

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUPPORT FUND

Community Colleges WORK for Oregon

Oregon's Workforce Engine

Oregon's 17 community colleges fuel the state's workforce pipeline, providing working adults, first-generation learners, parents, and rural residents with the **most accessible and affordable pathway to higher education.**



Enrollment Growth

200,573 Students attend Oregon community colleges (2023-24)

That's a **12.2% increase** since the pandemic (2020-2023)¹



Educating Oregon

94% of community college students are Oregonians¹

49% of Oregon's higher ed students choose community colleges²



Economic Impact

\$9.6B In added income to the economy from Oregon's community colleges

This impact supported **177,970 jobs** (that's **1 out of 22 jobs!**) in Oregon in FY2021-22 ²



Strong ROI

\$7 Rate of return for every dollar Oregonians invest in CCs for as long as students remain active in state's workforce

For every dollar of public money invested in CCs, taxpayers receive **\$1.30 in return** over students' working lives²



Economic Shock Absorber

As Oregon's "economic shock absorber," community colleges help workers **retrain during economic shifts**, supporting regional stability.

Enrollment is growing, driven by **CTE and short-term programs** that provide fast, affordable routes to high-skill, high-wage jobs.



SUSTAIN THE INVESTMENT. STRENGTHEN OREGON'S WORKFORCE



Oregon's Economy Depends on CCs

An investment in community colleges is an investment in Oregon's future workforce, its communities, and its long-term economic vitality.



Middle-Skills Shortage

A severe shortage of credentials for high-paying middle-skills blue-collar jobs is projected nationwide by 2032³

100% Health Care Crisis
of Oregon counties that face **critical shortages** of health professionals: no region spared⁴

Skilled Trades Shortfalls

Next 10 Years = Double-Hit:

15,000 • New **construction workers** needed statewide
25% • Current workforce expected to **retire**⁵



Oregon At Risk

Oregon's revenue shortfalls mean colleges are at risk of a **mid-biennium cut to funding**. That could have **significant impacts** on students and the state's economy.

- **Program cuts** would delay graduation, block workforce entry, and disrupt academic plans
- **Tuition hikes** strain low-income students, working adults, and families
- Colleges partner with employers to meet Oregon's workforce needs; cuts would **disrupt pipelines, worsen shortages, and hinder mobility**, especially in rural areas



www.occa17.com

Sources:

1 HECC Community College Dashboard, 11/18/2025

2 "The Economic Value of Oregon's Community Colleges," Lightcast, July 2023

3 "Missed Opportunities: Credential Shortages in Programs Aligned with High-Paying Middle-Skills Jobs in 55 U.S. Metro Areas," Georgetown University Center on Education & the Workforce, 2024

4 Health Resources & Services Administration, 2025

5 Oregon Employment Department, 2025

Proposed Cuts



The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) has two potential options for cuts to the community colleges:

2.5% cut to HECC budget:

- **\$21 million** cut to the Community College Support Fund
- **\$2 million** cut to Career Pathways funding

5% cut to HECC budget:

- **\$41 million** cut to the Community College Support Fund
- **\$3 million** cut to Career Pathways funding
- **\$13 million** cut to Oregon Promise (no new student admissions)
- HECC childcare program **closed**