## Purpose of the Denver College Affordability Fund



TO INCREASE
POSTSECONDARY
ENROLLMENT AND
COMPLETION BY
DENVER STUDENTS



## Our North Star is equity in education



# Goal: 66% of <u>all</u> 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



- 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**



**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

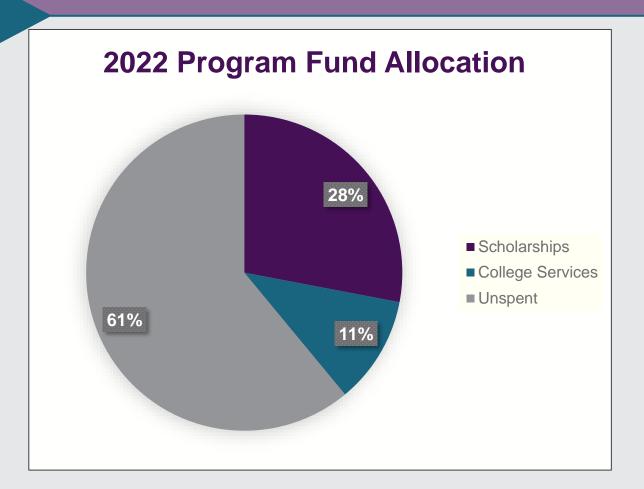
## **Proposed ordinance changes**

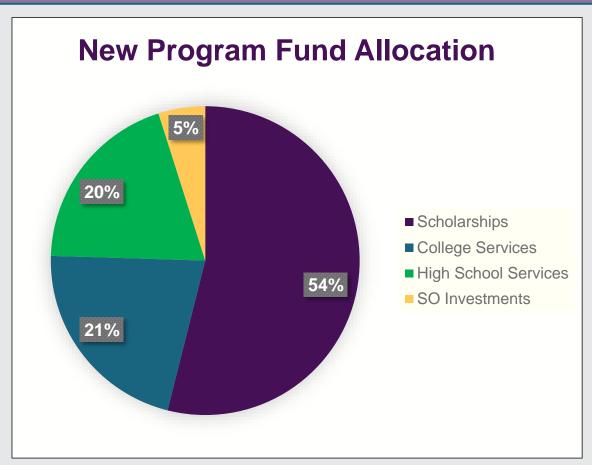


- 1. New residency requirement
- 2. Reimbursements for High School services (up to 20%)
- 3. Cover apprenticeships and evidence-based nonprofit certificate programs
- 4. Raise age limit from 25 to 30
- 5. Allow up to 5% of funds for targeted investments in Supported Organizations

## Impact of proposed changes







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



#### **Current residency requirement:**

• Live in Denver <u>36</u> 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



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**



#### **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



#### 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)



	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



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**



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.



**Full Board Discussion &** 



Stakeholder engagement		DENVER FUND
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Activity	Outcome	When

**Full Board Discussion** Commitment to work with SOs to promote effective support services and alignment with June 2021 **Board Retreat** 

career development strategies

**DPS Alumni Focus Group** Expand age limit to achieve enrollment and completion goals; More focus on early career August 2021

w/Ednium support structures, especially for First Gen students Aug 2021 - Nov 2021

**SO Meetings & Focus** Interest in ordinance changes: Pre-collegiate needed; Residency is a barrier for students;

**Groups** Ease admin burden for small nonprofits; Grants to distribute funds faster

**SO Subcommittee** Refine proposed ordinance changes; Help shape other initiatives (support services research, Dec 2021 – present Bimonthly meetings

community outreach)

Agreed to Pre-collegiate, HS attendance, Age limit, Admin cap; more study of Grants, Certificates and Postsecondary partnerships

**Board Study Group** Discussed need for ordinance changes and received greenlight to meet with Council

**Full Board Discussion &** Members then bring back final list for review and approval (held eight CM meetings) **City Council Outreach** 

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

**Full Board Discussion** 

Jan 2022 Board Meeting Feb Study Group March Board Meeting March – May May Board Meeting

June – December 2022

Discussed goal is to strengthen pay-for-performance model; Created 7<sup>th</sup> item: authority for

**Board Study Group** June - July reimbursements to PS foundations for specific goals (dropped in Sep)

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)

