State Example: Colorado

Illinois Commission on Equitable Public University Funding

Reimagine possible

April 22nd, 2022
Higher Education in Colorado

31 public institutions of higher ed

- universities, community colleges, area technical schools
- 3 statewide systems, several single campus institutions

Approximately 250,000 students served by public higher ed institutions
Colorado Rises: Higher Ed Master Plan

The state has set a **credential attainment goal of 66 percent by 2025** for Colorado’s adult population.

Attainment levels as of 2020:

- 65% for white Coloradans
- 30% for Hispanic/Latinx Coloradans
- 30% for Native American and Alaska Native Coloradans
- 41% for African American and Black Coloradans
HE Funding in Colorado

Historically based on proportionate changes driven by increases/decreases in state budget, perpetuating disparities across institution types and sizes.

In 2014, some performance metrics introduced though ~80% of funding remained rooted in enrollment factors.

In 2019, legislature passed SB 19-095, requiring CCHE to review formula to better align to state’s master plan goals.
2020 Funding Formula Revision

**Step 1**
Ongoing Additional Funding
Base-building
- To recognize progress toward state goals
- Address historic disparities
- Award other metrics beyond S2

**Step 2**
Performance Funding
Base-building
Growth of--
- Enrollment
- Credential production
- Special population enrollment
- Grad rates (4/6 yr)
- Retention

**Step 3**
Temporary Additional Funding
One-time
- Special purpose, as designated by the legislature
2021 Colorado Case Study

Use of Step 2 of formula was replicating disparities resulting from prior funding model

Leveraged Step 1 to focus investment on state share of enrollment and retention of focus student populations

- Pell-eligible
- Underrepresented minorities
- First gen

Funded with new monies invested to higher ed, resulted in disproportionate growth in funding for access institutions, community colleges and rural campuses
Looking Ahead

Colorado’s formula to be revised in 2022

- Metrics that capture students beyond “first time, full time”
- Considering role and mission in goal-setting
- Incentivizing innovation
Q&A