

Equity in Support



District Facilities Capital Outlay and Deferred Maintenance

ISSUE

The cost of facility construction and modernization, and deferred maintenance projects, continues to escalate.

As campus infrastructure and facilities age and building systems and existing technology become outdated, the replacement need increases significantly. In Riverside Community College District repairs, replacements and upgrades are urgently needed before catastrophic failures and service interruptions occur. State maintenance funding has been significantly reduced and/or eliminated causing

delays to repairs, maintenance and modernization of facilities necessary for a 21st century learning environment.

Due to the ongoing educational programmatic development in response to regional market needs, employment demand, and enrollment growth, there is urgent need for 21st century educational facilities as well as campus supporting amenities. The 2023 November Facilities Condition Assessment report, completed by the Foundation of California Community Colleges system, illustrates that the District and its colleges face a \$240 million

in deferred maintenance and scheduled maintenance backlog.

BACKGROUND

Based on educational needs in 2020, the Riverside Community College District and colleges updated their facility master plans. Founded in 2016, the Riverside City College campus has several existing facilities, amenities and infrastructure that have deteriorated and remain outdated. At Moreno Valley College and Norco College growth remains a concern as the campuses continue to struggle for additional facilities to become comprehensive colleges that

offer art, kinesiology, technology education programs, library and learning resource centers, and other in-demand programs. These two colleges, which were founded in 1991, require infrastructure upgrades.

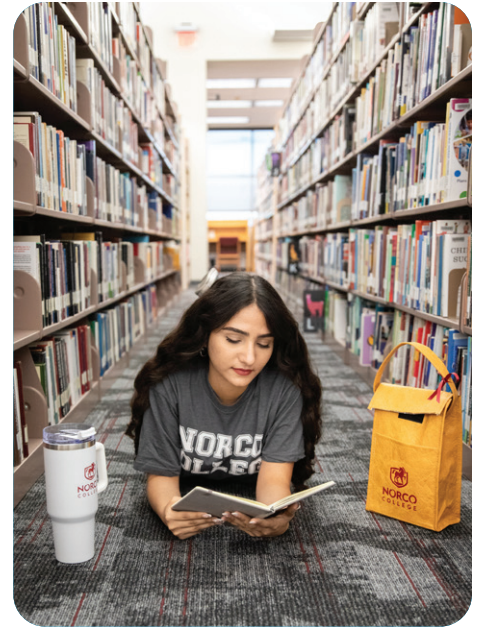
The District has also identified a need for a training center. The Inland Empire Technical Training Center in the city of Jurupa Valley would provide western Riverside County residents with access to training opportunities that would lead to quality jobs in current and emerging sectors in the region. The District used a state appropriation of \$33 million to secure the land for the Inland Empire Technical Trade Center. Additionally, Norco College, in order to serve residents of Corona, is looking to expand course offerings within the city limits.

REQUEST

Riverside Community College District's 2004 local general obligation bond has been exhausted. In 2019, the Department of Finance approved scoring criterion for capital outlay funding, requiring a minimum 25 percent local match for a project proposal, with no hardship provision. In alignment with the colleges' educational master plans and the District's five-year capital construction plan, the District and its colleges have identified the following critical-mission projects:

- 100 percent construction funding for Norco College's Center for Human Performance & Kinesiology building (\$65 million); project was approved and partially funded by a state capital outlay funding in the 2021-22 fiscal year (\$33 million);

- 100 percent project funding for Moreno Valley College's Library & Learning Resource Center building (\$106.3 million); project is eligible for the growth category as well as a part of the state capital outlay funding's spending plan for the 2025-26 fiscal year;
- 100 percent project funding for Norco College's Library & Learning Resource Center building and Student Services (\$83 million); project is eligible for the growth category as well as a part of the state capital outlay funding's spending plan for the 2025-26 fiscal year;
- 100 percent funding for Riverside City College's Cosmetology building (\$48.2 million); project is eligible for growth category and part of the state capital outlay funding and spending plan for the 2025-26 fiscal year;
- 100 percent funding for the School of Public Safety Education building 2-A at the Ben Clark Education Center (\$39.5 million); project is eligible for growth category and part of the state capital outlay funding's spending plan for 2025-26 fiscal year;
- 100 percent funding for Moreno Valley College's Biological & Science building (\$56.5 million); project is eligible for growth category and will be submitted in August 2024 for 2026-27 fiscal year spending plan;
- 100 percent funding for Norco College's STEM building, Phase I (\$129.1 million); project is eligible for growth category and will be submitted in August 2024 for 2026-27 fiscal year spending plan;



- 100 percent funding for Riverside City College's Applied Technology facility (\$177.3 million); project is eligible for growth category and will be submitted in August 2024 for 2026-27 fiscal year spending plan;
- Provide an annual budget for scheduled maintenance projects. Currently there is a backlog on instructional support to address deferred maintenance needs, architectural barriers removal, hazardous waste mitigation, building seismic upgrades, and replacement of instructional equipment (\$10-15 million/annually);
- Funding for the Inland Empire Technical Trade Center infrastructure/site development (\$30 million), with estimates for the first permanent building at \$80 million and supporting facilities at \$20 million;
- Funding for the Corona Center land acquisition (\$24 million), site development (\$20 million), and the Center's first permanent building (\$60 million) as well as supporting facilities (\$15 million).

