

## Denver College Affordability Fund: Questions & Answers Denver City Council Meeting July 28, 2015

**Q: If the program is not renewed in ten years and if there's a surplus in the fund, what happens to those dollars?**

A: As an independent entity, the Board would have authority to spend down any remaining funds.

**Q: Do the scholarship non-profits need to adjust their eligibility requirements to participate? Or do they still operate under their current process of determining recipients?**

A: Scholarship organizations will maintain their eligibility requirements (and autonomy to edit those requirements) under this program. However, they may only seek reimbursement on students who meet the specific criteria laid out for this program. These criteria are: continuous Denver residency for more than 36 months before their first course at a post-secondary institution; attend a regionally accredited, not-for-profit or public post-secondary institution in Colorado; may not be older than twenty-five years of age; and have already demonstrated Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as determined by their postsecondary institution. Additionally, in order to receive payments from the Denver College Affordability Fund, an organization must be duly incorporated and in good standing under the Colorado Revised Nonprofit Corporation Act, and have existed and operated for not less than three years.

**Q: What are the "guardrails" for persistence and completion to see students through their degree program?**

A: This program recognizes the valuable and oftentimes necessary role that support services play in helping students complete their degree program. As a result, this program also reimburses scholarship organizations for a portion of those expenses.

**Q: What percentage of money will go towards tuition and fees versus support services?**

A: The board of the City funded non-profit will have the authority to determine a maximum cap that is spent on support services for each student. It is estimated that about 35% of money spent on a student by a scholarship organization is for support services, and the rest for cost of attendance.

**Q: How much money will this generate annually?**

A: This fund will bring in an estimated \$10 million annually.

**Q: Who are the members of the Denver PATH Task Force?**

A: Included at the end of this memo is a list of the participating Denver PATH Task Force members.

**Q: How do similar programs operate around the country?**

A: This program is a first of its kind, nation-leading proposal. Therefore, it is not a direct descendant of many of the higher education programs seen, often referred to as promise programs. Some literature on the Tennessee and Chicago free community college programs is included at the end of this document.

**Q: How many Denver kids will this serve?**

A: We anticipate an eligible student size of approximately 4,500. This is an educated estimate since it is not possible to know how many Denver (36+ months residency) students are attending post-secondary in Colorado and also fall below 2.5x the Pell limit. Of this eligible population, it is likely that between 3,500 and 4,000 students could be served in the first year.

**Q: How many Denver students are moving from High School to post-secondary institutions?**

A: There is no concrete data with which to answer this question. However, looking just at DPS data, 47% of a graduating high school class (on average) enrolls in post-secondary the fall following graduation. This works out to about 1,500 students moving from high school to post-secondary each year.

**Q: What percentage of the eligible Denver student population attends a post-secondary institution within Denver?**

A: Among DPS students, the top two most common institutions of enrollment in the fall immediately following High School graduation are Community College of Denver and Metropolitan State University of Denver. Taking into account all classes of DPS students currently enrolled in most common post-secondary institutions, 52% are attending an institution within Denver. [See DPS 2012-13 High School Outcomes Report]

**Q: What is the governance structure?**

A: The governance structure is the same as Denver Preschool Program; it will be a 7 member board including one sitting City Council member. All board members will be appointed by the Mayor and approved by City Council. The terms are three years and staggered.

**Q: Why 10% on the administration costs, as opposed to the 7% for DPP?**

A: This program is likely to require more FTEs than the comparable Denver Preschool Program, due to the complexity of working with many higher education institutions in the State. As a result, the cap is slightly higher.

## Denver PATH Task Force Participants

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANIZATION
Cindy	Abramson	
Tiffany	Anderson	Boettcher, Director of Scholarship Program
Kelly	Brough	CEO, Denver Chamber
Erin	Brown	Mayor's Office of Childrens Affairs
Jim	Chavez	Latin American Education Foundation
Kristin Heath	Colon	DPS Foundation
Bob	Deibel	OfficeScapes
Mark	Ferrandino	Denver Public Schools
Jack	Finlaw	University of Colorado Foundation
Everette	Freeman	Community College of Denver
Rachael	Gazdick	Executive Director, CIHAD Foundation
Leslie	Ginsburg	Cherry Creek Schools Foundation
Mary	Gittings Cronin	Rose Foundation
Nita	Gonzales	Escuela Tlateco
Tom	Gougeon	Gates Family Foundation
David	Greenberg	University of Denver
Michael	Johnson	Kutak Rock
Tony	Lewis	Donnell Kay Foundation
Paul	Lopez	City Council- Safety & Well Being Committee, chair
Jim	Lyons	Lewis Roca Rothgerber
Liane	Morrison	Great Education Colorado
Theresa	Pena	
Rich	Rainaldi	CiviCore
Sue	Renner	Merage Foundations
Ellen	Robinson	MSU, Board of Trustees
Rosemary	Rodriguez	Office of U.S. Senator Michael F. Bennet
Todd	Saliman	University of Colorado
Van	Schoales	A+ Denver CEO
Mary Beth	Susman	Denver City Council
Jen	Walmer	DFER
Scott	Wasserman	State of Colorado
Allen	Webb	
Shelley	Woodson	Colorado Department of Higher Education
Mike	Yankovich	Denver Children's Museum
Stephen	Jordan	President, Metro State University of Denver
Barbara	Grogan	
Happy	Haynes	CRL Associates
Linda	Bowman	Denver Scholarship Foundation
Seth	Belzley	Hogan and Lovells
Steve	Abelman	Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber and Schreck