



State/Regional Community College Finance Workshop

Strategically rethinking and redesigning community college finance requires the active, sustained engagement of key decision makers and stakeholders—within and across institutions, systems and sectors.

Following are a few design guidelines, and a sample agenda, for a one-day state or regional workshop that would serve to focus, enlarge and advance the conversation about community college funding in your state.

Participants: Potential invitees include the governor and/or the governor’s education policy advisor; key legislators and/or their aides; community college system/institutional leaders; finance policy experts; and business, civic, labor and philanthropic leaders.

Planning: For this meeting to be successful, significant work must be done within the community college system – ranging from collecting and synthesizing data to identifying current and emerging trends, challenges, opportunities and options.

Format and Activities: The workshop should include both large- and small-group sessions, and be designed to (1) minimize the amount of time that participants are “talked at” and (2) maximize opportunities for discussion and interaction. Small-group discussions should ideally include 8–10 people representing a variety of perspectives.

Outcome Goal: Selection of priority educational goals for community colleges and initial identification of potential finance strategies to achieve those goals.



Sample Agenda Community College Finance Workshop

- 8:30 Arrival & Registration
- 9:00–9:30 Welcome, Introductions & Background
- Present data on demographic trends, state revenue projections, workforce demand projections, community college demand projections. Include an explanation of cost vs. price, cost trends and college revenue trends.
- 9:30–10:30 State Policy Audit Discussion
Present findings of state policy audit.
- 10:30–10:45 Break
- 10:45–12:00 Small Group Discussion:
Identification of systemwide educational goals
- Framing Questions:
- Identify top target audiences for community college services
 - Identify educational outcomes to be achieved that would best support target audiences
- 12:00–1:00 Working Lunch:
Report out of small-group discussions & prioritization of educational goals
- Limit report out to a few minutes. Once completed, open discussion to begin prioritization of educational goals. Session ends with top 3–5 goals prioritized.
- 1:00–1:15 Break
- 1:15–2:00 Small Group Discussion:
What are the finance implications of priority educational goals?
- Framing Questions:
- Do financing policies support pursuit of these goals, or serve as barriers?
 - Are multiple funding streams working in sync or at cross-purposes?



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Sample Agenda Community College Finance Workshop

- 2:00–3:00 Report Out & Brainstorming:
What are possible finance strategies to help community colleges meet priority goals?
- Identify potential finance concepts that could provide solutions to meeting priority goals.
- What are linkages to existing funding streams?
 - What work needs to be done to more fully understand implications and potential policy change options?
- Session ends with top 3–5 possibilities prioritized.
- 3:00–3:15 Wrap-up and Next Steps
- Identify actions and analyses that must occur with person(s) responsible. Identify what still needs to be addressed. Set follow-up meeting date.