

The logo features the text "CALIFORNIA COMEBACK PLAN" in a bold, sans-serif font. "CALIFORNIA" is in orange and "COMEBACK PLAN" is in white. The text is centered within a dark blue rectangular box. Two horizontal orange bars extend from the left and right sides of the blue box.

# CALIFORNIA COMEBACK PLAN

## NEW INVESTMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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- **Makes college more affordable with investments in broadband, student housing, financial aid, and college savings accounts**
  - **Links degrees and credentials to good paying jobs to create pathways for economic mobility**
  - **Works to increase graduation rates, eliminate equity gaps and make the higher education system easier to navigate for students**
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California's recovery is underway, with the state reopened after achieving the most vaccinations in the entire country, and now we're [leading the nation's economic recovery](#). But we still have a long way to go and can't be satisfied with just returning to the way things were. **Governor Newsom's \$100 billion California Comeback Plan is the comprehensive strategy needed to address the state's most persistent challenges and ensure California comes back from this pandemic stronger than before.**

Higher education will help us recover from the pandemic and fuel long-term economic prosperity. The California Comeback plan will create **more slots for in-state students who wish to attend a CSU or UC school, expand financial aid for middle-class Californians, and cut the costs of student housing.**

Newsom's Plan focuses on improving graduation rates and eliminating equity gaps, expanding the state's CalGrant program for community college students, and investing **billions of dollars in student financial assistance, college savings accounts, teacher training, and broadband access.**

Governor Newsom's plan will **expand pathways to success for students, linking degrees and credentials to good jobs** and increase opportunities for students to gain work experience.

In addition to these targeted intervention strategies, the California Comeback Plan has one overarching goal – to jumpstart our state's recovery by confronting California's top challenges:

- **Providing Immediate Relief for Those Hardest Hit by COVID-19**
- **Confronting the Homelessness & Housing Affordability Crisis**
- **Transforming Public Schools as Gateways for Opportunity**
- **Building Infrastructure for the Next Century**
- **Combating Wildfires & Tackling Climate Change**

# CALIFORNIA COMEBACK PLAN

## KEY INVESTMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

**MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE:** The California Comeback Plan makes college more affordable by ensuring high school seniors complete the FAFSA or California Dream Act application, generating millions of dollars in federal financial aid for eligible California students. It also **expands the Cal Grant program for community college students** by eliminating age and time-out-of-high-school requirements. These awards will follow students to the UC and CSU upon transfer. In addition, it helps California's most vulnerable students afford the cost of college with:

- **\$2 billion over a three-year period to expand the availability of affordable student housing for low-income CCC, CSU, and UC students**, thereby relieving one of the largest financial pressures students face and supporting timely degree completion.
- **\$1.9 billion to seed college saving accounts through CalKIDS**, including providing \$500 base deposits for public school students from low-income families, English learners, and foster youth, plus \$170M ongoing for incoming first-graders who fit the same criteria.
- **\$500 million to provide education and training grants** to workers displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **\$295 million in emergency student financial assistance grants and \$175 million to help students address basic needs**, such as housing, food and mental health.
- **\$115 million for Zero-Textbook Cost Degrees and Open Educational Resources at the CCCs**, which will help address the rising cost of textbooks.
- **\$30 million to establish basic needs centers and hire coordinators at the CCCs.**
- **\$15.1 million for foster youth access awards.**
- **Making summer financial aid for UC and CSU students permanent.**

**INVESTING IN CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM:** The California Comeback Plan continues to **invest in California's world-class public higher education system** with:

- **5 percent base budget increases and \$325M for deferred maintenance and energy efficiency projects** for both the UC and CSU systems.
- **5.07 percent Student-Centered Funding Formula cost-of-living adjustment, \$511M for deferred maintenance and a retirement of all deferrals** for the California Community Colleges.
- **\$433 million one-time and \$25 million ongoing to convert CSU Humboldt into a Polytechnic University** — expanding access to high-quality vocational and technical education.
- **\$25 million to build a CSU Northridge STEM Center** — the Center for Equity in Innovation and Technology.
- **\$15 million to convert the UCLA Downtown Labor Center into the UCLA James Lawson, Jr. Worker Justice Center.**

# CALIFORNIA COMEBACK PLAN

**LINKING DEGREES AND CREDENTIALS TO GOOD-PAYING JOBS:** The California Comeback Plan includes **\$250M to support 5-8 regional collaboratives**, which will bring higher education, K-12 and employers together to create more equitable and streamlined pathways from school to career. In addition, the budget includes:

- **\$500 million over a two-year period for a Learning-Aligned Employment program at the UC, CSU, and CCCs**, to help underrepresented students with financial need gain relevant work experience.
- **\$500 million for grants to the Golden State Teacher Grant Program** for students enrolled in teacher preparation programs.
- **\$42 million increase to the Strong Workforce Program at CCCs**, up to 10 percent of which can be used to expand work-based learning.
- **\$20 million to the CCCs to expand High Road Training Partnerships and Regional Partnerships** with the California Workforce Development Board.
- **\$10 million to help the community colleges pilot competency-based education (CBE)** models at several campuses.

**IMPROVING GRADUATION RATES AND ELIMINATING EQUITY GAPS:** The California Comeback Plan sets the stage for **multi-year agreements with the UC, CSU, and CCCs** that would establish ambitious goals for statewide degree attainment, improving graduation rates, and eliminating equity gaps. In addition, the budget provides:

- **\$50 million to support implementation of the Guided Pathways framework at the CCCs**, which will help community college students graduate on time.
- **\$42 million to increase support for equity-focused programs at the CCCs**, including Umoja, MESA, Puente, EOPs, and transfer pathways to Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- **\$22.5 million to increase support for Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships programs** at UC campuses.
- **\$10 million to develop a common course numbering system in the CCCs**, which will eliminate confusion and improve graduation rates by ensuring that the same course has the same number, regardless of which campus a student attends.
- **\$6 billion to increase broadband infrastructure, access, and affordability** — a critical step to bringing communities together and improving educational outcomes.