



WORK GROUP 1 SURVEY: FINANCIAL AID AND AFFORDABILITY

Survey recipients: 36

Survey responses: 18

Response rate: 50%

Support for Work Group Recommendations

Q: Which of the following recommendations do you support?

The task force recommends that the state expand its grant aid programs to cover a larger share of the cost of attendance for low-income and underrepresented students.

of responses in support: 17

% responses in support: 94%

The task force recommends that the state revise its financial aid programs to accommodate the needs of working adults, who are becoming an increasingly large share of the student population across the state.

of responses in support: 13

% responses in support: 72%

The task force recommends that efforts to promote financial literacy, completion of the FAFSA and ORSAA, and the long-term implications of student debt be expanded.

of responses in support: 9

% responses in support: 50%

The task force recommends that the state address rising housing and child care costs, particularly in communities where large numbers of students reside.

of responses in support: 12

% responses in support: 67%

The task force recommends that the state continue to invest in the benefits navigator program and to streamline the ability of students in higher education to access public assistance programs.

of responses in support: 14

% responses in support: 78%

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Support for Work Group Policy Proposals

Q: Using a scale from strongly disapprove to strongly approve, please rank the following proposals.

(Note: Proposals listed as "FA-#" were developed by work group members, while "SD-#" were developed by Senator Dembrow.)

Strongly disapprove = 1

Disapprove = 2

Neutral = 3

Approve = 4

Strongly approve = 5

% responses in support = (# of scores greater than or equal to 4) / (total responses)

FA-8: (HECC Funding Proposal) - Provide permanent funding for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant Program, fully funding the cost of attendance for enrolled members of one of Oregon's 9 federally-recognized tribes (currently a 1-year temporary program). (\$40 million)

Average score: 4.56

% responses in support: 100%

HECC POP 201: Student Equity (\$100,264,465)

Average score: 4.44

% responses in support: 94%

FA-9: (HECC Funding Proposal) - Increase funding for the Child Care Grant and issue grants to institutions to expand their childcare services. (\$4.2 million)

Average score: 4.39

% responses in support: 94%

SD-6: Join Washington in using SNAP eligibility as an automatic indicator of Oregon Opportunity Grant eligibility.

Average score: 4.33

% responses in support: 89%

FA-19: Create a statewide multi-prong campaign to improve FAFSA/ORSAA completion rates for Low-Income Oregonians and Oregonians of color.

Average score: 4.33

% responses in support: 83%

FA-10: Create permanent funding for a regular benefits navigator program at each institution.

Average score: 4.33

% responses in support: 78%

FA-7: (HECC Funding Proposal) - Expand the Oregon Opportunity Grant to fully fund the cost of attendance at a public college or university for all who meet need standard. (\$700 million request)

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Average score: 4.28
% responses in support: 89%

HECC POP 102: Oregon Opportunity Grant/Oregon Promise (\$779,394,907)
Average score: 4.22
% responses in support: 83%

SD-4: Expand the Oregon Promise to include free tuition for eligible returning CC students along with those immediately out of high school.
Average score: 4.00
% responses in support: 78%

FA-6: Allow all credit students to qualify for the basic Oregon Health Plan.
Average score: 4.00
% responses in support: 72%

HECC POP 202: Open Educational Resources (\$2,415,600)
Average score: 3.83
% responses in support: 61%

FA-5: Create childcare services at each institution.
Average score: 3.72
% responses in support: 67%

SD-8: Institute a required high school course in planning for post-graduation that would introduce students to post-secondary options, filling out the FAFSA/ORSA, and understanding and accessing resources.
Average score: 3.67
% responses in support: 67%

FA-4: Appropriating an additional \$2 million to double the General Fund appropriation for Open Education Resources (producing low-cost or no-cost e-textbooks).
Average score: 3.67
% responses in support: 56%

HECC POP 103: ASPIRE/FAFSAA (\$6,659,028)
Average score: 3.61
% responses in support: 61%

SD-3: Expand the Oregon Promise to include free tuition for Pell-eligible university students.
Average score: 3.61
% responses in support: 56%

FA-11: Allow families to lock in and pre-pay tuition in advance via monthly contributions to a 529 Savings Plan.
Average score: 3.61
% responses in support: 50%

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SD-9: Incentivize high school graduation and post-secondary access by creating a fund that would deposit dollars into students' postsecondary accounts at the end of the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades as they successfully meet benchmarks for graduation (modeled after successful New Brunswick program).

