

Purpose of the Denver College Affordability Fund



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***TO INCREASE
POSTSECONDARY
ENROLLMENT AND
COMPLETION BY
DENVER STUDENTS***





Goal: 66% of all Denver students earn a postsecondary credential

Denver students	Current 6-year rate
Asian	61%
Black	41%
Hispanic/Latinx	43%
Native American	43%
White	61%

Source: Colorado Department of Higher Education

Benefits of equity in education



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- **Strengthen local workforce**
- **Foster economic mobility for low-income households**
- **Create a more equitable and prosperous community**



Results since May 2020



- **Distributed \$20.8 million**
- **Funded 7,500 scholarships**
- **Supported Organizations (SOs) serve 1,800 students per year**
- **90% identify as students of color; 80% are First Generation**

Current ordinance is too restrictive



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Projected program revenue 2023:

\$15 million

Average distributed per year:

\$5 million

Problems:

- The 36-month residency requirement eliminates more students each year
- Not allowed to fund proven high school programs that increase college enrollment
- Students older than 25 are not covered; which is the fastest growing portion of postsecondary
- Small nonprofits need additional financial support to participate in the program and better serve students
- Many high-quality, nonprofit certificate programs are not covered

Proposed ordinance changes



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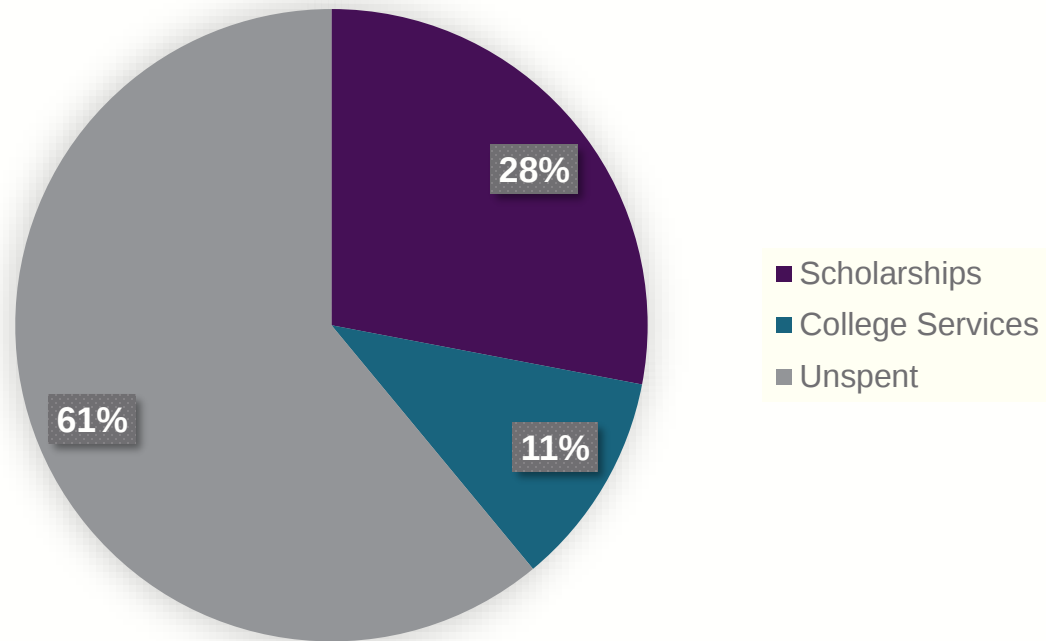
- 1. New residency requirement**
- 2. Reimbursements for High School services (up to 20%)**
- 3. Cover apprenticeships and evidence-based nonprofit certificate programs**
- 4. Raise age limit from 25 to 30**
- 5. Allow up to 5% of funds for targeted investments in Supported Organizations**

Impact of proposed changes

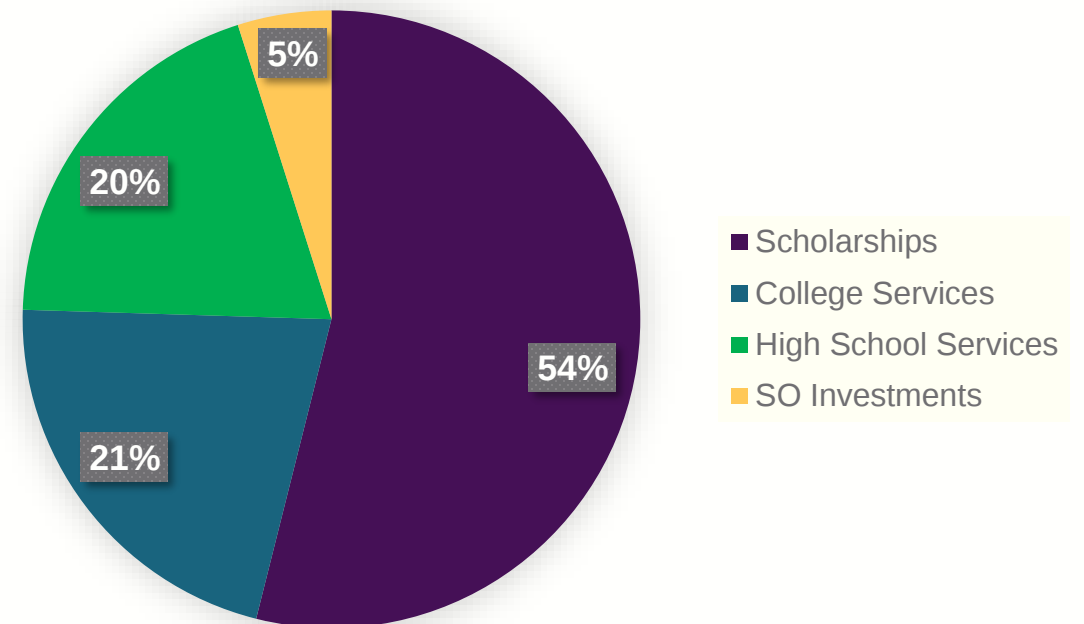


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2022 Program Fund Allocation



New Program Fund Allocation



Notes: (1) New allocation shows projections for 2024; (2) High School & College Services include expenses related to academic advising, career development and financial aid planning; (3) 5% admin not included.

