

Department of Higher Education

SMART Act Hearing

Joint Education Committee
January 17, 2024

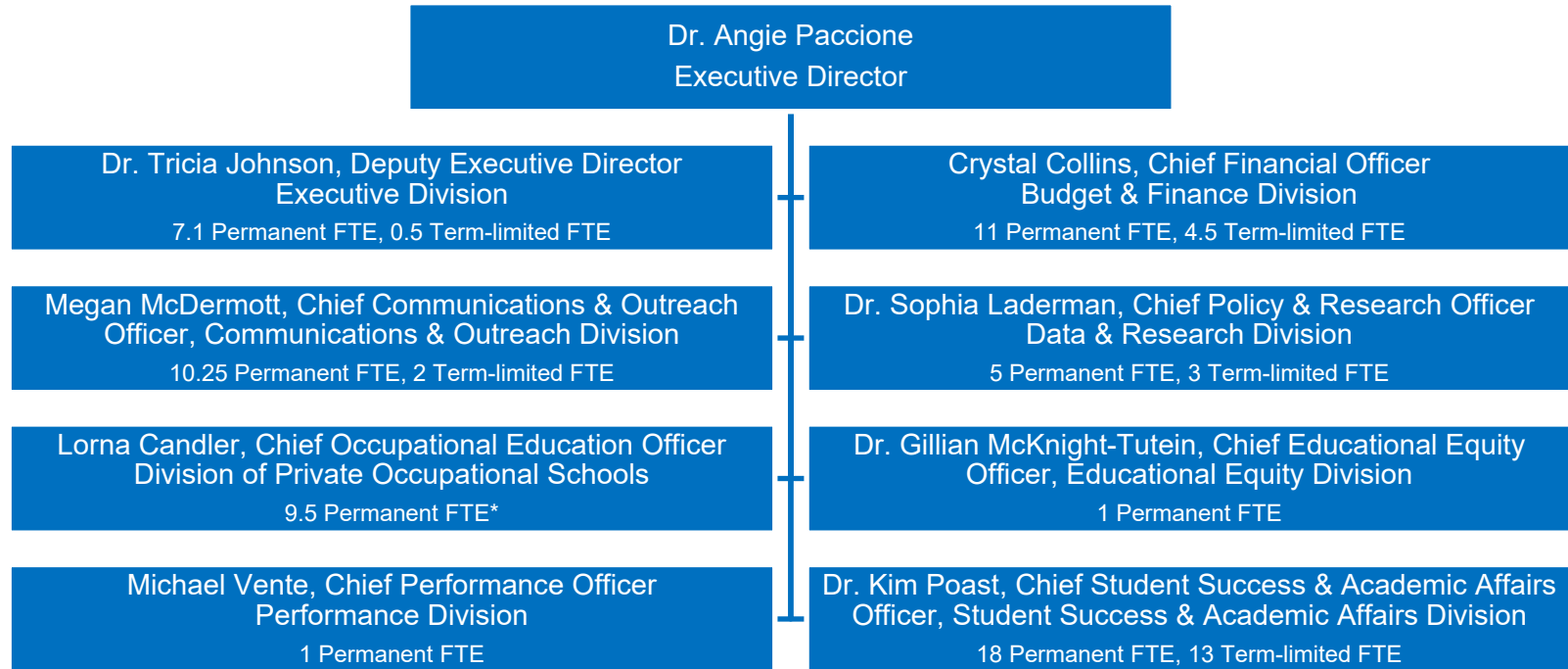


Higher Education Mission & Vision

The Department of Higher Education's mission is to support students, advocate and develop policies to maximize higher education opportunities for all.

The Department of Higher Education's vision is that all Coloradans will have an education beyond high school to pursue their dreams and improve our communities.

Higher Education Organizational Chart



*Cash funded

Strategic Plan for Higher Education

Increase the number of Coloradans benefiting from valuable career skills, obtained while in high school or via postsecondary education, that –at a minimum– enable additional lifetime earnings greater than the cost of attendance.

Three strategic pillars underpin the goal and the opportunities available to institutions, policymakers, and others that affect change.

Pillar #1

Identify and improve pathways with a negative return on investment.

Pillar #2

Focus on equity and enable more learners to succeed.

Pillar #3

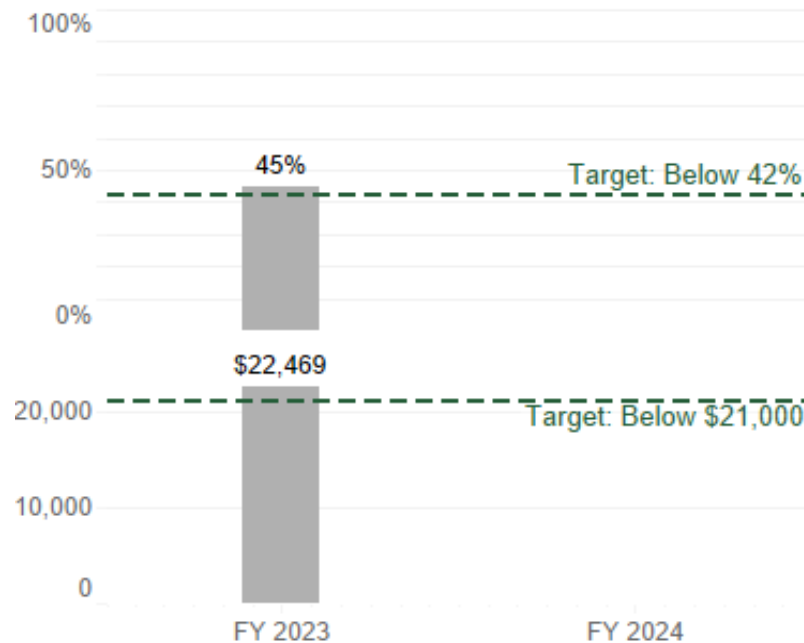
Catalyze increased postsecondary and workforce collaboration, alignment, and co-creation of new pathways that offer a positive return on investment.

