



Strengthening Community College Capacity for a Stronger Texas

Texas 87th Legislature: *Third Special Session*

The Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) seeks **\$325M in investments, including \$75M to fund grants under the TRUE initiative and \$250M to strengthen postsecondary education and training programs at the state's community college districts.** These one-time investments of federal resources are needed to ensure that students and families across the state have access to robust postsecondary education and training programs, aligned with employers' skills demands and delivered through facilities and equipment suitable for the 21st century workforce.

Strengthening community college capacity funds will support Texas:



Upgrading Equipment, Facilities & Technology Capacities

- Enhanced delivery of postsecondary education and training with leading edge technology, equipment, quality online instruction and integration of technology in teaching and learning.
- Delivery of new innovations in instruction and student support services.



Meeting Workforce Demands

- Expanded and upgraded facilities and equipment to serve larger student enrollments and aligned with regional growth clusters; this includes establishing & equipping new regional high-demand industry sector aligned training centers to close regional and state level occupational skills gaps.
- Expanded engagement with regional employers and business; this includes expansion of work-based learning models
- Accelerated implementation of Career Pathways reforms to align with regional workforce needs and improve student outcomes.

Funding Element

Investments in Texas community colleges through opportunities created by ARP funds to the State of Texas

Strengthening Community College Capacity for a Stronger Texas

Distributed to all 50 Community College Districts through a Formula

\$250M

TRUE Workforce

Builds on the Initial Investment of \$25M for TRUE Grants from GEER Funds

\$75M

Each community college district will receive Strengthening Capacity funding based on a formula that is responsive to the educational and workforce needs of Texas.

The formula will be determined by a combination of:

The college enrollment rate among high school graduates in the region



The proportion of Unemployment Insurance claimants in the region



STRONGER
workforce



TOTAL Investment

\$325M



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Talking Points for TACC Members

As the Texas Legislature looks to expend vital federal recovery funds aimed at “assisting unemployed workers and address educational disparities”, as provided in the rules, Texas community colleges present the best opportunity for effective use of recovery dollars.

Texas community and technical colleges have a proven track record of delivering education and workforce training critical to equipping the Texas workforce with the skills needed by Texas employers. In fact, **Texas community colleges provide over 92% of workforce credentials in Texas** and are best positioned to ensure that both unemployed and incumbent workers are armed with the skills and credentials needed to effectively fill and succeed in high demand jobs.

Exceptional Items Request: \$325M

As you consider the best use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, we submit for your consideration our exceptional request to invest \$325 million, including \$75M to fund grants under the TRUE initiative and \$250M to strengthen Texas community college capacity for a stronger Texas by enhancing capacity to meet workforce needs, upgrading technology, equipment, and training facilities, while addressing the significant pandemic era learning loss facing Texas students.

These investments will strengthen the capacity & alignment of education and enhance college training centers to meet workforce needs of employers while putting Texans back to work.

If funded, this would represent a historic and needed investment in Texas human capital channeled through community colleges.

The Funding:

- Reskills, upskills, and credentials the workforce, closes skills gaps, and helps employers fill jobs, putting Texans back to work.
- Is a necessary investment to advance student success and completions while bolstering progress towards Texas' 60x30TX goals.
- Will strengthen regional economies and make key local industries more competitive by providing learning facilities with needed equipment, technology, staff, and curriculum to educate and train students for success in the workforce.
- Address learning loss, with a particular focus on first time in college students

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