

*Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI)*

# Higher Ed Interim Committee

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September 23, 2019





## Presentation Overview

- History of COSI
- Program Structure
- Implementation of Program
- Financial Overview
- Outcomes
- Sharing of Best Practices

# COSI Video



**COLORADO**  
**Colorado Opportunity**  
**Scholarship Initiative**

[youtu.be/TzptFYlQbiA](https://youtu.be/TzptFYlQbiA)

## What is COSI?

Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) was created in 2014 with the goal of increasing the attainment of post-secondary credentials and degrees for underserved students in Colorado.

**Affordability** alone wasn't enough.  
We needed to address **accessibility**, too.

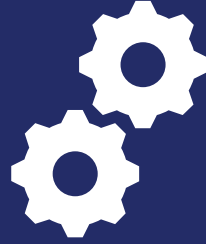


# History



Inspiration for Colorado's Promise Program

# Program Structure



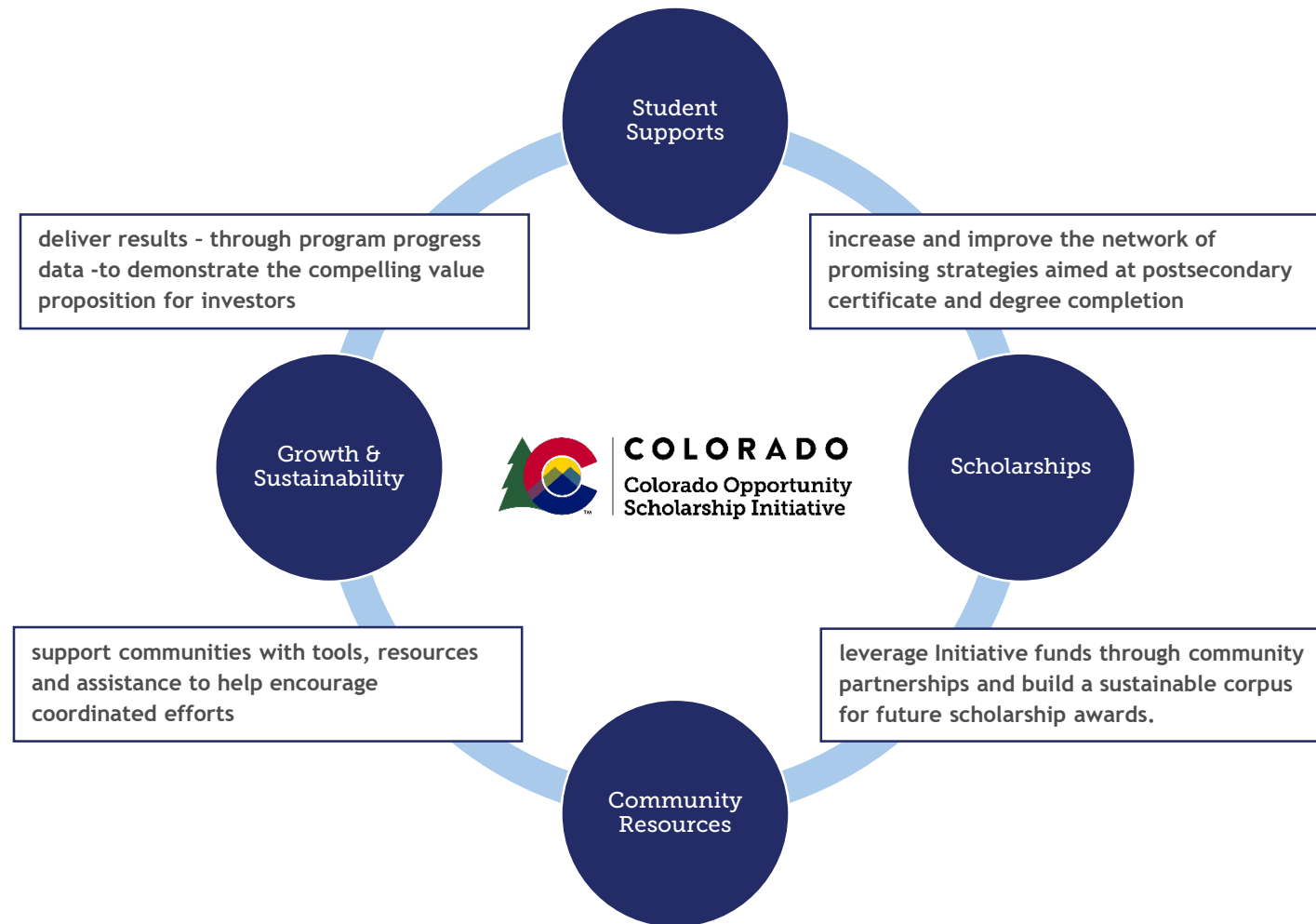
Statutory Makeup and Policies



## Program Structure

- Advisory Board
- Requirements of students
- Eligible partners
- Promulgated rules
- Policies

# Program Foci





# Implementation



Successes, Learnings, and Current Program Models



# Program Implementation

- First wrap-around awards made in December 2014
- Continued to build community partnerships and awareness
- First scholarship awards made in Fall 2015
- Established annual evaluations