Higher Education FY 2023-24 Wildly Important Goals

Cost Containment and Affordability for Learners:

Decrease the overall number of students graduating with debt from 45% to 42% by June 30, 2024.

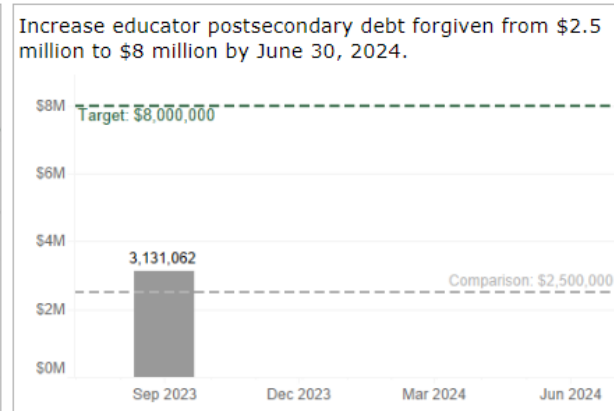
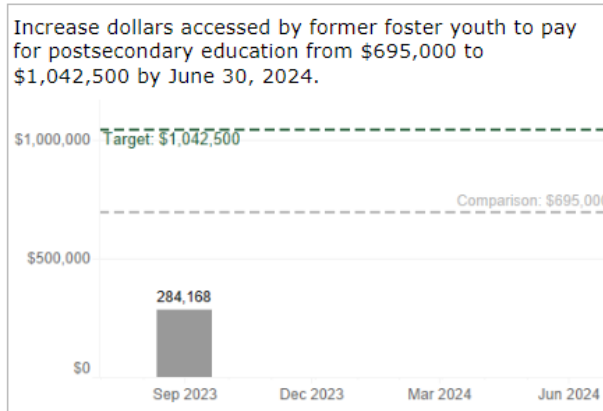
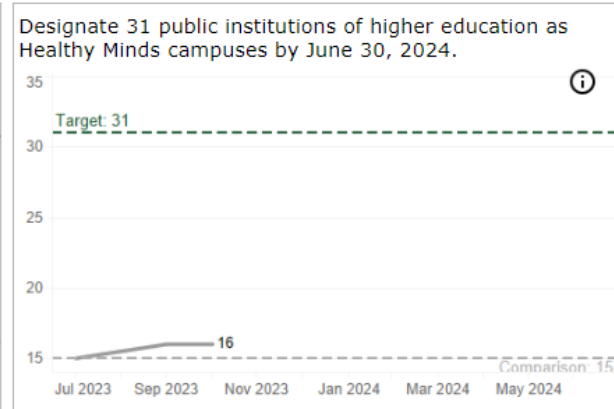
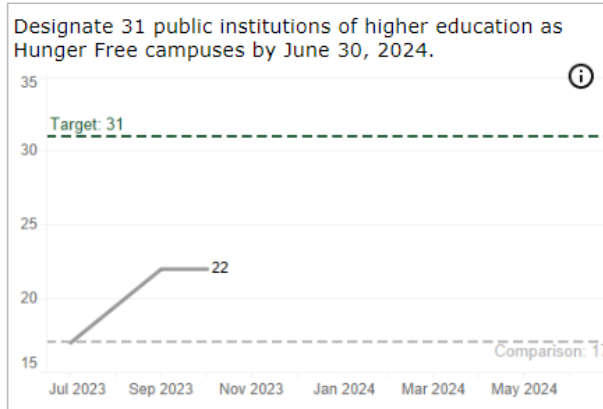
Decrease the average amount of debt per graduating student from \$22,469 to \$21,000 by June 30, 2024.



Context: Successful completion of this goal will make postsecondary education more affordable and contain costs for students and families.

How Higher Education will accomplish the WIGs

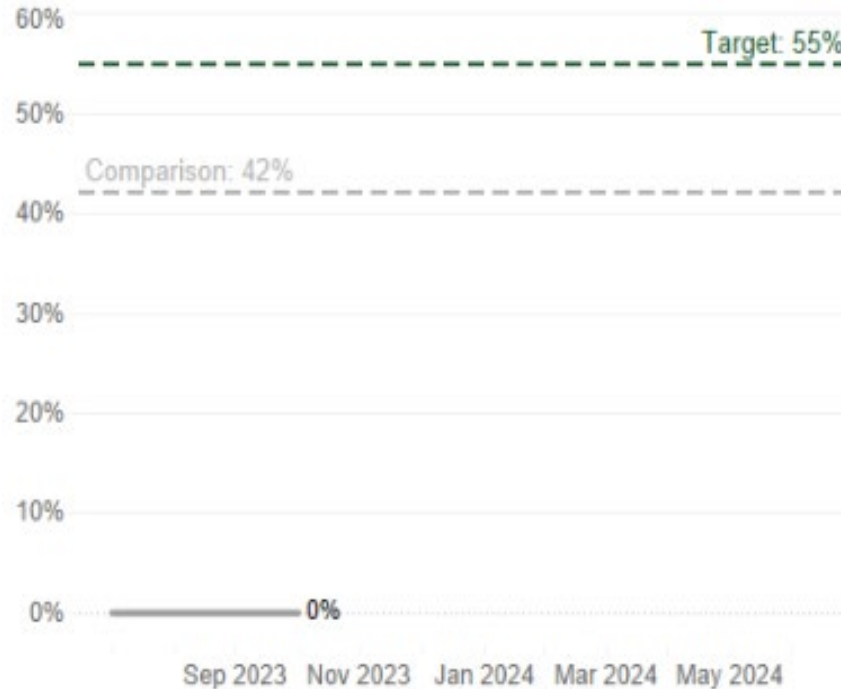
We will achieve this goal through the following leading indicators:



Higher Education FY 2023-24 Wildly Important Goals

FAFSA and CASFA completion:

Increase FAFSA/CAFA completion among high school seniors in Colorado from 42% to 55% by June 30, 2024.

