



**2023-24 REPORT**

# LGBTQ+ Programs

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office | Sonya Christian, Chancellor





California  
Community  
Colleges

**SONYA CHRISTIAN**  
Chancellor

July 1, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: LGBTQ+ 2023-2024 Legislative Report**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Board of Governors for the California Community College Chancellor Office, I am pleased to present to you the California Community Colleges report on LGBTQ+ programs.

Pursuant to reporting requirements in the Budget Act of 2021 (AB 132 Sec 89. (e)), the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is required to report to the Legislature on the use of funds appropriated; the number of colleges receiving funds; the amount per college; how colleges plan to use these funds; and any recommendations for future state funding. This report illuminates the diverse range of activities implemented to support the success of LGBTQ+ students. These activities show how designing educational spaces with LGBTQ+ experiences in mind also benefit the entire student body.

Vice Chancellor for Educational Services and Support Rebecca Ruan- O'Shaughnessy may be contacted for questions and comments at [rruan-oshaghnessy@cccco.edu](mailto:rruan-oshaghnessy@cccco.edu)

Thank you for your interest in these programs and the students they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonya Christian".

Sonya Christian, Chancellor

Enclosure: Report

**Chancellor's Office**

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# 2023-24 LGBTQ+ PROGRAMS REPORT

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Prepared By

**California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office**



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## INTRODUCTION

Funding In Fiscal Year 2023-24, Gov. Gavin Newsom and the State Legislature allocated \$10,000,000 in one-time funding with the intent to continue on a one-time basis for the following two academic years: 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. The [AB 102 Budget Act of 2023](#) provided additional support to LGBTQ+ students, and specifically directed the investment toward evidence-based practices:

- (1) LGBTQ+ centers.
- (2) Development of safe zones and providing safe zone training.
- (3) Mental health services.
- (4) Housing insecurity services.
- (5) LGBTQ+ learning communities.
- (6) Support for gay and straight alliance clubs.
- (7) LGBTQ+ curriculum development.
- (8) Lavender graduation.
- (9) Workshops or speaker series.
- (10) Other proven initiatives.

The California Community Colleges Vision 2030 centers on Equity in Access, Equity in Support and Equity in Success. Each of these goals align with college commitments to foster an environment of unconditional belonging and support for our LGBTQ+ community. College research studies show that LGBTQ+ student success is correlated with campus cultures that welcome, affirm and prioritize students, denounce discrimination, equalize disproportionate levels of homelessness and support basic needs (Johnson, et al., 2022). Unconditional belonging—a powerful force that shapes the equitable higher education journey of every student in support of Vision 2030—transcends the confines of identity, reaching across all facets of education to create an environment where each student feels valued, respected and empowered to excel. Creating safe and inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ students contributes to the broader goal of ensuring that every student, regardless of their background, identity or orientation, has equal access to educational opportunities and resources. This comprehensive approach enriches the educational experience for LGBTQ+ students; and in doing so, this approach bolsters the collective strength and resilience of the entire community college system in California. Lastly, this state investment advances the system’s [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility](#) (DEIA) commitment by recognizing and addressing the unique challenges faced by LGBTQ+ students.

## FUNDING ALLOCATION FORMULA AND DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS

Education Code mandates that grants of up to \$900,000 shall be provided to “community college districts based on the proportional share of students they serve and equity metrics to ensure that small rural colleges are able to access to the grants” ([AB 102 Budget Act of 2023](#)). To that end, the Chancellor’s Office calculated community colleges allocations for this grant based on the formula detailed below:

- Allocations per district were capped at \$900,000;
- Baseline funding of \$20,000 for each college;
- 75% of the remaining appropriation calculated based on student headcount; and
- 25% of the remaining appropriation calculated based on the number of Pell Grant recipients.

