



*Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative
Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Meeting
January 25, 2018*



COLORADO
Department of
Higher Education

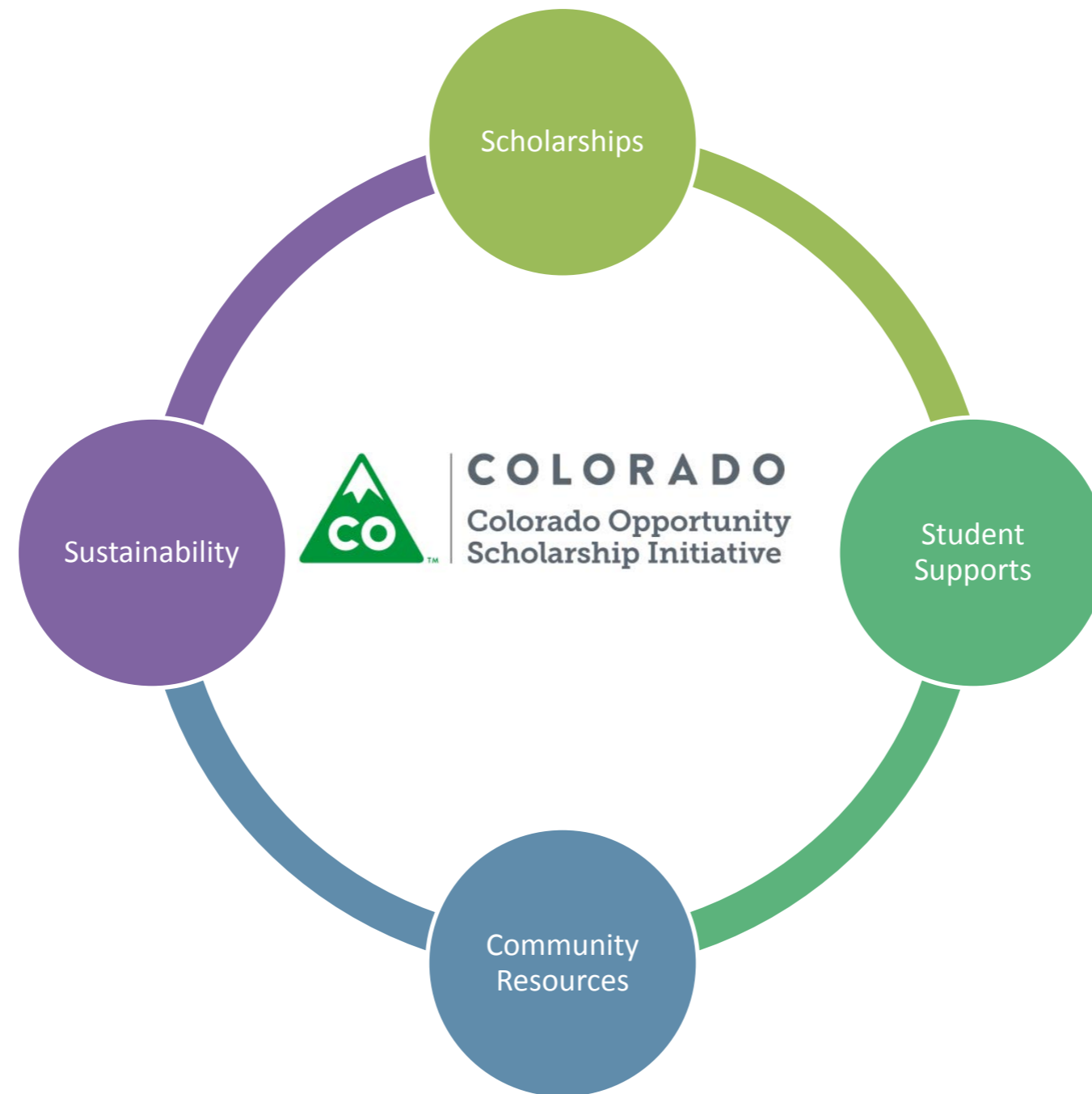
About the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative

The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) was created in 2014 with the goal of increasing the attainment of post-secondary credentials and degrees for underserved students in Colorado. The project addresses this challenge in two ways:

accessibility and **affordability**.

- To increase accessibility, COSI funds programs that will help prepare students for post-secondary education as well as support them through completion.
- To increase affordability, COSI provides support to students via matching funds for community scholarships.

COSI Program Overview





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Matching Student Scholarships (MSS)

To increase affordability, COSI provides tuition support via matching funds for community scholarships, so that tuition costs are not a barrier to entry and to help reduce unmanageable amounts of student loan debt.

The level of funding available for the 2017-2018 fiscal year is approximately \$7.5 million, designated as follows:

- Colorado Public Institutions of Higher Education: \$1,500,000.00
- Colorado Counties: \$5,000,000.00
- Workforce Programs: \$1,000,000.00

Eligibility

Local programs that receive grants must distribute scholarships to Colorado students who meet the following requirements:

- attend a public vocational school, community college, four-year institution of higher education, or research institution in Colorado.
- have a household income determined to be between 0 and 250% PELL eligibility.
- be classified as Colorado residents for tuition purposes; and
- participate in a rigor-based student success program.

Examples

Some communities are using MSS Grants to support concurrent enrollment for students

- Adams County
- Delta County
- Colorado Mesa University Workforce Grant

Adam County

Adams County-based Scholarship Fund is administered by Adams County Education Consortium in partnership with their School Districts and School District Foundations:

- A portion of the total funds support concurrent enrollment programs such as Project Lead the Way. These funds do NOT supplant District contracts and payments.
- Funds are awarded to approximately 70 (seventy) students who are taking college level course work to earn college credit.

Delta County

Delta County-based Scholarship Fund is administered by Western Colorado Community Foundation.

- Scholarships provide financial support for between 40 and 50 students, equal to approximately \$400.00 per scholarship to students in the Delta County School District No. 50J.
- Funds cover student and family costs in order to participate in concurrent enrollment classes at Delta-Montrose Technical College.

Colorado Mesa University

Colorado Mesa University uses matching scholarship grant funds from the workforce development category to provide scholarships for high school teachers throughout Western Colorado who teach concurrent college courses.

- This initiative supports 64 students with a scholarship beginning in summer of 2017-2018, and concluding in spring 2020.
- Students are enrolled in a University Graduate Student Certificate Program and teach in under-resourced communities throughout Western Colorado with a high degree of racial diversity.

Timeline

For FY 17-18 (May Round)

- LOI due 3/1/18
- Application due 3/29/18
- Board Review 5/10/18

For FY 18-19

- We anticipate similar funding allocations on a similar application cycle (November, March, and May)

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