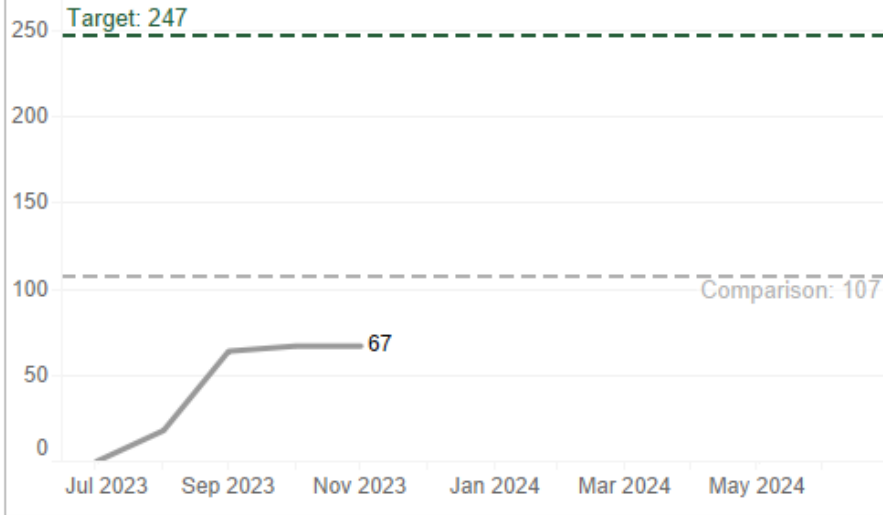


Context: Successful completion of this goal will enable more Coloradans to access federal and state financial aid, thereby making college more affordable.

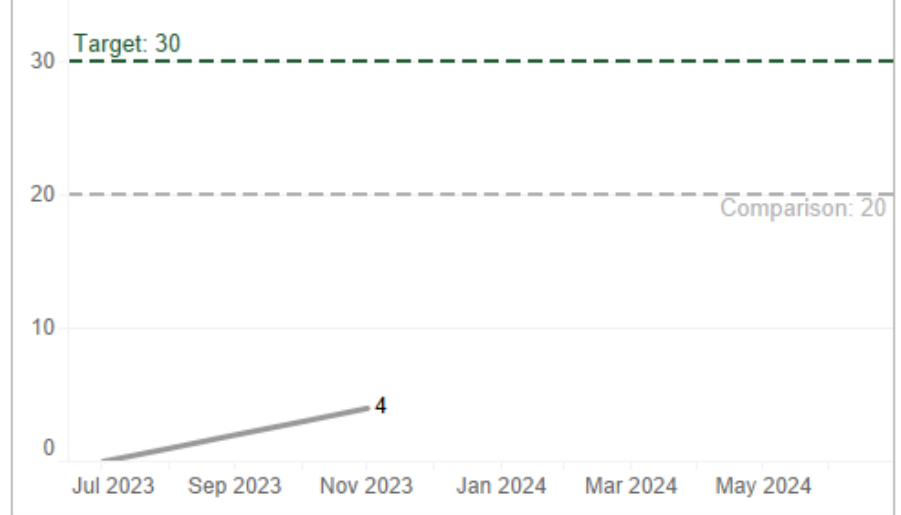
How Higher Education will accomplish the WIGs

We will achieve this goal through the following leading indicators:

Increase outreach events related to FAFSA and CASFA completion from 107 to 247 by June 30, 2024.



Hold ten trainings for educators supporting student FAFSA/CASFA completion by June 30, 2024.



Higher Education FY 2023-24 Wildly Important Goals

Erasing equity gaps in postsecondary education:

Increase the number of credential completions by students of color and low-income students by 5% by June 30, 2024.



Context: Successful completion of this goal will reduce postsecondary completion disparities that persist across race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and geography.

How Higher Education will accomplish the WIGs

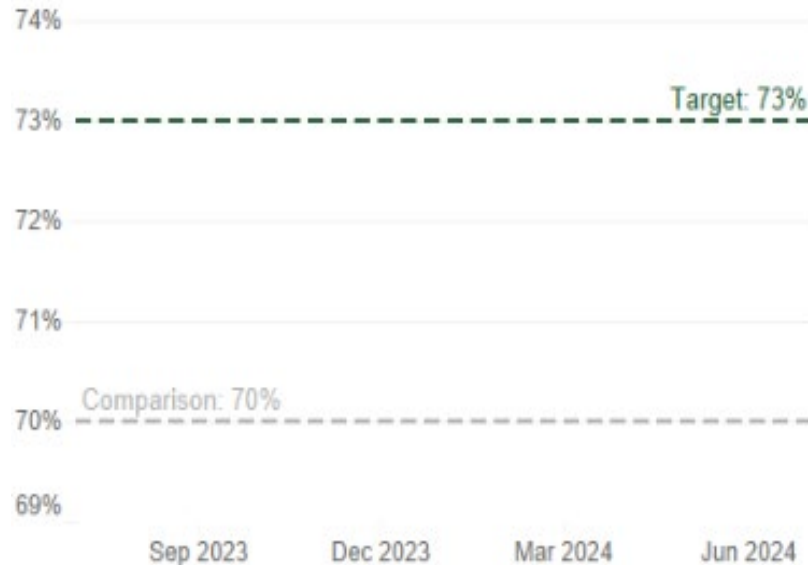
We will achieve this goal through the following leading indicators:

