

★ *VIRTUAL* ★  
Student Advocacy Day 2021

**Talking Points – Students**

The following is a digital newsletter called “In A Crab Shell” that MACC puts out about every 2 weeks. This recent edition provides a quick read on MACC’s legislative priorities for 2021.

Below it has been re-formatted to include it with the Tool Kit.

The original can be found here: <https://mailchi.mp/mdacc.org/tfgdt72gy8-3594804>



***IN A CRAB SHELL***

With nearly half the undergraduate population of Maryland enrolled at 16 colleges, on 22 campuses and 1000+ locations, it can be challenging to capture and share all that’s happening at Maryland’s community colleges.

**-- However, with *In A Crab Shell*, we try. --**

Similar to the more well-known phrase *in a nutshell*, -- *In A Crab Shell* provides a concise, bi-weekly discussion of issues important to higher education and the State of Maryland.

# Operating Budget



## Follow the Formulas

Last year, budget rescissions by the Board of Public Works eliminated the funding increase the General Assembly had given the community colleges, due to COVID-19. The community colleges received no funding increase in the last budget; we were "*flat funded*."

**MACC asks the General Assembly to approve operating funds based on the Cade\* and BCCC\*\* formulas for FY'22.**

State funding helps to keep student tuition more affordable and community college more accessible for Marylanders. Training and educational opportunities are especially important now due to the economic upheaval from COVID-19.

\* The Cade formula was developed to calculate the state's *minimum* community college funding level, yet it has never been fully funded. Instead, Cade has been re-based 7 of the last 10 years to decrease the state's obligation. **But lost funds are never regained and have now cost the community colleges over \$100 million.**

\*\* Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) is a state entity and the operating budget is calculated using a different formula.

# Capital Budget



## Fund Projects on the List

### What is the MACC Capital Prioritization List?

The *MACC Capital Prioritization List (MCPL)* is a consolidated request of proposed capital improvement projects at the 15 Cade-funded\* institutions.

### How do projects make the MACC Capital Prioritization List?

Prior to inclusion on the MCPL, proposed projects are subject to a lengthy and strict review process that involves:

- County vetting of proposed college projects, and
- County commitment of matching funds.

**Inclusion on the MACC Capital Prioritization List indicates strong local support.**

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**MACC seeks funding for all capital projects that earned a place on the MACC Capital Prioritization List.**

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\$115.2 million will fund projects on the FY'22 MACC Capital Prioritization List:

- 6 pre-authorized projects carried over from the previous capital budget, and
- 13 new projects.

It is anticipated that several of the larger projects will be funded over multiple years.

- \* Baltimore City Community College (BCCC), is a state entity and its capital budget request is separate.

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## Facilities Renewal Grant



## Restore Rescinded Funds

Funds rescinded by the Board of Public Works during the last 2 years (FY'20 and FY'21) would have funded deferred maintenance projects at all 16 community colleges.

**MACC seeks full funding of the Facilities Renewal Grant which was unanimously approved during the 2018 legislative session.**

MACC is seeking \$6.8 million:

- Restoration of \$4 million\* for the FY'22 grant (see below)
- Restoration of \$2.8 million rescinded from the FY'20 grant

## Community College Promise Program



### Keep the Promise

Promise **applications went up 300%** last year (academic year 2020-2021) compared to the first year it was available.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, Promise funds were simultaneously **cut by almost 50%** down to \$8 million from \$15 million.

The budget cut left **1000s** of students on the Promise waitlist.

### MACC asks Maryland to keep its Promise - full \$15 million/year.

Even fully funded, the Maryland Promise can only help a small portion of Maryland's lower and middle income students attend college. When funding is cut, the number of students helped drops.

*Maryland's Community College Promise program was established by the General Assembly in 2018. It is a need-based grant to help eligible lower/middle income students attend community college.*

# Streamline College Transfer



## Credits and Courses Lost in Transfer

Studies show that nationally about 25%\* of college credits are lost when students transfer between institutions of higher learning.

Credits and courses that don't transfer cost students time and money and *waste limited financial aid resources*.

**MACC seeks approval of legislation to provide specific data on credits and courses transferred between Maryland's public higher education institutions.**

\* Several studies show higher estimates.



# Streamline Financial Aid



## Universal FAFSA\* and Digital Processing

Many graduating high school students are unaware that they are eligible for financial aid. Many mistakenly believe they can't afford college or postsecondary career training. These students seek employment with no training beyond a high school diploma. Most of those jobs are on the lower end of the pay scale and are steadily disappearing.

**MACC seeks approval of new legislation making FAFSA completion a default option for all Maryland high school seniors, with an opt-out option provided.**

To facilitate this initiative MACC has already worked with appropriate agencies to support the following:

- Ensure all high schools have the capacity to electronically transmit transcripts,
- Ensure that the Comptroller's office can provide automatic income verification to quickly determine need-based aid eligibility.

**Maryland has long sought to increase its postsecondary education rate.** States that currently practice universal FAFSA completion have found more students seek postsecondary education and training when they learn it is affordable.

