



SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION – COLORADO CHAPTER

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DENVER CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS,

On behalf of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association – Colorado Chapter, I'm writing to add our support to expanding the Denver College Affordability Fund's residency requirements and opening participation to registered apprenticeship programs who serve thousands of Denver residents and graduates of Denver high schools.

SMACNA Colorado's contractor members employ more than 1,000 skilled sheet metal workers who fabricate and install HVAC systems, architectural metal systems and kitchen equipment and perform HVAC service and testing and balancing of mechanical systems. Many of these skilled craftspeople live and work in Denver.

In partnership with Sheet Metal Workers' Local 9, our contractors participate in a jointly administered apprentice training program, where we educate approximately 200 apprentices each year, most residing in the Denver metro area. We estimate that approximately 20% of our Denver-based apprentices would qualify for funding under the proposed rules.

Our apprentices hold full-time jobs while participating in apprenticeship training and are on schedule to make \$80,000 in wages and another \$40,000 in pension, health and training benefits upon completion of the program. These apprenticeships are pathways to the middle class and beyond and have nearly a century-long track record of delivering results for our students, local employers and organized labor. These positive changes would encourage hiring of those who qualify for the program and help Denver fulfill its goal to open more lucrative post-secondary pathways for its residents and high school graduates.

Sincerely,

Nathan Cooper