Average score: 3.56

% responses in support: 56%

SD-2: End the Oregon Promise, incorporating its resources into the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

Average score: 3.50

% responses in support: 61%

FA-16: Expedite the local permitting process for affordable student housing.

Average score: 3.50

% responses in support: 50%

SD-5: Expand the Oregon Promise to include free tuition for eligible returning CC and university students along with those immediately out of high school.

Average score: 3.44

% responses in support: 50%

FA-15: Create a task force on student housing and the effect of student enrollment on local housing markets. Require all higher education institutions to report quarterly on the impact that student enrollment has on the local housing market.

Average score: 3.39

% responses in support: 39%

FA-13: Appropriate \$3-\$5 million to College Housing Northwest for additional housing supply and building maintenance.

Average score: 3.33

% responses in support: 50%

FA-12: Allocate \$1 million to the Affordable Rents for College Students (ARCS) program, providing subsidized housing for students in the Portland metro area.

Average score: 3.33

% responses in support: 50%

FA-14: Direct universities to provide on-campus housing at a rate that is comparable to private rental housing.

Average score: 3.28

% responses in support: 50%

FA-3: Direct institutions to develop an electronic registration system that would allow students to see the cost of course textbook materials in addition to tuition.

Average score: 3.28

% responses in support: 44%

FA-2: Tax relief for homeowners and renters as a way to make housing more affordable for students.

Average score: 3.28

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% responses in support: 44%

FA-18: Require all higher education institutions to designate a zone on campus where students experiencing homelessness may reside, camp, part vehicles, and shower without being at risk of removal.

Average score: 3.28

% responses in support: 39%

HECC POP 105: Oregon National Guard Education Grants (\$4,080,000)

Average score: 3.22

% responses in support: 44%

SD-7: Merge the OOG, Oregon Promise, Tribal grant, and all other grant programs into a single program with a weighted formula for allocation based on Expected Family Contribution, first-gen status, degree path, etc.

Average score: 3.06

% responses in support: 28%

FA-1: Augmenting need-based aid with state-funded work-study options that would include work at designated non-profits.

Average score: 2.94

% responses in support: 28%

SD-1: Limit the Oregon Promise to students who are Pell eligible.

Average score: 2.83

% responses in support: 22%

Comments and Feedback

Q1: Which of the following recommendations do you support?

- I think 1 and 2 can work together in that all Oregonians should be eligible whether they are traditional aid students or adults coming back for additional training.
- The first recommendation is the most important.
- I support all the task force recommendations but have selected the top three I believe will have the largest impact across the State.
- The costs to students beyond tuition and fees are pushing many students out of higher ed. We need policy change that will support multiple programs to address these issues.
- While housing and childcare are significant issues for students and all Oregon residents I would rather see funding go directly to cover the cost of higher education and fill financial aid gaps leaving more room in students' budgets to cover other costs.
- Keep efforts focused where they can do the most good, rather than trying to prioritize everything!

SD-1: Limit the Oregon Promise to students who are Pell eligible.

- "Although well-intentioned to focus funding from Oregon Promise grant toward lower income students, this could cause many issues with Oregon Promise becoming

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inaccessible to students who complete ORSAA rather than FAFSA and therefore cannot qualify for Pell.

- Additionally, there are many students who have just graduated from high school who have parents with incomes surpassing the limits for Pell eligibility in the middle income range, but those parents are unwilling or unable to provide any financial support to their young adult child as they transition to college. Therefore the young adult student is now living on whatever meager income they can make working a low wage job, and receives less financial aid due to their parents' income, despite that parental income not actually doing anything to support them in their basic needs. "
- Limiting eligibility to financial aid in turn limits the number of students in attendance, limits their completion rates, and leaves Oregon's workforce less educated. A student may not be eligible for Pell grants based on Estimated Family Income, which is a deeply flawed measure of cost burden.
- Limiting eligibility to financial aid in turn limits the number of students in attendance, limits their completion rates, and leaves Oregon's workforce less educated. A student may not be eligible for Pell grants based on Estimated Family Income, which is a deeply flawed measure of cost burden.
- If we put more money in we do not have to limit it!
- It should have an EFC/SAI cutoff but it should be higher than Pell. Or we should move to an AGI measure similar to Washington.
- I don't know that limiting Oregon Promise Grant to just Pell eligible students is best as there are many "middle income" families that are not Pell eligible. I would like to see more dollars spent on low and middle income students and less on high income (as Oregon Promise currently does).
- I would recommend adding a different metric for undocumented students who cannot apply for FAFSA and therefore cannot prove Pell eligibility.
- It would be unfortunate to lose the power of the messaging behind OR Promise that every student will receive state support to attend a community college but the current model is inequitable.
- Pell Eligibility is only one indicator of need.