- Expand the number of school counselors (both higher education and high school) who complete the Advisors LEAD training from **568 to 650** by June 30, 2024
 - Currently, **597 counselors** have completed the training
- More information later in the presentation from CDHE's Chief Educational Equity Officer, Dr. Gillian McKnight-Tutein

Higher Education FY 2023-24 Wildly Important Goals

Workforce Development:

Increase the number of postsecondary programs with a required work-based learning component from 70% to 73% by June 30, 2024.



Context: Successful completion of this goal will further align the postsecondary space to workforce needs and enhance the empowerment of learners of all ages with more agency, intentionality, and flexibility around their education/training choices.

How Higher Education will accomplish the WIGs

We will achieve this goal through the following leading indicators:

- Develop 10 stackable credential pathways by June 30, 2024
 - **SB22-192** - improve access to quality credentials of value in the workplace and create greater alignment between credentials and work-based learning
 - CDHE to work with other agencies and stakeholders from industry, K12, and higher education on stackable credential pathways across **five high-demand, high-growth industries**
 - [Recently released report](#) summarizing 6 of 10 pathways in behavioral health, cybersecurity, and education

More Information

To view monthly updates on Wildly Important Goals and corresponding lead measures, please visit the [Governor's Dashboard](#).

For more information on additional Department goals and context, view our [FY 2023-24 Performance Plan](#).

Higher Education Performance Management

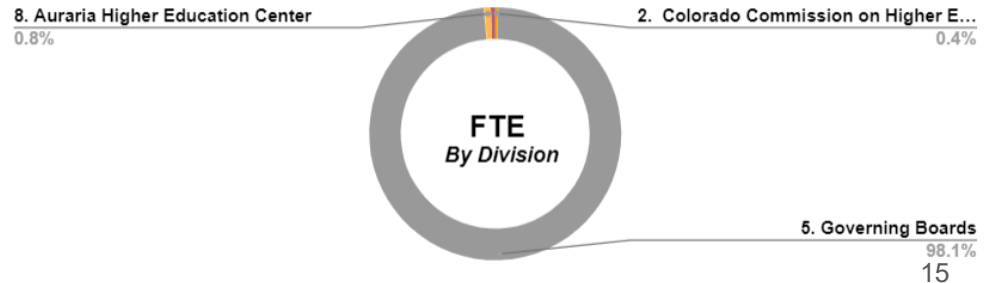
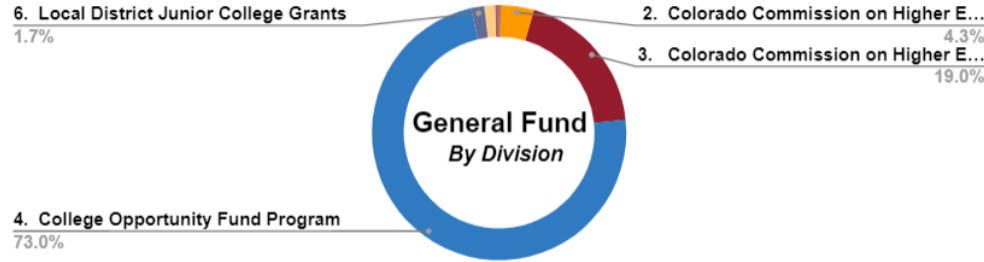
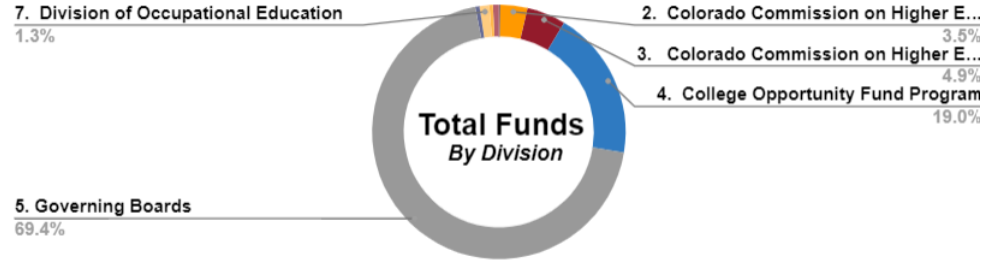
CDHE's efforts to elevate performance management

- Quarterly "Performance Days" for all CDHE staff
 - Focus on WIG updates and execution of lead measures
- 70-20-10 breakdown of weekly time spent on work, WIGs, and professional development
- Hiring of a Director of Operations & Project Management to support and streamline performance and project management across the agency
- Weekly meetings of CDHE staff around operations, performance, and strategy to ensure alignment of initiatives to broader goals

Higher Education FY 2024-25 Budget Request

FY 2024-25 Budget Request Snapshot

FY 2024-25 Total Funds: \$6.00 billion
 FY 2024-25 General Fund: \$1.56 billion
 FY 2024-25 FTE: 26,738.2



Higher Education Select FY 2024-25 Budget Requests

Higher Education's FY 2024-25 Budget Request includes the following:

- R-1 – Increase in State Funding for Higher Education
- R-2 – Tuition Spending Authority
- R-3 – Fort Lewis Native American Tuition Waiver
- **R-4 – Department Staff Salary Adjustments**
- **BA-01/S-01 – Cybersecurity Incident Remediation**

- CC-08 – CSU Clark Building Renovation & Additions
- CC-09 – CMU Performing Arts Expansion & Renovations
- CR-10 – CNCC Siding, Insulation, and Window Replacement – Rangely
- CC-IT 01 – MSU Reimagining the Campus Digital Experience

June 2023 Cybersecurity Incident Remediation

CDHE became aware of a cyber security ransomware incident on June 19, 2023.

