

# AHED DISPATCH

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## AHED Office Hours

In the month of February, the Assembly Higher Education Committee offered virtual office hours for staff to drop in and have their bill ideas vetted. We are happy to announce several staff took advantage of the office hours! We look forward to hosting more office hours in the future.

## In case you missed it

Assembly Higher Education Hearing on March 1, 2022. Agenda and Analyses are located [here](#).

Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance Hearing on February 14 (Higher Education Overview and on March 1 (CSAC- Library). Agendas located [here](#).

The Assembly Higher Education Committee hosted a Capitol Institute training, “There and Back Again ... How a Higher Education Bill became a Law”. The Committee provided advice on how to navigate the legislation process from inception of a bill idea to the bill being signed into law. Slides from the training are available upon request!



## Student Housing

Student housing is one of those issue areas that seems like it should be simple, but is instead endlessly complex and fascinating. The issue “feels” simple insofar as the problem is well-defined. Students attending California’s colleges and universities need housing options that are both on and off campus. These housing options need to be affordable, conveniently located, and high-quality. Yet housing policy becomes complex and fascinating when we understand that our campuses all have different needs, serve different residency populations, and have different regional price points.

The state has not traditionally had a large role in housing – this is instead left to campuses, which would pay for housing using various fees, and neighboring local communities buildings to meet demand. State law does not contain specific student housing capacity goals, and none of the segments’ governing boards have established systemwide goals for the share of students to be housed. Campuses set their own goals, and campus goals vary. Many campuses aim to house all interested first-year students. Some campuses aim to house first- and second-year students. In addition to single undergraduate students, university campuses typically have goals to house a certain share of graduate students and students with families.

The location of a campus plays a significant impact on the size and design of a campus housing program. Campuses with a high share of students commuting (including community colleges and some California State University (CSU) campuses) tend to have either no on-campus housing or relatively small on-campus housing programs. Campuses with a high share of nonlocal students (including UC campuses and some CSU campuses) tend to have larger on-campus housing programs.

The first major investment came in the form of a still-operational affordable student housing revolving loan program at the CSU. The CSU established this program upon receipt of a \$2.5 million allocation in 1987. In the 2019-2020 budget the state created rapid rehousing programs for homeless college students—providing total ongoing state General Fund of \$19 million (\$9 million for California



## State News -

### California Community College

- [What's keeping California's community college students from transferring? - Ed Source](#)
- [Gig by Gig at California Community Colleges - series by Ed Source](#)
- [California selects colleges for first round of grants to expand affordable housing - Ed Source](#)

### California State University

- [CSU panel recommends eliminating the use of SAT and ACT exams for admission - Ed Source](#)
- [Meet Cal Poly Humboldt - Inside Higher Ed](#)
- [Dr. Joseph I. Castro Resigns as CSU Chancellor - CSU News](#)

### University of California

- [3 UC President: Challenges, Legacies - UC News](#)
- [UC Berkeley may be forced by court to cut 3,000 seats, freeze enrollment - LA Times](#)

### Miscellaneous News

- [Public Service Loan Forgiveness: 100,000 borrowers are eligible so far under new rules - CNN](#)

## Federal News

The Federal Omnibus spending bill has been signed into law. H.R. 2471 contains several proposals pertaining to higher education including:

\$50 million for educational and training programs at community colleges.

A mandate for postsecondary institutions to conduct campus climate surveys every two years.

Community Colleges (CCC), \$6.5 million for CSU, and \$3.5 million for University of California (UC)).

As part of the 2021-22 budget agreement, the state made its first substantial contribution to student housing projects—providing state General Fund of \$500 million in 2021-22, \$750 million in 2022-23, and \$750 million in 2023-24. Public community college and university campuses can apply for grant funds to construct new student housing or convert commercial space to student housing. This new \$2 billion investment is designed to increase capacity, expanding the inventory of student housing, particularly to help foster future enrollment growth, and affordability by reducing the cost of student housing, especially for lower-income students.

The CSU and UC have been working to increase their overall share of housing. Since 2015, CSU reports having completed the construction of approximately 14,300 additional beds and is in the process of constructing approximately 2,300 additional beds. UC reports having completed the construction of approximately 21,700 additional beds and is in the process of constructing approximately 19,100 additional beds. Additionally, CSU reports 17 housing projects under development at 11 campuses adding more than 11,000 beds. UC reports 11 housing projects under development at 6 campuses adding more than 16,000 beds.

Where both UC and CSU have existing housing infrastructures, the CCC has historically only built housing at rural colleges. Prior to 2019, 11 community colleges had student housing programs. Almost all of these colleges were located in rural areas and had longstanding housing programs. In 2019, Orange Coast College opened a student housing facility with 800 beds. This student housing facility is the largest among the community.

To serve additional students, some campuses need not only more housing but also more academic space. Campuses tend to rely on the state to construct new academic space whereas they tend to have more financing options in constructing new housing. The state also has an interest in serving existing students in safe, well-maintained facilities, but all the segments report having sizable maintenance backlogs.

Note: This article contains information provided by the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) to the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance. To read the full report, please visit the [LAO webpage](#).

Note 2: At the time of this publication, SB 118 (Senate Budget Committee) and AB 158 (Assembly Budget Committee) have both been introduced to address the issue of the Supreme Court ruling with regard to CEQA and the University of California, Berkeley.

*In celebration of Women's History Month, here is quote from First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden on the value of education: "Education teaches us compassion and kindness, connection to others".*