- Through learnings, implemented policies such as reduced-match and endowment
- Utilized OSPB funding to assess most promising models (research and COSI grantees)
  - Implemented new wrap-around models in 2018
  - Implemented new scholarship models in 2019
- Utilized RFI as opportunity to vision long-term
- Continually reviewing and modifying as necessary to address research, align with new policies and resources, and support our communities
- New strategic plan will be adopted in Fall 2020



**Matching Student Scholarship (MSS) Grants** leverage the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative funds through community partnerships and build a sustainable corpus for future scholarship awards.





## Adoption of Scholarship Program through June 2019

- Our goal is to leverage another \$7.5 million in state funds in order to generate a total of \$15 million in new scholarship funds for Colorado students
- In 2018-2019, COSI reached 100% of our annual awards
- 100% of eligible public institutions of higher education participated in COSI this year
- 59 of 64 counties applied this year, which increases COSI's overall county participation to 97%





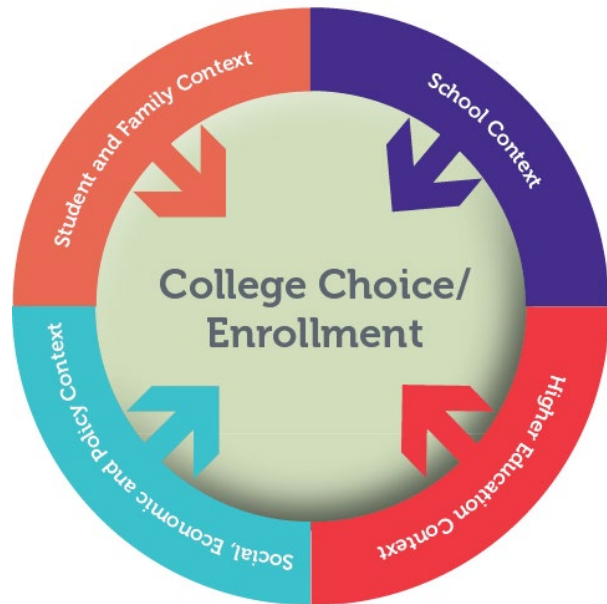
# **Community Partner Program (CPP) Grants**

increase and improve support for Colorado students in the completion of postsecondary certificate and degree programs.