Top priority: Address biggest barrier to growth



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Current residency requirement:

- Live in Denver 36 months prior to postsecondary

Proposed residency requirement:

- Up to age 25: Graduate from a Denver high school or live in Denver six (6) months prior to postsecondary
- Age 26-30: Live in Denver six (6) months prior to postsecondary

The current requirement eliminates more students each year due to displacement; it is a significant administrative burden on Supported Organizations



Strategy 2: Grow enrollment out of high school



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About 45% of DPS students enroll in postsecondary after graduation (approx. 1,800 of 4,000 eligible students/year)

Proposed change:

- Allow reimbursements for academic advising, career development and financial aid planning
- Focus services on students from low-income households and First Gen students

Key takeaway: more than 2,000 students to help enroll in postsecondary annually but the current ordinance does not allow funding for proven practices

Strategy 3: Cover more certificate programs



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Programs currently covered:

- Offered by nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institutions

Changes would add the following:

- Evidence-based programs by nonprofits
- Apprenticeships recognized by USDOL or CDLE
- Teacher certification programs



Strategy 4: Reach those without a credential



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Raise Age Limit to 30*

- More students have delayed enrollment or stopped attending college
- Important strategy to help earn a degree or credential
- Extends support for students as they begin careers in the metro area

*May not be older than 30 years of age as of the final scheduled class day of the academic year

Supported Org (SO) Investments

- Provide support for smaller community partners
- Grow student outreach efforts to hard to reach groups
- Expand data management and evaluation capabilities
- Partnership with Ednium: The Alumni Collective

Financial analysis (2024)



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	Budget Estimates	Program Details
PROGRAM REVENUE	\$16,400,000	95% of SUT; plus \$800,000 (5%) for admin
Current portfolio	\$7,600,000	1,900 students
High school services	\$3,200,000	Cap up to 20% of Program Revenue
Certificate programs	\$2,000,000	Goal: 500 new students (20% growth)
Age limit at 30	\$1,600,000	Goal: 400 new students (20% growth)
Residency	\$1,200,000	Goal: 300 new students (15% growth)
SO investments	\$800,000	Cap up to 5% of Program Revenue
TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$16,400,000	Serve 1,200 new students (>60% growth) \$4,000/scholar (140% of current level)

KPIs: fully leverage funding capacity



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12-year forecast	Current Trend	After Changes	Net Impact
Students	22,500	35,500	13,000
Funds Distributed	\$62,000,000	\$154,000,000	\$92,000,000
Full Funding	Not achieved	By 2025	Extra \$120M

Coalition of supporters



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ActiveWork
AdvanceEDU
African Leadership Group
AGC of Colorado
The Attainment Network
BuildStrong Academy of
Colorado
CareerWise Colorado
Colorado Equitable
Economic Mobility Initiative
The Colorado Evaluation
and Action Lab at DU
Colorado Succeeds
CrossPurpose
Delta Eta Boulé Foundation
The Denver Foundation
Denver Public Schools
Denver Scholarship
Foundation

Ednium: The Alumni
Collective
Emily Griffith Tech. College
GRID Alternatives
Juntos (formerly
Juntos2College)
Latin American Educational
Foundation
Master's Apprentice
Mi Casa Resource Center
Mile High Workshop
MSU Denver
PEBC
Per Scholas
RootED Denver
Transform Education Now
Trendlines
Women's Bean Project
Year Up, Inc.



Stakeholder engagement



Activity	Outcome	When
Full Board Discussion	Commitment to work with SOs to promote effective support services and alignment with career development strategies	June 2021 Board Retreat
DPS Alumni Focus Group w/Ednium	Expand age limit to achieve enrollment and completion goals; More focus on early career support structures, especially for First Gen students	August 2021
SO Meetings & Focus Groups	Interest in ordinance changes: Pre-collegiate needed; Residency is a barrier for students; Ease admin burden for small nonprofits; Grants to distribute funds faster	Aug 2021 – Nov 2021
SO Subcommittee	Refine proposed ordinance changes; Help shape other initiatives (support services research, community outreach)	Dec 2021 – present Bimonthly meetings
Full Board Discussion & Board Study Group	Agreed to Pre-collegiate, HS attendance, Age limit, Admin cap; more study of Grants, Certificates and Postsecondary partnerships	Jan 2022 Board Meeting Feb Study Group
Full Board Discussion & City Council Outreach	Discussed need for ordinance changes and received greenlight to meet with Council Members then bring back final list for review and approval (held eight CM meetings)	March Board Meeting March – May
Full Board Discussion	Support for original six changes; Gave the greenlight work with city staff and bring back final list for review and approval; Request to add funding to PS foundations	May Board Meeting
Board Study Group	Discussed goal is to strengthen pay-for-performance model; Created 7 th item: authority for reimbursements to PS foundations for specific goals (dropped in Sep)	June – July
Review by city staff	First meeting with OCA and Asst City Attorney on 5/31; Met with Mayor's PRC on 8/5; Two meetings held with designated working group (10/10 and 11/2)	June – December 2022



Thank you!

**Help us fully leverage this investment in a
more equitable and prosperous Denver**



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