SD-2: End the Oregon Promise, incorporating its resources into the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

- This proposal would remove the short timeline after graduation that is currently inherent to Oregon Promise, but would create new barriers for undocumented and DACA students. Currently, undocumented status or DACA students are potentially eligible for Oregon Promise Grant as long as they complete an ORSAA and meet the timeline requirements. If Oregon Promise no longer exists, undocumented and DACA students would need to complete an ORSAA *and* meet additional special requirements in order to qualify for Oregon Opportunity Grant.
- From what I understand, the Oregon Opportunity Grant is eligible to more populations of students and rewards more money overall. Rolling over resources would be a good way to expand financial aid availability in the state.
- There should be one financial aid pot available to students no matter where they go...making one kind of school "free" even for those who do not need aid just does not make sense.

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- We should have one State program.
- I have always held this opinion that Oregon Promise Grant dollars would be better spent in the Oregon Opportunity Grant fund.
- Strongly approve only if OOG opens up to non-credit students.
- This seems like a good practice to support streamlining of state aid, providing clarity for students, and reaching the students with the highest need while also giving them flexibility. That said, I am not knowledgeable about the possible back-end downsides to doing this.
- If the funding were increased to make sure that the lowest income students still had access to the same amount of funding as before.

SD-3: Expand the Oregon Promise to include free tuition for Pell-eligible university students.

- Although I have some concern regarding how this change could cause further drops in enrollment at community colleges in favor of four-year universities, I think this overall could be a beneficial change for Oregon students.
- Free tuition should be available to every student regardless.
- If we keep the Promise, this makes sense - but why not just combine per last question - - - this further bifurcation of student aid at a university confuses even more!
- Invest in OOG so this can happen. Adding OP to universities will just be confusing and difficult to administer.
- We would rather see Oregon have just one program, the Oregon Opportunity Grant that gives students the most flexibility and choice. Combatting confusion and too many options and similar programs creates confusion for students and families.
- I don't want Oregon Promise expanded as I would rather see the funding go to Oregon Opportunity Grants.
- Approve only if there are measures ensuring universities will not supplant grants/scholarships with Oregon Promise.

SD-4: Expand the Oregon Promise to include free tuition for eligible returning CC students along with those immediately out of high school.

- If the Oregon Promise is going to continue, it should cover more groups of students.
- I would rather see resources invested into OOG.
- Our most vulnerable and high-needs students often need more time to figure out a post-high school plan or to get organized to be able to attend school. They should not be penalized.
- If the Legislature keeps Oregon Promise, we fully support this change. This is especially important in our ability to serve students impacted by the pandemic from the class of 2020 + 2021

SD-5: Expand the Oregon Promise to include free tuition for eligible returning CC and university students along with those immediately out of high school.

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- I would rather see the resources invested into OOG.
- I do not think Oregon Promise should be expanded to university students but rather funding should focus on Oregon Opportunity Grants.

SD-6: Join Washington in using SNAP eligibility as an automatic indicator of Oregon Opportunity Grant eligibility.

- SNAP eligibility status can change frequently based on small changes in a student's work income, which is common as students often adjust their work schedule each term to accommodate different class schedules. Additionally, it is currently quite difficult for college students to obtain initial eligibility for SNAP due to significant issues within the ODHS application processing systems. I do not want this to impact a student's eligibility for Oregon Opportunity Grant as well.
- There are lots of good aspects to this but it also sounds administratively quite complicated. Processes need to be simplified, not complicated further.
- And pair with the SNAP Training & Employment Program to offer wraparound supports and comprehensive career coaching.
- While we like the streamlined approach, I don't feel like I have enough information for an informed decision. However anywhere we can eliminate duplicate applications, forms and information families and students need to provide, we support.
- While we like the streamlined approach, I don't feel like I have enough information for an informed decision. However anywhere we can eliminate duplicate applications, forms and information families and students need to provide, we support.

SD-7: Merge the OOG, Oregon Promise, Tribal grant, and all other grant programs into a single program with a weighted formula for allocation based on Expected Family Contribution, first-gen status, degree path, etc.

