

April 17, 2023

Denver City Council
1437 Bannock Street, Room 451
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Denver College Affordability Fund Request for Ordinance Changes

Dear Council President Torres and Councilmembers,

On behalf of Metropolitan State University of Denver, I am writing in support of the Prosperity Denver Fund and their request for ordinance changes with the College Affordability Fund.

The Prosperity Denver Fund proposes five ordinance changes to improve accessibility, expand eligibility and address administrative barriers for the College Affordability Fund: changes to the residency requirement, allow for reimbursements for high school support services, expand eligibility of high-quality nonprofit certificate programs, raise the age limit, and amend the admin cap. These revisions are designed to reach more students, especially those most negatively impacted by the pandemic and historically underrepresented in postsecondary education.

MSU Denver supports these proposed ordinance changes so that Prosperity Denver Fund can grow its partnerships and the College Affordability Fund can impact more Denver students. Our university is proud to educate more than 2,000 Denver Public Schools graduates during the 2021-22 academic year, but less than 32 percent of those students received some level of scholarship during the year.

Affordability plays a key role in the enrollment, continuation and completion of postsecondary education—particularly for underrepresented populations—and these ordinance changes can help expand the number of DPS graduates at MSU Denver access scholarship dollars and meaningful wraparound supports.

We are proud partners with several organizations who work with Prosperity Denver Fund and share a commitment to ensuring Denver's students have access to postsecondary education and can succeed at our university. We appreciate the opportunity to support Prosperity Denver Fund's request and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Janine Davidson, Ph.D.
President