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PROMISE

Presentation to
Revenue & Resources
Council
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California College Promise AB 19 Program Goals

- AB 19 (Santiago; 2017) Created the CA College Promise Program (CCP)

- The CCP is intended to help make college affordable for all students, support the goals in the Vision for Success, strengthen Guided Pathways and encourage innovation.

- Colleges receiving CCP funds must engage in several activities, such as operating programs with local high school districts that support pathways to college, implementing the Guided Pathways framework, and helping students access need-based financial aid such as Pell Grants and Cal-Grants.

- Beg. 2018-19, provides annual funding for participating CC's to, as on option, waive enrollment fees for <u>all</u> eligible First-Time/Full-Time students who do not qualify for the "CA College Promise Grant" (i.e., a <u>separate</u> program formerly referred to as the BOG fee waiver that also waives student enrollment fees)

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State Funding

- 2018-19 Budget Act: $46M Ongoing Appropriation
  - FH allocation $889,338

- 2019-20 Budget Act $40M – Provided support for 2nd Year of free tuition
  - FH Allocation $1,250,173

- 2020-21 Budget Act $81M –
  - FH Allocation $1,111,797 (+ PY carryover bal. $466,058)

- 2021-22 Gov. Proposed Budget $74.7M (-7.8%)
  - Estimated FH Allocation $1,025,077 (-$86,720)

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Foothill College Promise Criteria

- **Students must:**
  - Apply to Foothill College
  - Complete a FAFSA/CADAA
  - Be a first-time college student
  - Enroll in 12+ units
  - Qualify for in-state tuition

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Current FHP Benefits

- All enrollment and student body fees are waived (regardless of income) for first two Academic Years

- All eligible students also receive free course materials (i.e.: textbooks and required course supplies) at the Foothill College bookstore

- No-cost SmartPass to ride unlimited VTA public transportation

- No-cost OwlCard for on and off campus discounts

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Student Participation Data

- 2018-19: 440 students

- 2019-20: 977 students

- 2020-21: 1,447 students (note: estimated count/not yet final; coding issue recently identified that may result in some part-time students erroneously included, but not at the magnitude that would alter the analysis supporting the recommended FH Promise changes—this issue is currently under review)

These are annual unduplicated student counts

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Evaluation of FH Promise - Financial

- Projected Budget Deficit for <u>2020-21</u>: -$448,203
  - Allocation: $1,111,797
    - +$466,058 Prior Year Carryover Bal.
    - = Total Available Balance of $1,577,855

  - Total <u>Projected</u> Program Expenditures: $1,560,000
    - Fee Waivers: $900k (2019-20: $581k)
    - Textbooks and other Req. Course Material: $550k (2019-20: $342K)
    - Other: $110k (includes $75k for FH Cares program)

- NOTE: PY Carryover Balance of $466k, and lottery, will help cover 2020-21 budget deficit, however current program benefit configuration is financially unsustainable for 2021-22

- Changes to program configuration and benefits must be made

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Evaluation of FH Promise - Financial

- New factors that are contributing to 2020-21 Budget Deficit:
  - CCCCO statutory interpretation change allowing students that drop below 12 units to rejoin Promise program in a subsequent term when enrolling again in 12 or more units
  - Complete year of ETS automation, including DRC student streamlining
  - EOPS Textbook expenditures support (frees up EOPS textbook funds for additional student support grants)
  - Recently discovered coding error allowing some part-time students to receive program benefits (still under review)

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Evaluation of FH Promise – Equity Plan 2.0

- Changes are also needed to address Program deficiencies identified in the Strategic Equity Plan (Equity 2.0):
  - Restrictive participation requirements result part-time and non-resident students being omitted from consideration <u>and</u> many continuing students are unable to complete their studies in the two-year Promise window
  - While FH Promise serves a comparable or higher proportion of students of color in relation to the general student population, it remains an inaccessible program to many due to its restrictive eligibility requirements
  - In addition to tuition fees, students especially noted the stress of financing their education is compounded by the cost of textbooks <u>and printing fees on campus—and other incidental costs</u>.

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Recommended Program Changes to Address Budget Deficit, Proj. Allocation Reduction, and Begin to Address Equity Plan 2.0 Concerns

<u>Maintain "fee waiver" benefit</u> for ALL qualifying students (current FT/FT qualifying criteria unchanged)

- Maintains FAFSA/CADAA requirement for all participating students, which can lead students to grants that might help cover other costs
- Message helps respond to community concerns around college affordability and specifically highlights FH College as a great option first-time college students
- Since its inception, legislators and news media continue to describe the California College Promise as "free college" for first-time, full-time students
- The CCCCO College Promise Guidebook provides the following concerning Promise programs that feature less restrictive eligibility requirements, such as the FH Promise:
  - Fewer eligibility requirements may be easier to communicate to students, their families, and program partners thereby minimizing confusion and frustration
  - A targeted program with more eligibility requirements, such as minimum GPA, age, and credit accumulation, can severely limit the number of students it serves. In these cases, programs can potentially exclude students who are underserved in higher education because they are less likely to receive the support they need to meet the requirements.
  - More restrictive eligibility requirements may also make the program more complicated to administer, given the level of tracking needed to verify eligibility.
- Maintains current ETS fee-waiver related programming
- Most CCC California College Promise programs adopted through AB 19 have this feature and the allocation formula is intended to sufficiently fund this level of benefit
- Serves more students

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Recommended Program Changes: Continued:

Significantly limit textbook benefit for qualifying Puente, Umoja, Foster Youth, and EOPS students, <u>including PT students in other than EOPS program</u>

- Most Umoja and Puente students currently rely on the FH Promise textbook benefit.
- Serves as a potential recruitment tool and continues to free up EOPS program funds for other urgent student needs. (EOPS students would still need to be first time/full-time for Promise Textbook support to ensure that we can fund the overall textbook support)
- As needed, lottery funds can support e-textbook and "Inclusive Access" course materials purchases.
- We will also look to provide other financial support/grants, such as for gas cards, printing, and parking for students in these programs.

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Recommended Program Changes: Other considerations

- The new 2021-22 FH Promise Program would include paying for textbooks for current 1st year students that continue on to their 2nd year of Promise in 2021-22 to ensure that we keep our "2-year" promise commitment to them, including via Lottery funds.

- By adding text-book support for eligible PT students, we help a previously unsupported subset of students, including undocumented students. This enhanced support would also not be limited to a student's first 2-years at FH.

- To mitigate adverse impact on low-income students NOT participating in these programs, we've added textbook support via federal stimulus funds Emergency Request Form. Also, additional Lottery funds expenditures flexibility for physical textbook purchases is being sought from CCC Chancellor's Office.

- Also note that in 2019-20, 70% of promise students would have retained textbook vouchers or other financial support under the proposed changes due to participating in these or other programs (such as veterans) or being Pell Grant eligible (83% of African American Students and 68% of Latinx students).

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Questions?

Thank you.

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