- Similar concerns as comments I described regarding other proposals to merge OOG and Oregon Promise and the barriers that could create.
- Of course I approve - yahoo!
- It will be difficult to merge programs that cover different things. The biggest being the Tribal grant covering COA and the other programs not even being designed to try to cover COA. Other than the Tribal grant I would support this.
- I disagree with merging the tribal grant with the other grant programs. It will cause tribal students to lose significant funding.
- More information is needed on the wighted formula for dollar allocations.
- This seems positive for clarity, I'd want to ensure that we don't loose the focus on specific populations (tribal, student parents, etc.). Perhaps I just don't completely understand the proposal.
- I worry that this could be a burden for students to prove eligibility on all these fronts.

SD-8: Institute a required high school course in planning for post-graduation that would introduce students to post-secondary options, filling out the FAFSA/ORSA, and understanding

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and accessing resources.

- This should have been in place long ago. It should be timed to be completed in spring semester/trimester of 11th grade or fall semester/trimester of 12th grade. However, please ensure in this legislation that high schools are issued resources for adding this course-- please do not ask k-12 school staff to do more without giving them more.
- A full course seems like a big ask in an already crowded high school career. Content within a class or mandatory workshops make more sense.
- Add in financial literacy curriculum.

SD-9: Incentivize high school graduation and post-secondary access by creating a fund that would deposit dollars into students' postsecondary accounts at the end of the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades as they successfully meet benchmarks for graduation (modeled after successful New Brunswick program).

- This sounds great in theory, but significant considerations need to be made for the following:
 - Students who may not meet grade level and credits-earned benchmarks at the same pace due to special education accommodations and modifications, but will complete these prior to graduation.
 - Students attending alternative high schools that may not adhere to a numerical grade levels system to measure student success and completion.
 - Students who leave school but achieve a GED independently or through a GED preparation program, such as what is offered at many community colleges."
- Lovely idea - funding factors and long term stability concerns
- As long as this would not take away from OOG investment.
- Sounds good but very administratively complicated and thus expensive for staffing.
- Would disproportionately support middle income families.
- This would be most beneficial to start much younger. This would help create a college-going culture in our schools and send the message that college can be for anyone.
- Nice idea, but I am concerned about too many different kinds of programs resulting in a confusion of under-funded options - rather than one clear, well-funded pathway for all.
- Would this take the place of other funding programs? This could benefit already privileged students more.

FA-1: Augmenting need-based aid with state-funded work-study options that would include work at designated non-profits.

- Students are already working far too many hours outside of their classes and struggling to focus on their studies as a result.
- Most of us have trouble spending our Federal work study. Would need to focus on students who normally would not get this funding (for instance, graduate students).
- Would the vetting of those nonprofits be onerous?
- Administratively complicated.
- Would be supplanting positions at non-profits with lower paid college student jobs.

FA-2: Tax relief for homeowners and renters as a way to make housing more affordable for students.

- This will not make a significant difference in housing affordability for students as rent rates continue to skyrocket.
- The details are important. For instance, the child tax credit that paid families every month made a huge impact on child poverty and it was not continued.
- Would not isolate supporting students, rather targets general Oregon population.

FA-3: Direct institutions to develop an electronic registration system that would allow students to see the cost of course textbook materials in addition to tuition.

- My son says almost all his books for college are on line now - not paying at all - - - really want more information on this as I think what we have may be out of date post-COVID
- I think we all pretty much do this already. I know textbooks are a hot topic to discuss but they are a very small percentage of the COA. In fact, it is the only component of COA that has gone down at OSU in the last decade. This is partly because of our focus on free and reduced cost textbooks.
- I believe this already occurs to some extent with the designation of low, no-cost textbook courses.
- This is a red herring. Cost of textbooks is certainly too high, but prioritizing this over housing or child care or tuition seems like a drop in the bucket.
- OMG please stop with the unfunded mandates! Institutions have way too many mandates that eat up the limited staffing we have.

FA-4: Appropriating an additional \$2 million to double the General Fund appropriation for Open Education Resources (producing low-cost or no-cost e-textbooks).

- Again, a drop in the bucket of college costs. Housing is a far higher priority.
- Another nice idea, but would prefer to see us focus resources in fewer, better funded, programs.
- Unsure about the language, "additional." Their expansion request is \$4.5 million for the 23-25 biennium, and that should be the amount for each biennium after as well. This program works, and saves students millions more dollars than are being put into it. Empower them to do more.
- Again - looking for more info on text book costs TODAY

FA-5: Create childcare services at each institution.