- Remediation efforts and current status
- Impacted data collections and reports
 - Annual Financial Aid Report (Legislative Request for Information)
 - Concurrent Enrollment Report (22-35-112 (2))
 - Credit for Work-Related Experience (23-5-145.9 (9)(a))
 - Implementation of Test Optional (23-1-113 (10.5))
 - Improving Students Postsecondary Options (23-3.3-106 (3))
 - Master Plan Dashboard (23-1-108 (1.5))
 - Post-secondary Progress and Success of High School Graduates Report (23-1-113 (9))
 - Remedial/Developmental Education and Supplemental Academic Instruction (23-1-113.3)
 - Resident headcount and FTE for Colorado institutions of higher education (23-1-113.5 (4)(d))

Legislative Agenda

The Department respectfully requests the General Assembly consider legislation on the following:

- Funding for Students Experiencing Homelessness in High School
- Student Bill of Rights
- Regional Accreditation Technical Change
- Technical Change to HB22-1349 Spending Authority



Regulatory Agenda

The Department's 2024 Regulatory Agenda for the Division of Private Occupational Schools, the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative and the State Historical Society can be accessed [here](#).



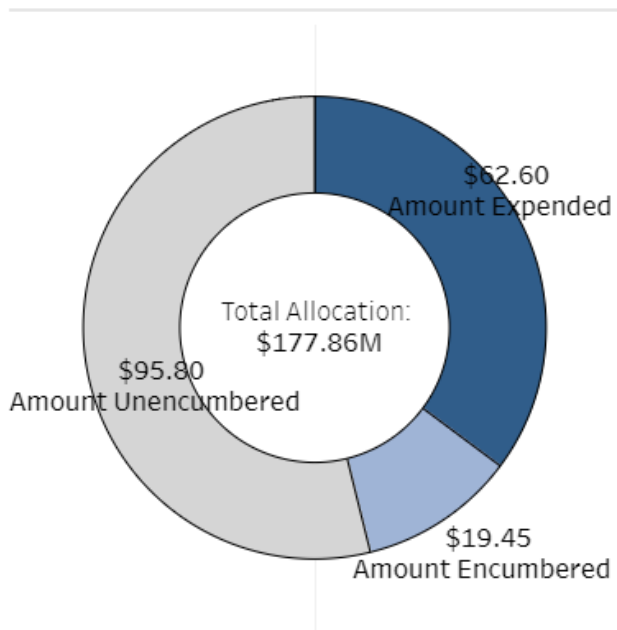
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order [2020 175](#), the Department has implemented the following efforts in accordance with its equity, diversity, and inclusion plan:

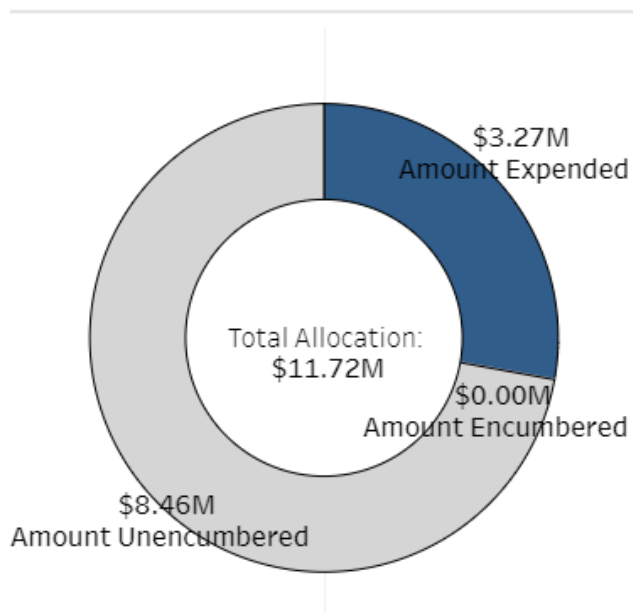
- Hired Chief Educational Equity Officer Dr. Gillian McKnight-Tutein
- Expanded the Equity Champions Coalition
- Broadened the Determinants of Student Success Framework
- Created an internal Equity/Race/Ethnicity Best Practices Guide

Stimulus Funding Implementation (1/2)

ARPA State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)



