
Docket Item:

2023-25 Agency Request Budget (ARB) Development –Policy Option Packages

Summary:

Budget development for the 2023-2025 biennium begins more than a year in advance of final adoption by the Legislative Assembly. In August, the Commission will review and adopt the HECC’s “Agency Request Budget” (ARB), which is subsequently advanced to the Governor for consideration. Much of the ARB, including the agency’s current service level (CSL) budget, is completed by agency staff. The Commission has a key role, however, in determining the scope of proposals for new state investment in postsecondary programs or services. These proposals for new funding are known as Policy Option Packages (POPs).

At this meeting, staff will review an updated list of Policy Option Packages that we intend to recommend to the Commission for inclusion in the ARB. At the request of the State of Oregon’s Chief Financial Office, we have pared down our requests based on which packages had the most support from the Commission and HECC stakeholders, which were essentially complete, and which were most appropriate for HECC (as opposed to other state agencies or organizations) to carry forward.

Commission materials include an overview of all POPs HECC staff intends to recommend, but today’s focus will be on providing context and additional information about details included in a few high-profile packages, namely: (1) the Oregon Tribal Student Grant program; (2) Expansion of the current Oregon Opportunity Grant and Oregon Promise grants; (3) the Public University Support Fund and Community College Support Fund; and (4) Capital projects for community colleges and public universities.

These POPs are currently in development and we want to give the Commission the opportunity to provide additional guidance to HECC staff as we finalize policy direction and decide what to include in these important packages. Even if we don’t alter the total requested dollars for any of these packages for the Agency Request Budget, it will be helpful to have this discussion about overall purpose of these packages so we can begin to prepare our narratives and legislative strategies for gathering support. It also helps us structure our descriptions so that if the Governor or the Legislature ask us to scale these projects back, we can make sure we are protecting the portions of the packages that the Commission deems most vital.

The final budget document is due to the Governor by September 1, 2022. And, we will return to the Commission for approval of the final list of Policy Option Packages to be included in the Agency

Request Budget in August. Until that point, we are still seeking input from stakeholders and working to refine our individual requests, as well as the list of items for which we are seeking support.

Docket Material:

See docket items 3.2 through 3.5 for detailed information and presentations.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff are providing an update on current development of policy option packages and specifically seeking input on any suggested policy guidance or other modifications to Financial Aid and Support Fund packages.