- I am the daughter of a student parent, and I was a student parent myself. Available and affordable childcare was absolutely a struggle both for my mother when I was a child, as well as for me when my son was little. Lack of access to affordable, convenient childcare is a gender equity issue and must be addressed.

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- I believe institutions should make that decision. I do think grant money available for schools that do might help
- Although this would be a good idea....unless childcare is free or very low cost I don't think just having childcare at each institution would help. When childcare is offered at colleges/universities it is employees, not students who use it the most.
- Potential for mission creep and could lead to the cost getting passed to students and higher tuition costs. This could be addressed through early childhood initiatives.

FA-6: Allow all credit students to qualify for the basic Oregon Health Plan.

- I like the spirit behind this proposal, but I would advise revising the proposal to offer OHP coverage to any credit-earning student whose household income is under 250% of that year's federal poverty level. For 2022 this would mean those in a household of 1 who have less than \$33,975 annual gross income, for a household of 3 the limit would be \$57,575, and so on. This would act as an acknowledgement that some students may have a partner who is still earning a full time income while they are in school, but that the student's lack of (or reduction) in earned income while attending school may cause strain on the household's finances.
- There also needs to be language specifying that students would not lose their OHP eligibility when taking the summer off from credit classes."
- Again - if only it were possible! We do not have the money to make this happen in a sustainable way
- Expand to non-credit students too.

FA-7: (HECC Funding Proposal) - Expand the Oregon Opportunity Grant to fully fund the cost of attendance at a public college or university for all who meet need standard. (\$700 million request)

- I think this is a great proposal, but I would not want it to remove the requirement that students be enrolled at least half time. Students who enroll at less than half time status are far less likely to reach degree or certificate completion. A large expansion such as this should act as a enticement for students who previously would have enrolled for only one or two classes at a time due to needing to work full time outside school to decrease their work hours and engage more significantly with credit hours due to the financial security of expanded OOG.
- May me up there with finding unicorns...but I pledge to help you make it happen!
- This would be incredible but I think covering cost of attendance is a big jump. I would like to see us get to OOG covering tuition and fees first. Don't get me wrong, if we can get to COA that would be the best case.
- That seems like an unrealistically large leap from current grant amounts but it would be incredible for our students.
- Including non-credit students.
- I concur with the need to invest in the OOG but am concerned that the amount put forward by the HECC is not realistic and would cut into the support that institutions need to provide high quality postsecondary education.

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- We are far behind other states in this area.

FA-8: (HECC Funding Proposal) - Provide permanent funding for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant Program, fully funding the cost of attendance for enrolled members of one of Oregon's 9 federally-recognized tribes (currently a 1-year temporary program). (\$40 million)

- We are nearly two centuries overdue in providing adequate reparations for the harm settlers did to the indigenous peoples of the land that is now Oregon. Ensuring tribal young adults and adults can pursue higher education without financial barriers is the least we can do to work toward that reparation.

FA-9: (HECC Funding Proposal) - Increase funding for the Child Care Grant and issue grants to institutions to expand their childcare services. (\$4.2 million)

- See answer to previous question - this is the way to address the childcare issue

FA-10: Create permanent funding for a regular benefits navigator program at each institution.

- Colleges absolutely need a staff role outside of the financial aid office who is available to students to help them with basic needs insecurity situations. Some of the current Benefits Navigators are housed within their Student Affairs or Student Services departments, but I am especially inspired by the colleges that chose to house their Benefits Navigator position within their Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion department. Affordability and basic needs security is absolutely an equity and inclusion issue.
- I believe institutions should be doing this - on their own with their own resources
- We have had such a great experience with benefit navigators. Even if all they can do is get qualified students signed up for SNAP that is life changing for those students.

FA-11: Allow families to lock in and pre-pay tuition in advance via monthly contributions to a 529 Savings Plan.

- I don't know enough about the Oregon 529 system to be able to comment in depth on this, but I do like the idea of families being able to "lock in" present day tuition rates.
- I'd like more details. How far in advance can a family "lock in" a tuition rate? Is it scaled along a projected rate of inflation? How much money would it be possible to save as a family? Would they need to choose an institution at the time they lock in? What happens if the student goes to an institution outside of Oregon, or passes before tuition can be disbursed to institutions? Before they can attend?
- Also make the contributions tax-deductible
- Two of my kids went to college on 529 plans - help people help their kids!

