

Denver College Success Corporation

Denver College Affordability Fund

JANUARY 2020

The DCSC Opportunity

- 90 percent of Denver high school Post-secondary Enrollment students thought it was important to go to college
- However, only 2,274 Denver high school graduates (50 percent) enrolled in a post-secondary institution in fall after graduating in 2016. (state rate of 56 percent)
- A higher percentage of Asian and white students enroll in college after high school than American Indian, black, and Hispanic students.
- The National Student Clearinghouse reports that only 26 percent of DPS students who entered a college program in 2009 completed a degree within six years.

DCSC Objective

Expand access to post high school education for Denver residents and increase their education completion rate.

This initiative will enhance economic security and strengthen Denver's workforce and economy.



Denver College Affordability Fund

- Ordinance passed by Denver Voters in November 2018
- Created new Charitable Organization - DCSC
- Funded by .08% Sales Tax increase
 - About 1 cent on \$10 purchase
 - Total projected revenue approximately \$12 Million annually

DCSC Board of Directors

- **Stephen Kurtz** (*DCSC Chair*), Chair/CEO MuscleSound, Inc.
- **Theresa Peña** (*DCSC Vice Chair*), Coordinator Outreach & Engagement Denver Public Schools
- **Akasha Absher** (*DCSC Secretary*), Chief Consulting Officer, Syntrinsic Investment Counsel, LLC,
- **Mark Goodman** (*DCSC Treasurer*), Chairman, Colorado Nut Company, Inc.
- **Angela Cobián**, Denver Board of Education
- **Christopher Herndon**, Denver Councilman District 8
- **John H. Kechriotis**, Former General Counsel at Denver Public Schools

Supported Organization Requirements

- Colorado Nonprofit
- In existence for three years
- Operationally and financially independent
- Provide post secondary scholarships and support services to Denver residents
- Other requirements established by DCSC board

Reimbursement Guidelines

- Up to 75% reimbursement for scholarship and support services
- Students must complete academic year in good standing
- Supported organization must provide and maintain information required by DCSC
- Reimbursement 2x per year

Student Requirements

- Denver resident for at least 36 months
- Less than 25 years old
- Must attend post-secondary institution in Colorado
- Meet financial aid as determined by DCSC
- Continue to achieve “satisfactory academic progress”

Family Income Guidelines

- Reimbursement shall be funded based on the Federal Pell Grant program or comparable need analysis determined by DCSC
- Ordinance Limit is 2.5x Federal Pell Grant
- Sliding Scale to be set by DCSC

City of Denver/DCSC Contract

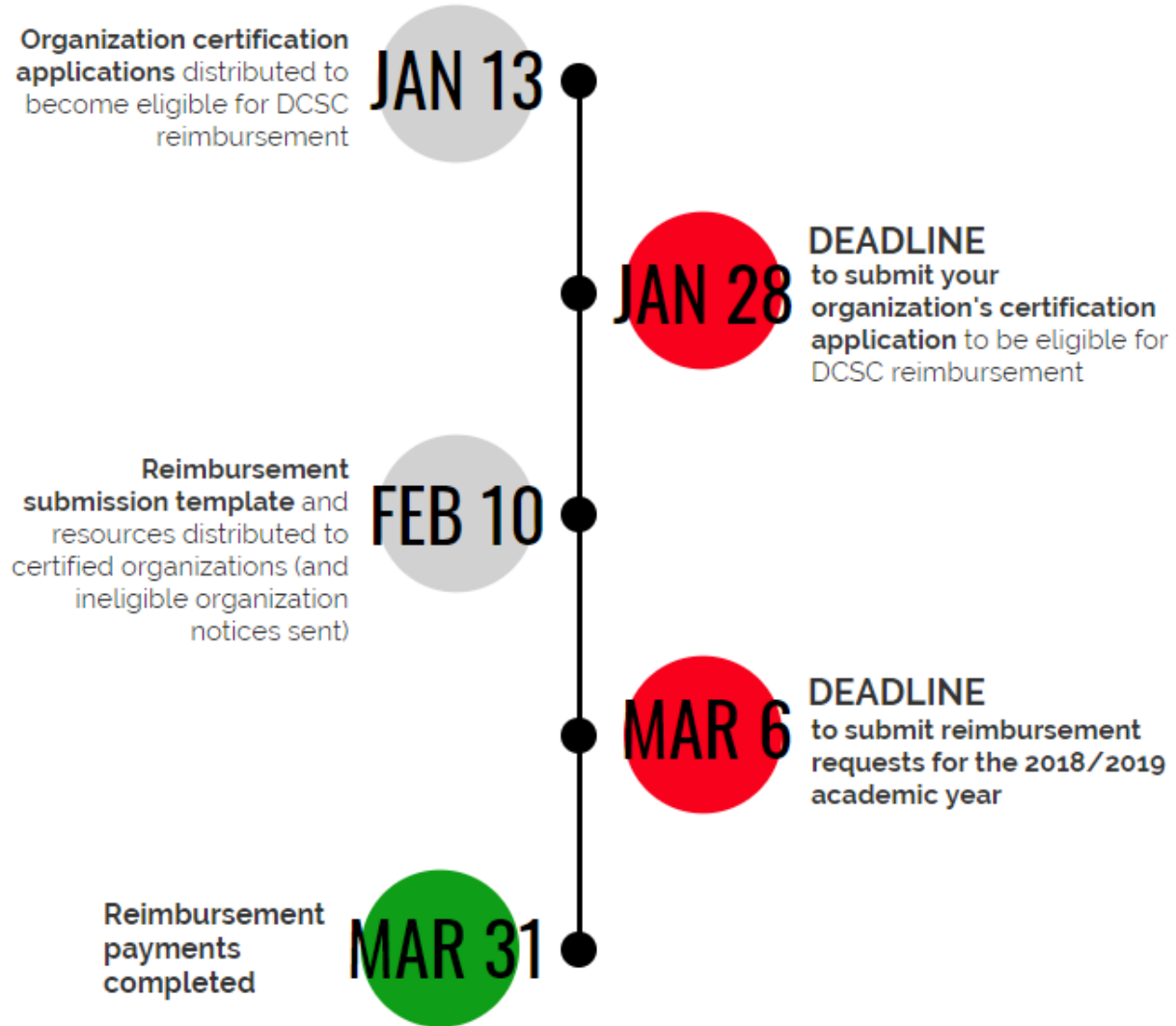
- Oversight provided by Office of Children's Affairs
- Annual contract, with renewal at City's option
 - Sunset provision after 12 years
- Administration expenses limited to 5% of tax collected (10% in first year only)
- 95% of tax reserved for reimbursement to scholarship organizations

Annual Reporting

Presentation to Mayor, City Council, Auditor and Public

- Number of students receiving funds
- Metrics tracking students year over year
- Number of organizations receiving funds
- Inventory of student support services
- Financial review
- Annual audited financial statements

Timetable to first Distribution



City Council- Proposed Changes

- **Tuition**
 - Scholarships and expands definition
- **Residency**
 - Denver Resident for 36 months prior or attended High School in Denver for past 36 months. (One residence verification, not annually)
- **Accreditation**
 - Nationally or regionally accredited
- **Support Services**
 - Expands definition
- **Financial Aid**
 - Only determined at first year of post-secondary education
- **Supported Organizations**
 - Include school districts and school management organizations

Measures of Success

- Increase number of Denver residents graduating from post secondary education and trade schools
- Increase capacity of organizations to provide scholarships & support services
- Strengthen Denver's workforce

DCSC

Questions?