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Sustainability and Climate Action

ISSUE

Climate hazards and environmental risks require education awareness and action. Southern California is at risk for environmental and climate-related hazards. In the past several years, wildfires, extreme heat waves, historic drought, and aging utilities and facilities have threatened Californian's health and economic livelihood. The impact of these crises is more significant for vulnerable, low-income and disadvantage communities, many of which exist in the Inland Empire and within the Riverside Community College District's service area.

BACKGROUND

The Riverside Community College District recognizes its responsibility to operate in a socially, environmentally and economically conscious way, protect regional waterways and natural ecosystems, preserve resources, and contribute to social mobility and well-being. The Riverside Community College District's Sustainability & Climate Action Plan provides an implementable roadmap toward sustainability goals that establishes the District as a leader in addressing environmental stewardship and climate change. The District's Sustainability & Climate

Action Plan includes 10 impact areas of which decarbonization/ climate justice, waste minimization/ procurement, community vitality, water/ ecosystem, and resiliency that are integrated/influenced with academics, trust/transparency, engagement, equity/social justice, and community partnerships.

REQUESTS

Below are the funding requests based on the prioritized mission-critical projects that align with the Sustainability & Climate Action Plan at the colleges:

- Reduce carbon emissions caused by on-site fuel combustion for building operations identified under the Integrated Energy Master Plan, as follows:
 - o Implement energy conservation measures, such as boilers replacement, building energy sub-metering, daylight harvesting, glazing upgrades, reduce lighting power intensity, roof insulation, vampire load reduction, variable frequency drive, and wall insulation to reduce energy consumption and optimize efficiencies (estimated at \$27 million);
 - o Replace natural gas appliances at end of life with electrical alternatives (estimated budget \$10 million); and
 - o Replace outdated and aged campus central plants and infrastructure systems with high efficiency alternatives and more sustainable infrastructure/central plants (estimated budget \$30 million).



- Decrease water use (potable and non-potable water) as follows:
 - o Replace existing water infrastructure, including plumbing fixtures and irrigation controls to water-efficient fixtures (estimated budget \$7.7 million); and
 - o Convert turf grass to native landscape areas and/or landscape meadows to align with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office goal that turf grass shall not exceed 50 percent of the landscaped areas on campus (\$3.3 million).
- Waste Minimization and Recyclable Program (achieve zero waste to landfill – 90 percent diversion) as follows:
 - o Reduce the weight of total waste and increase waste diversion (non-construction, construction, organic, recyclables, hazardous waste, durable good, etc.) by establishing a comprehensive waste assessment/material consumption benchmark (estimated budget \$5 million).

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Affordable Student Housing

ISSUE

For California community college students, housing is a vital foundation to academic success. Such studies as the 2023 September Basic Needs Report show that 60 percent of respondents are housing insecure, with concerns about increased rent, mortgage, and utility rates making it difficult to pay total living expenses, according to the Real College California. Thus, the Riverside Community College District and the California Community Colleges

system acknowledge the significant need for affordable housing options for students, especially those aging out of the foster care system. RCCD conducted student housing surveys and market demand studies in 2020, 2021 and 2022 across three colleges (Moreno Valley, Norco and Riverside City), which showed that of over 2,100 students surveyed, 25 percent of respondents reported experiencing housing insecurity and 18 percent experienced homelessness the previous year.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, the District has established a set of strategic goals and objectives that address student basic needs, institutional mission attainment, and long-term financial viability. In those strategic goals and objectives was affordable student housing opportunities. A student housing initiative is necessary to address housing insecurity and student homelessness, student retention, bridging the equity gap, and removing barriers to student success.



Senate Bill 169, the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program, recognized the significant housing demand and approved \$2 billion to

provide one-time funding for capacity expansion projects to support increased resident enrollment.

REQUEST

In alignment with the District's strategic goals for affordable student housing, below are the requests based on the prioritized critical-mission projects:

- 100 percent construction funding for Moreno Valley College's affordable student housing project; total amount of \$63 million for fiscal year 2024-25 will provide 280 affordable beds at a low-income rate for qualified students; and
- 100 percent construction funding for Norco College's affordable student housing project; total amount of \$65 million for fiscal year 2025-26 will provide 280 affordable beds at a low-income rate for qualified students.