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FA-12: Allocate \$1 million to the Affordable Rents for College Students (ARCS) program, providing subsidized housing for students in the Portland metro area.

- Although I admire the organization behind ARCS, these subsidies are not the answer to student housing affordability, because the foundational problems of absurd market rates for housing, and limited regulation about percentage increases in rent are not being addressed and will not be addressed by this action either. A million dollars is a lot of money, and yet it will only be able to subsidize housing for a few dozen students in a specific area of Oregon, while tens of thousands of other college students around the state will still struggle intensely with housing affordability, housing security, and homelessness.
- What about students elsewhere???
- The ARCS program is a positive example of providing subsidized housing to students experiencing or at risk of homelessness. However, rather than appropriating funding of this type to a specific nonprofit in a single geography, it would be more impactful to fund similar programs across the state at both higher ed institutions and nonprofits.
- I like all ideas for housing that don't require landlords to do something that hurts them. But let's dig deeper. I have floated the CULEX idea that I wish could be dug into y those smarter than me.
 - College/University Living Exchange (CULEX) - position as OSAC?
 - Student/family exchange
 - Direct (primary switch of kids - Corvallis home houses Portland kid, Portland kid's home houses corvallis kid - parents could know each other)
 - Indirect (secondary placement of kids like a clearinghouse - Corvallis home houses Portland kids but that Portland kid's home houses Ashland kid)
 - Host/Homestay (there is already a tax credit for this)
 - Corporate tax credit for investing in housing and providing at low cost
 - Public housing requirement for local governments
 - Residential assistance match (sabbatical, senior help, work exchange)
- Only benefits 100 students.

FA-13: Appropriate \$3-\$5 million to College Housing Northwest for additional housing supply and building maintenance.

- I would prefer to see a dollar amount like this be approved to create housing supply in other areas than just Portland. Even our students in smaller cities, towns, and rural areas are struggling with housing affordability and availability.
- What about the rest of us??
- This sounds good but I wonder how much benefit actually trickles down to how many students.
- I wish I had won the lottery - again, concerned about ability to sustain

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FA-14: Direct universities to provide on-campus housing at a rate that is comparable to private rental housing.

- On campus housing should be less expensive than private rental housing!
- Not "comparable," it needs to be competitive, which means the price should be more affordable than private options.
- It's unclear how this proposal would actually help housing insecure or unhoused students. It seems to conflate policies and regulations set at the state and municipality level with college/university policies. A requirement to release the home address of every student living off campus is a huge invasion of privacy and does not seem to actually contribute to any of the proposal's goals.
- Competition good
- The challenge as I see it is they are two different products. Off campus housing does not have a standard they must meet, they don't provide RA's, they don't have counseling and support services, etc.
- How will universities fund this?

FA-15: Create a task force on student housing and the effect of student enrollment on local housing markets. Require all higher education institutions to report quarterly on the impact that student enrollment has on the local housing market.

- There is much work to be done in regards to student housing availability and affordability, but I'm uncomfortable with the language of this proposal that seems to lay blame on colleges and universities for strains on local housing markets. Particularly at community colleges, most students are already residents in the same community or within 30 miles, or at most move across the state to attend a community college that offers a program not available at a community college closer to their hometown. I don't like the suggestion that higher education institutions should need to spend staff time evaluating data on how much their student population may be impacting the local housing market. The responsibility should be in reverse-- why aren't cities and counties adequately supporting the colleges and universities that exist in their areas with available housing and regulations to ensure affordability?
- I like idea, but not reporting requirement - more we ask schools to do, more cost to them = more cost to student

FA-16: Expedite the local permitting process for affordable student housing.

- I don't know that this is the main barrier for creating more affordable housing for students. My understanding is that it is the cost to build as well as the limited access to funding (like LIHTC) for housing focused on college students.
- ""Affordable"" is a deeply complex word in housing. In cities and counties it typically means housing units that rent at 75-80% of the ""market rate"" for standard rentals. If market rate for a 2 bedroom apartment in my city is \$1,600 (and we presume that two students would share it as roommates, or as partners), new construction of 2 bedroom ""affordable"" units that are still \$1,200-1,280 is nowhere near sufficient to meet these

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needs, no matter how quickly that housing can be permitted and constructed. On a weekly basis I receive contact from students looking for roommate situations who state they can only afford a maximum of \$500/month for rent.

