



RURAL COMMUNITY College Alliance

Creating Opportunities in Place.



RCCA Legislative Agenda

Federal Pell Grants

- Ensure adequate funding to fully support students in rural America.
- Extend Pell Grant eligibility to high-quality, workforce-oriented short-term programs.
- Restore full Title IV student eligibility for community college students who lack a high school diploma or its equivalent, but can benefit from postsecondary education.

Workforce Development, Adult Basic Education, Career & Technical Education

- Invigorate rural economic development by providing adequate federal resources for essential programs addressing rural education, rural health care, renewable energy, and rural workforce development.
- Create federal funding streams for community colleges to provide programming targeting rural economic development, particularly in agriculture.
- Substantially increase funding for the Strengthening Community College Training Grants program for the benefit of enhancing the rural workforce.

Farm Bill

- Authorize Capacity Building Grants for Community College Agriculture and Natural Resources Programs to support the development of technicians in the areas of agribusiness, precision agriculture, agricultural sciences, and natural resources to ensure a pipeline of trained U.S. agricultural workers, a reliable supply of healthy foods, and promotion of sustainable farming methods.
- Allow community college students to substitute work requirements with postsecondary enrollment to qualify for safety net programs such as SNAP.

Funding for Federal Student Financial Aid & Institutional Aid

- Boost funding for vital institutional aid programs, including the Strengthening Institutions Program
- Establish a federal designation of a Rural Serving Institution to provide access to critical services and resources.
- Strengthen TRIO, GEAR UP, CCAMPIS, Postsecondary Student Success Grants, Basic Needs Grants and other student support programs that help community colleges meet the needs of rural America.

Infrastructure

- Invest in upgrading and modernizing the community college infrastructure, as they are integral to the economic vitality of rural America.
- Ensure that rural residents can access technology, including high-speed broadband that is critical to rural community college students.

Access to Basic Needs Services for Low-Income Students

- Alter the CCAMPIS program to provide grant funding of adequate size to maintain high-quality, broadly-available campus childcare; provide funding opportunities for facilities.

Immigration Policy

- Provide a pathway for students with Temporary Work Visas and their families to stay in rural America while enrolled in higher education, providing a pathway for these students to obtain other visas for high-need skill areas that are a large share of rural economies.

For More Information:

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