

## 2020 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

NOVEMBER 5, 2019



### Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization

**Simplify the FAFSA and verification** barriers so that more students and families can complete the financial aid process, including restoring the 2011 cut to the “auto-zero” level for Pell Grants.

**Reform unfair campus-based aid formulas** for Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) and Federal Work Study (FWS) so institutions serving the most low-income students receive a fair allocation of resources.

**Strengthen consumer protections** to guard against students ending up at predatory institutions that are not as affordable, and have poorer outcomes than, community colleges

**Avoid “risk sharing” and “program-level” accountability** proposals that would be administratively burdensome, costly for under resourced institutions, and reduce college access.

### College Affordability

**Create a state-federal partnership** to incentivize states to reinvest in public higher education and need-based financial aid to put college within reach for low-income students.

Invest in the federal Pell Grant Program by boosting the maximum award and indexing it to inflation.

Make Pell Grants available to students who are pursuing **high-quality short-term training** programs.

Restore the amount of federal Pell Grant funds a student may receive over a lifetime from 12 semesters to the previous 18 semesters to help nontraditional and transfer students.

Reinstate Pell Grant eligibility to **incarcerated students**.

Maintain full eligibility for **“Ability-to-Benefit”** (ATB) students and direct the Department to conduct outreach to expand the use of ATB.

Expand investments in **on-campus child care** such as the CCAMPIS program.

**Streamline paths to student debt relief** to help borrowers move forward with their lives, improve college repayment rates, and expand families’ economic mobility.

### Workforce Development

Increase funding for the occupational and adult education programs authorized in the **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**.


Increase funding for colleges, programs, and services that improve **equity, persistence, and completion** for students of color, low-income students, and other historically underrepresented groups.

Ensure **access to high-speed broadband** so students everywhere, including rural and incarcerated students, can benefit from educational resources and innovations.

### Basic Needs Assistance

Connect financial aid recipients with **means-tested benefits** programs through the FAFSA to reduce food and housing insecurity and help students afford other costs of living.

**Eliminate a 30 percent cap** on the number of people in vocational training programs a state can count toward meeting its required, statewide work-participation rate.



Increase the lifetime cap on **vocational training for TANF recipients from 12 to 24 months**. This will align with Washington state's WorkFirst program and ensure no loss of federal funds to Washington.

**Remove the distinction between "core" and "non-core"** activities that count toward a TANF recipient's individual, required work rate. A non-core activity – which includes adult basic education – counts only when the recipient spends a certain number of hours in a "core" activity (such as employment.)

**Remove restrictions on SNAP** that prevent college students from accessing food benefits.

## Undocumented Students

Create a **path to citizenship** for undocumented students who are U.S. residents.

Encourage more states to offer **in-state tuition and financial aid to undocumented students**.

Make **undocumented students** eligible for all federal financial aid.

## Student Veterans

Fund new and existing programs to better serve veteran students, including **veteran student centers**.

Protect **veterans against exploitation** of their G.I. Bill education benefits.