- A student working 20 hours/week at my local minimum wage of \$13.50/hr earns \$1,080 before any deductions, so likely takes home \$950 or less per month. A renter is considered "rent burdened" if more than 30% of their income must be spent on rent each month. They are considered "severely rent burdened" if they must spend more than 50% of their income on housing each month. Thus, a student working 20 hours/week at minimum wage in my area would be rent burdened if they are paying more than about \$350/month in rent, and severely rent burdened if they are paying more than \$500/month. A newly constructed "affordable" housing unit that is still \$600+/month for half of an apartment is not, in fact, affordable regardless of the speed of permitting for that construction.
- These housing needs run far deeper than tiny incremental changes like expedited permitting processes. These needs require us to consider the very nature of what we consider "affordable housing" in our country. "

FA-18: Require all higher education institutions to designate a zone on campus where students experiencing homelessness may reside, camp, part vehicles, and shower without being at risk of removal.

- Colleges and universities should be providing better support to unhoused students. However, a "space" is poorly defined in this proposal, and several of the options would leave students experiencing homelessness. A more appropriate approach would be to fund college/university housing specifically set aside for this purpose rather than allowing parking areas or tent sites to fulfill this purpose.
- I serve many students who are homeless and who do not feel safe at local shelters, or are unable to secure open beds in shelters because they are at classes during the day and unable to get in line early enough to secure an available shelter bed for the next night. Many of these students are either on long wait lists for housing programs, or do not qualify for help getting into non-shelter housing within a reasonable timeline. These students deserve basic dignities and safety where they sleep at night, including access to bathroom and shower facilities, access to laundry facilities, ability to cook food, access to dish washing, etc. There also needs to be a dedicated case worker at each college to work with these students in a more extensive and longer-duration manner than the current benefits navigators are able to provide within their role. Alternatively, local organizations such as our state's community action organizations or housing authority offices need to step up and employ a housing case worker who specifically works with college students in their area who are experiencing homelessness and understands the unique needs of college students experiencing homelessness.
- Nightmare to make sure only students there - - - our goal should be for no homeless students and this gives up on that
- This is really interesting. I see challenges in keeping the space safe, clean, used only by students, etc.
- Questions concerning liability come up.

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FA-19: Create a statewide multi-prong campaign to improve FAFSA/ORSAA completion rates for Low-Income Oregonians and Oregonians of color.

- OAICU pledges to do what we can to help!

HECC POP 102: Oregon Opportunity Grant/Oregon Promise (\$779,394,907)

- Approve if expansion is granted to non-credit students
- See previous comment with concerns that proposed funding levels far exceed what the state could reasonably be expected to support.

HECC POP 201: Student Equity (\$100,264,465)

- Funding may be too limited. An increase may be needed depending on formula for division of funds.
- It is hard to rank this when it is a holding POP for the recommendations that are currently being developed. Once those recommendations are firm, I feel like I could rank this question.

HECC POP 202: Open Educational Resources (\$2,415,600)

- Strongly approve for this budget ask to be aligned with Open Oregon's "Significant Program Expansion" ask of a \$4,558,400 CSL increase
- Course material affordability is a serious barrier to student success for students who do not have cash on hand to purchase expensive textbooks and course materials prior to the dates each term when financial aid disburses to students' accounts, which does not occur until the end of the second week of the term. This leaves many students unable to afford their course materials until at least the third week of the term, endangering their successful progress in their courses. This fall I received contact from a student whose textbook cost between two science courses was about \$700- close to \$350 per book. This is an outrageous amount of money to expect college students to be able to afford at any time, and especially prior to them having access to their financial aid disbursement.
- Open Oregon Educational Resources should see this number increased and made permanent.
- Want more info

Additional Questions

- Colleges could partner with Child care services in their area to pay for spots for students that would qualify for DHS supports as they will be adding students being covered soon
- Feedback form is fine. However, a whole lot of work still has to be done on all these proposals, so I hope anything that moves forward will still go through a thoughtful development process incorporating feedback from stakeholders, before emerging as an

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actual LC. And please, please - focus attention and energy on doing (and funding) a few things well; jettison the unfunded mandates that are killing us.

- I look forward to working with everyone. Let me know how I can assist in getting good policy passed in future phases. Thank you for the opportunity to give input.

DRAFT