

Build Back Better Act

Summary of the College Retention and Completion Program

[Legislative text](#) (P.79-86)

- Priority for eligible entities proposing to use a significant share of funds to support students of color, low-income students, students with disabilities, students in need of remediation, first generation college students, student parents, and other underserved student populations
- Grantees must show adequate annual progress in implementing evidence-based reforms or practices to improve enrollment, retention, transfer, completion, or labor market outcomes
- Matching funds are required:
 - Grant year 2: 10%
 - Grant year 3: 15%
 - Grant year 4: 20%
- Eligible uses of funds:
 - Comprehensive academic, career, and student support services
 - Assistance applying for services to meet students' basic needs
 - Accelerated opportunities, including dual enrollment and early college high schools
 - Reforming remedial or developmental education
 - Improving transfer pathways between community colleges and 4-year institutions of higher education (IHEs), among systems of IHEs, or among IHEs within a system of IHEs
- Funding:
 - \$310 million available for competitive grants to states or a system of IHEs
 - \$37.5 million for competitive grants for Tribal college/university
 - \$95 million for evidence tier 1¹
 - \$47.5 million for evidence tier 1-2²
 - \$10 million for evaluation
 - Funds are available until September 30, 2030; grants must be awarded by the end of award year 2026-27.

¹ Tier 1 is defined as meeting the criteria for receiving an expansion grant under the Education Innovation and Research program, including programs that have been “found to produce sizable, important impacts”

² Tier 2 is defined as meeting the criteria for receiving a mid-phase grant under the Education Innovation and Research program, including programs that have been “successfully implemented...for the purpose of measuring the program’s impact and cost effectiveness”