



COLLEGE NOW GREATER CLEVELAND AND THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2020/2021 STATE BUDGET

TO CREATE A STRONGER AND MORE SKILLED WORKFORCE, THE STATE MUST REDUCE THE COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION BY INVESTING TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE.

1. Ohio's only need-based aid grant program, the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG), is one of the smallest in the nation. The program was slashed from \$223 million in 2008 to \$69 million in 2012 and is currently funded at \$101 million. This equals an average grant of \$209 per full-time undergraduate student, the smallest in the Midwest.

We must fund OCOG at a minimum of \$245 million, the program's pre-recession level, adjusted for inflation.

Governor DeWine Proposal: We strongly support this significant increase to OCOG from \$101 million in FY 2019 to \$122.3 in FY 2020 and \$148.2 million in FY 2021.

2. Ohio's investment in its institutions of higher education has plateaued over the past decade leading to a disinvestment in critical student support services.

We must increase the State Share of Instruction for higher education by a minimum of \$180 million annually to keep up with inflation and the shifting needs of students.

Governor DeWine Proposal: We support this modest increase in the State Share of Instruction of \$20 million annually from \$1.98 billion in FY 2019 to \$2 billion in FY 2020 and to \$2.02 billion in FY 2021.

3. Tuition and fees at Ohio's 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities are 7% or 8% higher than national averages, respectively. It is imperative that the State continue to mandate modest tuition and fee caps at public colleges and universities.

Governor DeWine Proposal: We appreciate this modest solution for students attending public colleges and universities that would offer a guarantee to prevent tuition increases over four years.

4. Impose tighter restrictions regarding student loan debt collections for Ohio's students and more opportunities for student loan forgiveness. Ohio is the 10th highest in the nation in the percent of Ohioans (62%) that graduate with loan debt and the 17th highest for the student loan debt amount (\$30,629) the average borrower must incur.

Governor DeWine Proposal: We look forward to the State's response on this critical topic.