State Stimulus

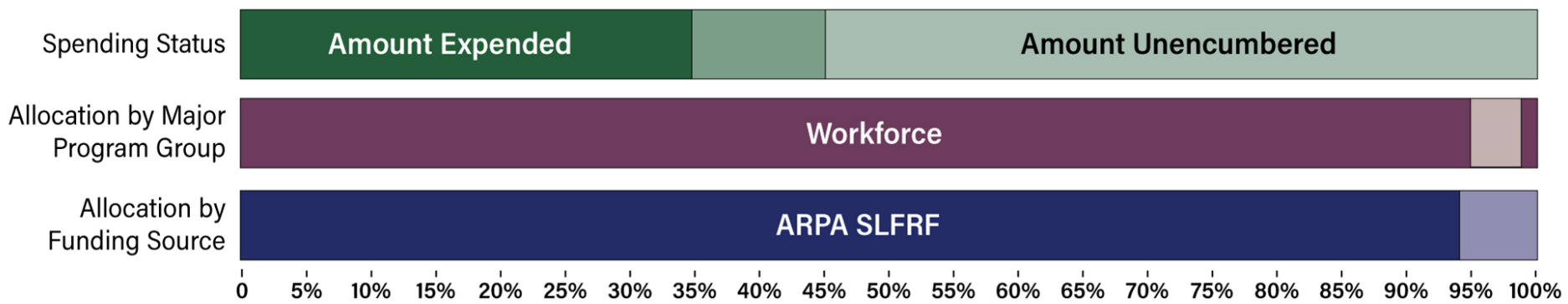


For ongoing updates, please visit Colorado's stimulus website: coforward.colorado.gov.

Stimulus Funding Implementation, Continued (2/2)

Please provide an update on the implementation of stimulus bills or projects, including:

- Higher education has received **\$189.58 million** in one-time stimulus funds.
- As of September 30, 2023, **\$85.32 million** had been expended or encumbered.



For ongoing updates, please visit Colorado's stimulus website: coforward.colorado.gov.

Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative



Prioritizing affordability, access, and success, COSI programs contribute value to the State and learners through dedicated support to increase credential attainment

Federally Funded Programs

- Back to Work
- Finish What You Started
- Fund My Future

State Funded Programs

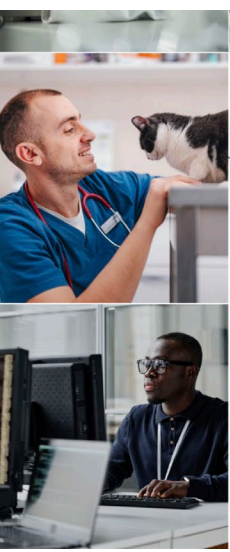
- Career Launch
- Matching Student Scholarships
- Pre-Collegiate
- Postsecondary
- Second Chance Scholarship
- Youth Mentorship Scholarship

Care Forward Colorado & Career Advance Colorado

- **Care Forward Colorado (SB22-226)** - over **3,500 Coloradans** earned healthcare credentials since August 2022
- **Career Advance Colorado (HB23-1246)** - goal to train over **20,000 Coloradans** for in-demand careers



Return on Investment & Colorado Talent Pipeline Report



2023 COLORADO

**TALENT
PIPELINE
REPORT**



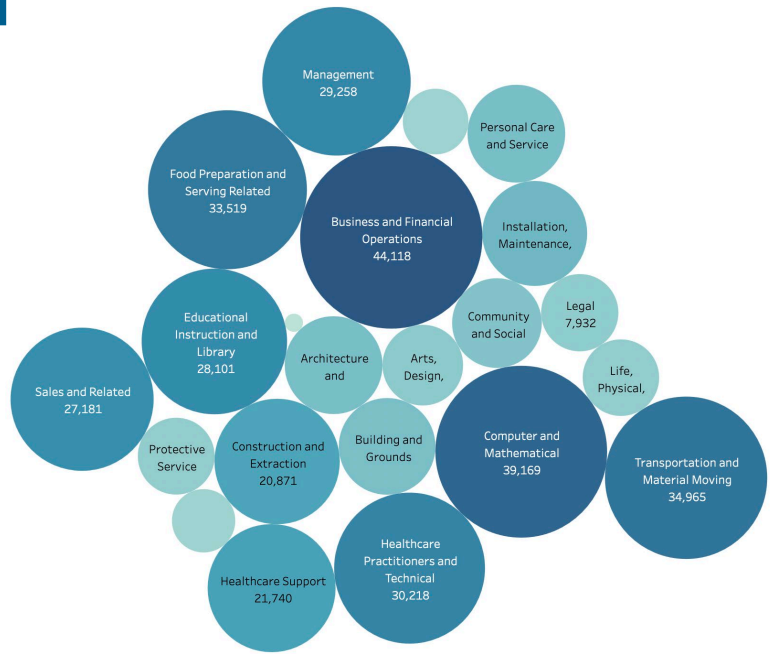
**2023 Higher Education
Return on Investment Report**



