechriotis**, Former General Counsel at Denver Public Schools

**Purpose:** to increase college enrollment and degree completion by Denver Residents through support of scholarship organizations

[www.denvercollegesuccesscorporation.org](http://www.denvercollegesuccesscorporation.org)

- Oversight provided by Office of Children’s Affairs
- Annual contract, with renewal at City’s option
  - Sunset provision after 12 years
- Administration expenses limited to 5% of tax collected (10% in first year only)
- 95% of tax reserved for reimbursement to scholarship organizations

- Based on feedback from non-profit scholarship-providing partners, the current language is causing unanticipated barriers to participation and changes are requested to better enable the intent of the ordinance.
- Because this was a voter-approved initiated ordinance, these proposed changes will require 9 affirmative votes from Council and a public hearing.

- Changes all references from “tuition” to “scholarships”
- Amends residency verification
- Allows “nationally” accredited institutions eligibility
- Changes language to reflect ”Cost of Attendance”
- Allows financial need to be reviewed once (first year)
- Revises “duly incorporated” to encompass a wider range of non-profits
- Adds ”not limited to” for BOD discretion on support services
- Removes restrictions on charter school affiliated organizations

## **Sec. 11-31.b.(6)**

- Proposed Change
  - Change word “Tuition” to “Scholarships”
- Justification
  - Advances intent of voters.
  - Tuition is only a portion of the total cost of attendance.
  - Satisfies concerns from non-profit partners.
  - Removes administrative barriers.

## **Sec. 11-33.(a)**

- Proposed Change
  - Residency Verification
- Justification
  - Advances intent of voters.
  - Historical residency is challenging for nonprofit partners to collect – can do so in the future.
  - Partnering with DPS to review majority of students' historical residency.
  - Limited overlap with non-Denver students.
  - Allows for gap years (work, care for parent, travel, etc.).



## **Sec. 11-33.(c)**

- Proposed Change
  - Option to be registered at a nationally accredited institution.
- Justification
  - Recent changes in accreditation systems for trade schools.
  - Current language is limited to regional accreditation.

## **Sec. 11-34.(2)**

- Proposed Change
  - Language added to define “Scholarship” using the term “Cost of attendance.”
- Justification
  - Aligns the ordinance with universal and well-defined term of “cost of attendance.”
  - Gives DSCS Board discretion to determine which costs of attendance are reimbursable.

## **Sec. 11-34.(3)**

- Proposed Change
  - “But not limited to” added under definition of support services.
  - DCSC Board given explicit discretion to determine which services or category of services are reimbursable.
- Justification
  - Allows for increased flexibility and inclusion of support services that may not have been previously considered.

## **Sec. 11-34.(4)**

- Proposed Change
  - Replaces “a given” with “the student’s first” academic year.
  - Specifies year “of post-secondary education.”
- Justification
  - Financial need is only determined once, which is for the student’s first year of post-secondary education.
  - Adding this language creates more specification and clarity.

## **Sec. 11-34.(9).(i)**

- Proposed Change
  - Removes language of “duly incorporated.”
  - Replaces “in good standing under the Colorado Revised Nonprofit Corporation Act” with “in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State’s Office.”
- Justification
  - Removes potential limitation of eligible nonprofits to Colorado entities or nonprofits defined as corporations.
  - Explicitly makes it possible to include scholarship granting organizations that take other forms or are incorporated in other states.

## **Sec. 11-34.(9).(ii)**

- Proposed Change
  - Removes operate independently...from any...“school district, or charter school management organization” from definition of requirements for participating organizations.
- Justification
  - Removes unnecessary barriers for otherwise qualified organizations.

# Questions?