In response to affordable student housing needs, the District developed four student housing plans: three on-campus and one off campus — a partnership with the University of California, Riverside. In July 2023, the District was awarded \$75 million and the University of California, Riverside was presented \$51 million to partially fund the North District II student housing project. When completed in the fall of 2025, the project will provide 1,568 beds. However, only 652 beds will be set aside at an affordable rate with 326 of those beds earmarked for students at Riverside City College.

Equity in Support



Safety and Emergency Preparedness

ISSUE

Funds to address emergency preparedness and response capabilities for crises, such as earthquakes, wildfires and active shooters on the Riverside Community College District and colleges.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, California has faced the looming specter of natural disasters and man-made emergencies. In this challenging environment, it is imperative for

educational institutions, particularly community colleges, to take proactive steps to ensure their readiness and response capabilities. The safety and well-being of students, faculty and staff depend on this crucial endeavor. This comprehensive initiative encompasses two pivotal dimensions: reinforcing the preparedness of facilities to handle potential active shooter incidents and fortifying the overall capacity to respond effectively to a diverse array of crises, including earthquakes and wildfires.

REQUESTS

In pursuit of these goals, the proposed strategy involves advocating for annual increases in funding to facilitate vital enhancements in the following key areas:

- Funding for a comprehensive assessment and subsequent upgrading of lock systems throughout the District, enabling more efficient execution of lockdown and shelter-in-place protocols. Estimated cost: \$4 million.



- Funding to modernize security camera systems to facilitate remote access to security footage by law enforcement personnel, enhancing their situational awareness. Estimated cost: \$7 million.
- Funding to upgrade or replace existing sirens to seamlessly integrate them with the RAVE mass notification system, enabling more comprehensive and timely alerts during emergencies. Estimated cost: \$3 million to implement.
- Funding to upgrade campus lighting, further enhancing safety and security. Estimated cost: \$4 million.
- Funding to install and maintain emergency generators for emergency operations centers at the District and college locations and emergency operations center supplies. Estimated cost: \$7 million to secure center operations and \$250,000 for supplies and maintenance.
- Establish a mobile command post during an active shooter event, facilitating rapid deployment and coordination. Estimated cost: \$320,000.
- Micro Grids - a small network of electricity users with a local source of supply (solar, battery or generator) that is connected to the centralized power grid, but able to function independently in the event of an outage in the centralized grid. Estimated cost: \$15-20 million.
- Funding to implement a multi-mode communication infrastructure that includes redundant links across wireless and hardwired channels. This ensures uninterrupted and reliable communication capabilities, even when one or more channels fail, thereby strengthening resilience of emergency response mechanisms. Estimated cost: \$5 million.

The District is requesting a total of \$50,570,000 to address the District's Safety and Emergency Preparedness needs. By advocating these funds, the Riverside Community College District can significantly enhance its capacity to respond effectively to a spectrum of emergencies across the District, safeguarding the well-being of campus communities, and fostering a culture of safety and preparedness.

Equity in Support



Adult Education and Noncredit Certificates

ISSUE

In the state of California, noncredit courses provide students with an opportunity to develop skills and competencies at no cost at a community college. While this represents an incredible resource for learners, not all noncredit is treated equally which disincentivizes community colleges from developing programs which have the potential to make substantial inroads in creating more equitable outcomes for adult learners. While some noncredit programs enjoy support in the form

of apportionment roughly on par with for-credit college classes, other noncredit categories, namely courses for persons with substantial disabilities and courses for older adults are provided with significantly less support in the form of apportionment.

REQUEST

Therefore, the Riverside Community College District is advocating for full apportionment for noncredit classes that serve people with disabilities and older adults, including support services and dedicated counselors

while also supporting higher education initiatives that offer funding to provide classes to individuals with disabilities and older adults.

BACKGROUND

Currently, funding is only available for noncredit courses in English as a Second Language, short-term vocational workforce preparation, and basic skills courses. Noncredit courses that receive enhanced funding receive 40 percent more funding in the form of apportionment than noncredit offerings for individuals



with disabilities and older adults despite the fact that these courses may require more in terms of expertise for their development, operation and implementation, a fact that makes them less attractive options to community colleges as they strategize future planning representing a missed opportunity.

One missed opportunity is that the state of California has the highest incidence rate of autism spectrum disorder in the United States. Yet despite the fact that two-thirds of those individuals with autism spectrum

disorder do not have an intellectual disability, they still experience some of the lowest levels of success in higher education, something that could be remedied with thoughtful noncredit programming. Many community colleges in California have developed expansive noncredit programs for students with disabilities, supporting independent living initiatives to help people thrive in their communities, despite their personal challenges. These programs inevitably require outside resources as these courses are underfunded in the

current noncredit model.

Just as California has the highest reported incidence rate of people with autism spectrum disorder, it also has the largest population of adults - aged 65 and older. Approximately 39 million older adults live throughout the state. Like noncredit for people with disabilities, it is underfunded in the current noncredit model, despite the clear body of evidence that lifelong learning contributes to psychological wellbeing and health of older adults.