

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Digest: The Act provides funds for programs to make college more affordable. (Flesch Readability Score: 64.9).

Appropriates moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the purpose of carrying out Oregon's Open Educational Resources (OER) Program.

Appropriates moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the purpose of the establishment and awarding of grants for basic needs programming at public institutions of higher education.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to higher education affordability; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-**
5 **ation, there is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating**
6 **Commission, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, out of the General**
7 **Fund, the amount of \$1,000,000, for the purposes of carrying out**
8 **Oregon's Open Educational Resources (OER) Program established in**
9 **ORS 348.748 to 348.757.**

10 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

11 **(a) "Basic needs programming" means a program established by a**
12 **public institution of higher education to help students at the public**
13 **institution apply for and receive assistance from benefits programs as**
14 **defined in ORS 350.262.**

15 **(b) "Public institution of higher education" means:**

16 **(A) A public university listed in ORS 352.002; and**

1 (B) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341.

2 (2) When the Higher Education Coordinating Commission deter-
3 mines that sufficient moneys are available, the commission shall ad-
4 minister a grant program to provide funding for basic needs
5 programming.

6 (3) Each public institution of higher education may submit an ap-
7 plication to the commission in accordance with subsections (4) and (5)
8 of this section for the purpose of receiving a grant to support basic
9 needs programming at that public institution.

10 (4) The commission shall by rule establish a process for public in-
11 stitutions of higher education to apply for grant moneys under this
12 section.

13 (5) The commission shall adopt any rules necessary for the admin-
14 istration of this section, including:

15 (a) Specifying the form and timelines for submitting an application
16 for a grant under this section;

17 (b) Calculating the amount to award to grant recipients under this
18 section; and

19 (c) Collecting data required to evaluate program effectiveness.

20 (6) The commission shall prioritize the awarding of grants under
21 this section based on the following:

22 (a) The amount of funding requested;

23 (b) A description of how the funds requested would support the ex-
24 pansion and enhancement of basic needs programming at the public
25 institution of higher education;

26 (c) Any potential impact on students without the requested funding;

27 (d) A proposed mechanism for the distribution of any funding re-
28 ceived;

29 (e) A proposed timeline, including any benchmarks, for funding
30 distribution;

31 (f) The public institution's anticipated costs necessary for the op-

1 **eration of the public institution;**

2 **(g) The number of students served through basic needs program-**
3 **ming at the public institution, including those students who are in a**
4 **historically underrepresented population; and**

5 **(h) The number of students at the public institution who are re-**
6 **cipients of an award from the Oregon Opportunity Grant program es-**
7 **tablished under ORS 348.205.**

8 **(7) The commission shall submit a report in the manner provided**
9 **by ORS 192.245 to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly**
10 **related to higher education no later than September 15, 2025. The re-**
11 **port submitted under this subsection must include an assessment of**
12 **how the awarding of grants under this section impacted the basic**
13 **needs programming at each public institution.**

14 **SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-**
15 **ation, there is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating**
16 **Commission, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, out of the General**
17 **Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000, to fund the grant program described**
18 **in section 2 of this 2024 Act.**

19 **SECTION 4. Section 2 of this 2024 Act is repealed on January 2, 2026.**

20 **SECTION 5. This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-**
21 **ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-**
22 **clared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect on its passage.**

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