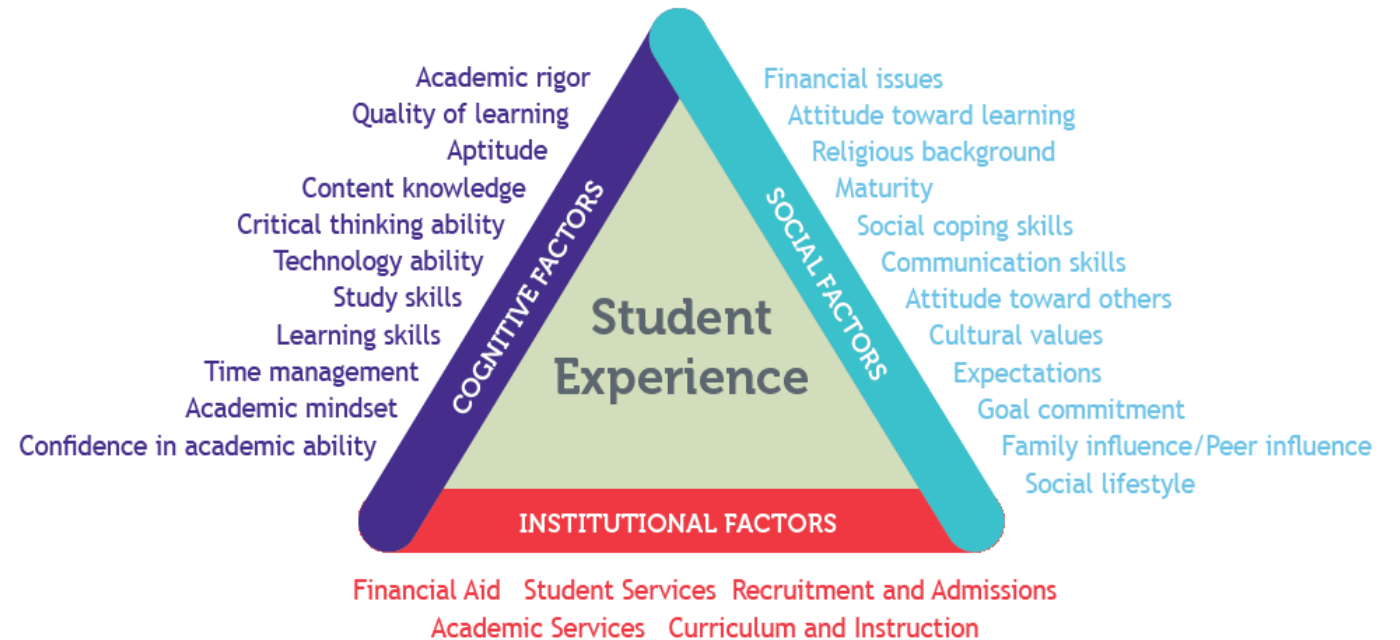


# COSI Support Models

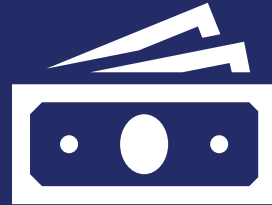
## Pre-Collegiate Model



## Postsecondary Model



# Financial Overview



Update as of July 1, 2019

# Use of funds through June 30, 2019

## Through 2018-2019 Academic Year COSI Financial Overview

CPP Grants  
**58,791**  
students served

MSS Grants  
**16,554**  
students served

**\$16,196,661**  
in grant funds

funded **91**  
**student support**  
programs

**\$13,795,869**  
State funding  
+ matching scholarships

= **\$27,591,738**

Spent funds have leveraged **\$13,945,868**



About **\$16,815,969** of the committed  
funds remain encumbered for future use.



# Outcomes



Program Successes

# 2017-2018 Persistence Outcome:

*89 percent of students  
that receive COSI  
scholarships* continue on  
in their second and third  
years, outpacing their  
non-COSI counterparts by  
25 percentage points.

# 89%

## Matching Student Scholarships

# 2017-2018 Persistence Outcome

The most recent data show that *87 percent of COSI students enrolled in Community Partner Programs persist in their program of study*, 15 percentage points higher than the state average.