Colorado Talent Pipeline Report: Quarterly Publications

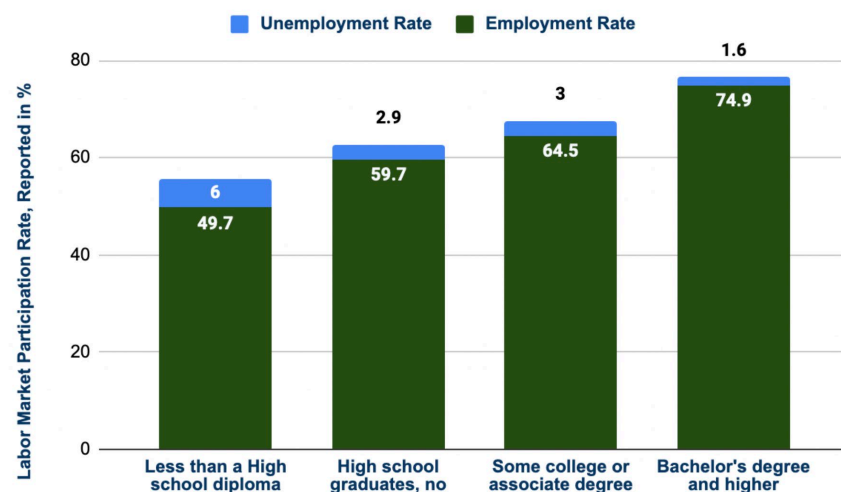
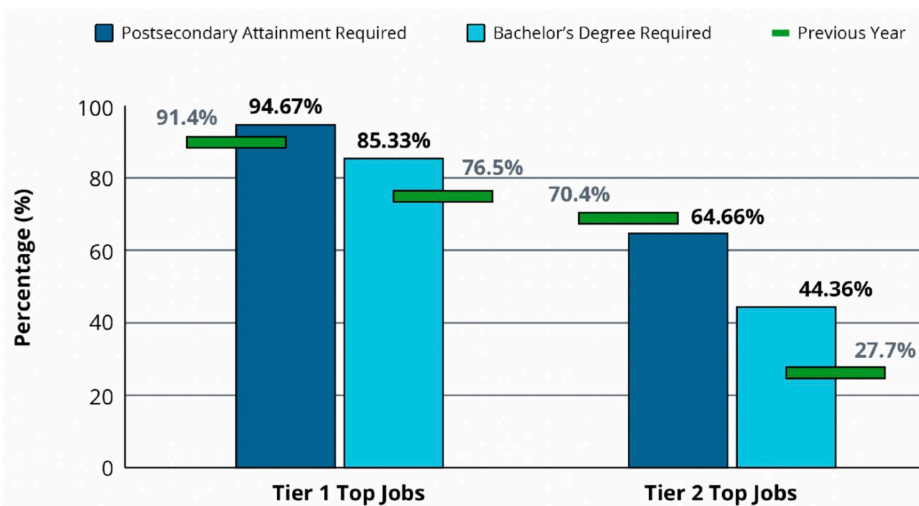
2024 March Issue: Learner Focused

- **Workforce Projections**
 - Estimating future talent gaps and needs for higher education
- **Attainment in the Workforce**
 - Analysis of completers, attainment levels, and typical job requirements to land Top Jobs and ALL Jobs
- **Skills Attained through Higher Education**
 - How higher education experiences cause individuals to be more competitive in the workforce and bolster quality of life outcomes in the long-run



Colorado Talent Pipeline Report

Attainment Value in Colorado's Workforce



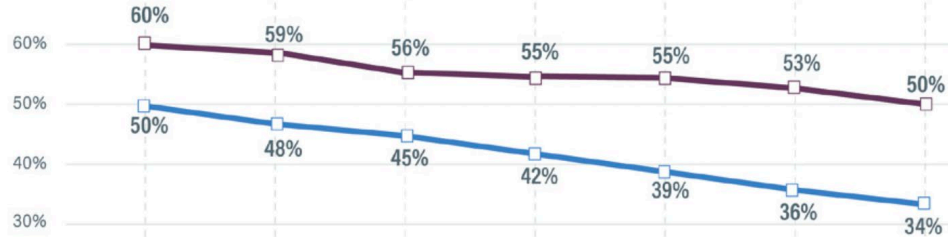
Return on Investment Report

2023 ROI Report Highlights: Declining Debt & Bolstered Wages Over Time

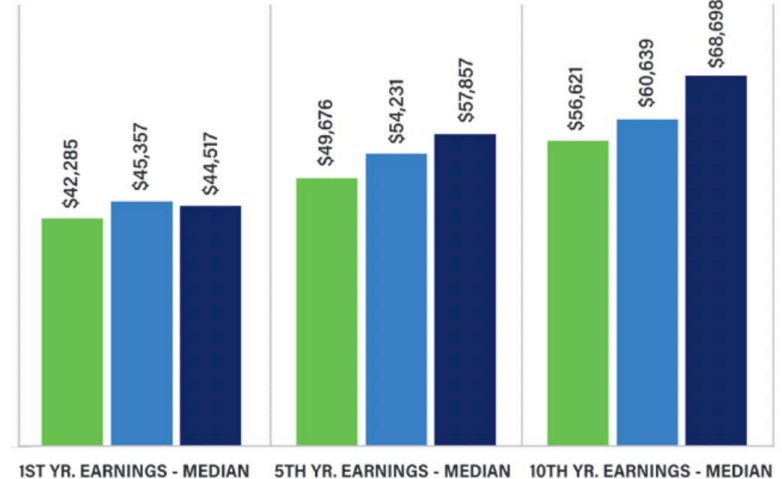
■ ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE ■ BACHELOR'S DEGREE

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

Percent of Graduates with Debt



Average Debt



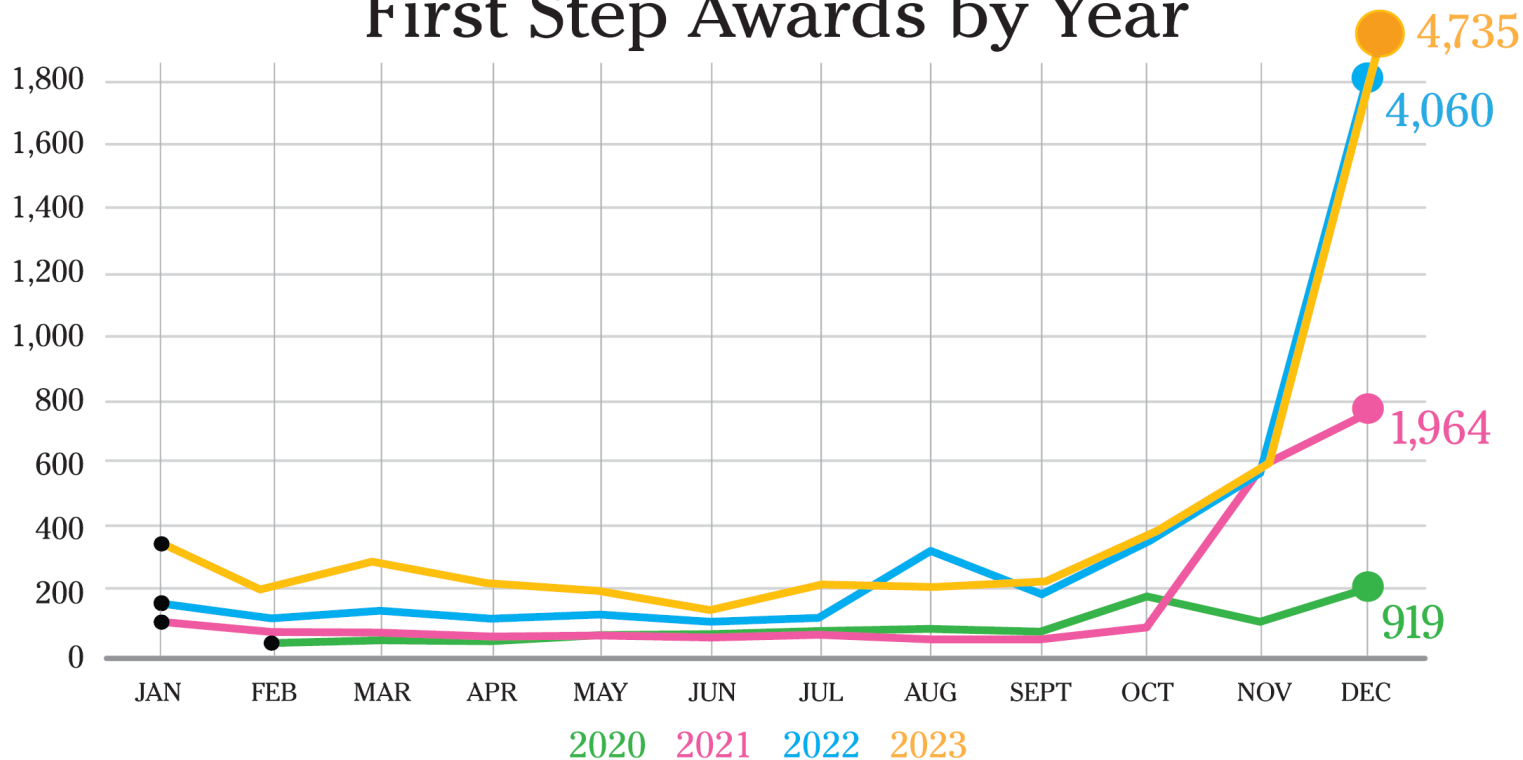
■ Certificate ■ Associate ■ Bachelor's

Students with Disabilities

- HB22-1255 (CRS 23-79-102) requires CDHE to collect [available data](#) of students with disabilities from Colorado IHEs – this is the first report year
- According to NCES, **37% inform** their IHE of their disability
- A total of **25,684 (6.6%)** students with disabilities enrolled in AY '23
- CU Boulder reported highest number (**4,629**), University of Denver reported highest percentage (**14.5%**).
- **5.5% of male**, and **7.4% of female** students were reported as having a disability

Kickstarter (HB19-1280) Program Update 2024

First Step Awards by Year



% Who Made Additional Contributions

Average contribution of \$3,292

Note: the data for 2023 includes 2,000 families who applied for their award in November/December and likely waiting until the calendar year to start their matching contributions.

Application Year	Total Accounts	% of Accounts Making Contributions	% of Accounts Not Making Contributions
2020	919	97%	3%
2021	1,964	98%	2%
2022	4,060	90%	10%
2023	4,735	91%	9%



of Children Born/Adopted and % Opening

Birth Year	Vital Records Births	By Cohort Year	Participation %
2020 Total	62,079	3,446	5.6%
2021 Total	63,645	3,279	5.2%
2022 Total	63,163	3,064	4.9%
2023 Total	57,494	1,889	3.3%

As of this presentation:

- Q1 2020 births are up to 6.4% participation (higher than CA auto-enroll program)
- 2023 is a partial year

Appendix A: Sexual Misconduct Advisory Committee

The state of Colorado continues to be positioned to be a national leader in the prevention and response to sexual misconduct at Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) since the passage of C.R.S. §§ 23-5-146 et seq. (SB 19-007) in May 2019.

[Sexual Misconduct Advisory Committee Website](#)

Appendix B: SB18-086 Cybersecurity Compliance

- C.R.S. 24-33.5-1905 (4) directs CDHE to prepare a [report](#) detailing progress made towards critical state cybersecurity goals at institutions of higher education.
- Six governing boards were awarded funding in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

	SB 18-086 Appropriation	Total Amount Expended	SB 18-086 Scholarship Requirement	Total Amount Spent on Scholarships
Colorado Mesa University	\$300,000	\$226,130	\$30,000	\$31,900
Metropolitan State University of Denver	\$300,000	\$291,146	\$30,000	\$28,500
Western Colorado University	\$200,000	\$323,185	\$20,000	\$35,000
Colorado State University System	\$1,200,000	\$1,054,525	\$180,000	\$1,166,083
University of Colorado System	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000	\$560,000	\$1,251,901
Colorado Community College System	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$30,000	\$30,000

Thank you!