# 87%

## Community Partner Program

# Sharing of Best Practices



Creating Sustainable Practices



# Community Resources

support communities with postsecondary access tools, resources and assistance to help encourage coordinated efforts



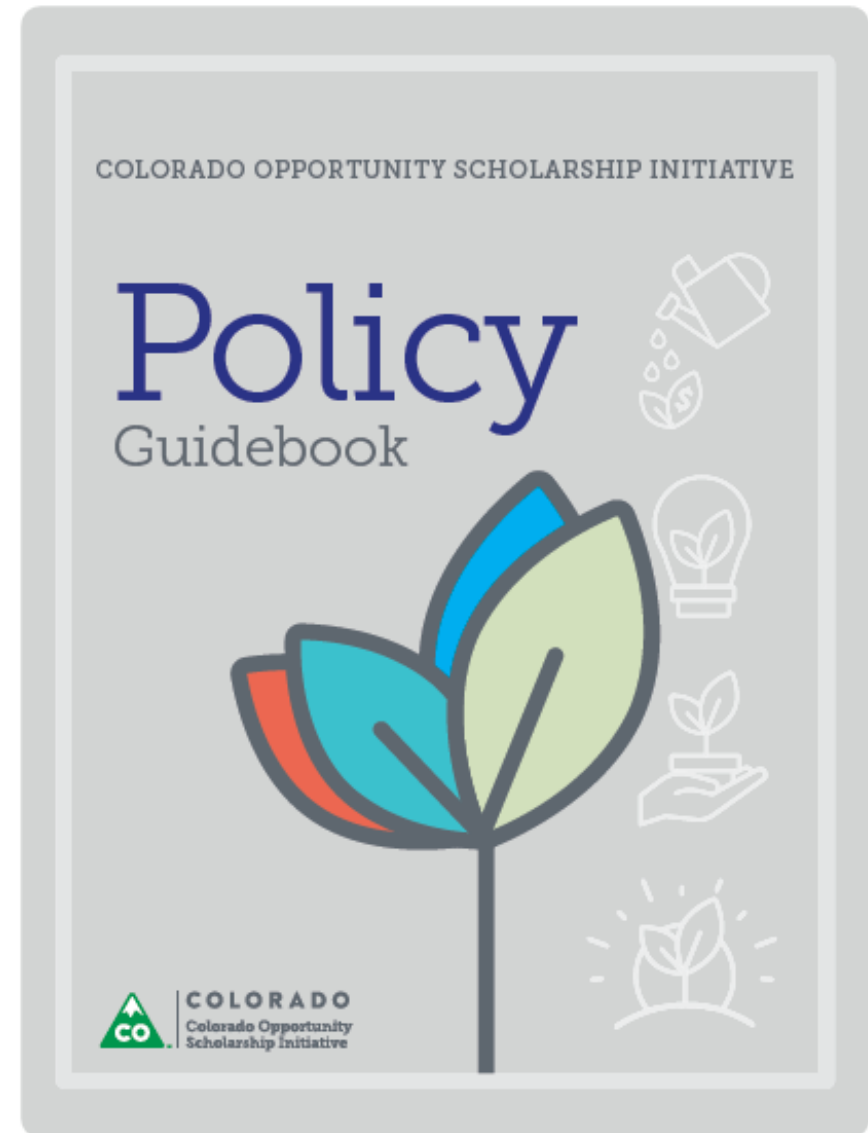
# Network of Providers

- Hold annual symposium
- Host Fall Regional trainings
- Provide monthly webinars and newsletters
- Facilitate Peer- Coaching



# Policy Guidebook

- Part 1: History
- Part 2: Implementation & Policy Guide
- Part 3: Precollegiate and Postsecondary guidebooks





# Program Guidebooks

- Precollegiate Service Model
- Postsecondary Service Model





# Contact Info

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# Thank You!

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