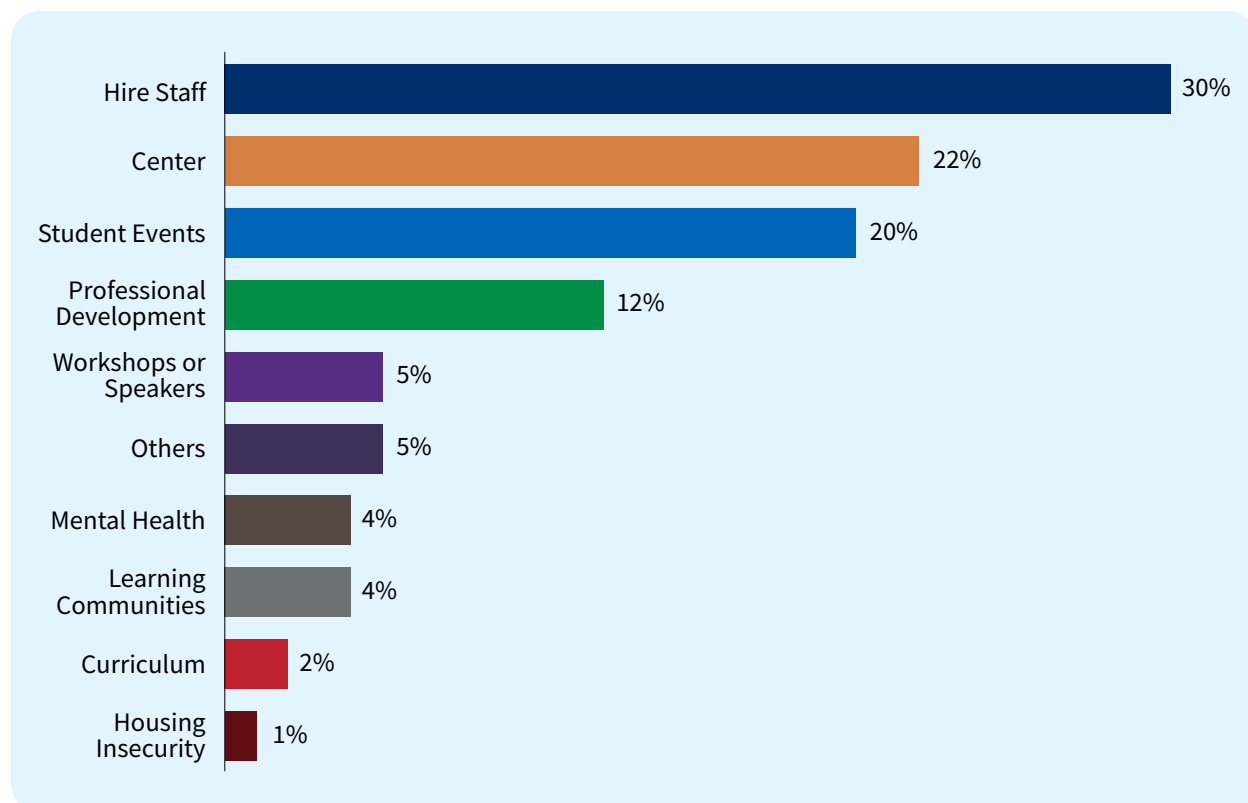
See Appendix A for details regarding the amount allocated to each college.

## PLANNING PRIORITIES AND USE OF FUNDS

Since the inception of the program, campus LGBTQ+ program coordinators have focused on: (1) intentionally improving all aspects of campus culture to strengthen a sense of unconditional belonging, and (2) providing targeted support for LGBTQ+ students.

Figure 1, “College Top Planning Priorities and Use of Funds,” summarizes the priorities the 115 brick and mortar community colleges have either engaged in or plan to dedicate their resources to advance the outcomes of LGBTQ+ students.

**Figure 1: College Top Planning Priorities and Use of Fun**



**Hiring Dedicated Staff.** Currently, 48 of the 115 colleges have college personnel dedicated to serving LGBTQ+ students. Additionally, 32 of the remaining 67 colleges without dedicated staff planned to hire permanent or temporary staff with the 2023-2024 funding. Colleges reported that although hiring is a priority and a need, they face challenges hiring permanent personnel with fluid funding.

**Establishing LGBTQ+ Campus Centers.** The establishment of LGBTQ+ Centers has dramatically increased since 2021-2022. During the 2021-2022 funding year, only fourteen of the 115 physical California community colleges had at least one LGBTQ+ center on their college campus, and sixteen were in development. Currently, 27 colleges have a dedicated LGBTQ+ space, and 23 colleges have a shared space.

**Lavender Graduations.** Lavender Graduations are also increasing across campuses, creating a space of acceptance and celebration for LGBTQ+ students—much like other graduation ceremonies for specific groups of students. Much like Pride parades and drag shows, celebrations like Lavender Graduations promote institutional efforts of acceptance and understanding by proudly celebrating the accomplishments of the LGBTQ+ community (Ayala, 2022).

## **MAXIMIZING PROGRAM IMPACT AND ADVANCING STUDENT SUCCESS**

This one-time investment has resulted in fundamental infrastructure on college campuses that supports Vision 2030 alignment and strengthens DEIA-affirming culture across our system. Funding also resulted in the creation of a California Virtual Campus course that offers LGBTQ+ professional development. The progress achieved through this investment, which continues to propel LGBTQ+ student success forward, hinges upon strategic and sustained measures. To ensure the enduring presence of critical resources and system progress for LGBTQ+ students, a commitment to ongoing funding is crucial.

The following key strategies will sustain and amplify the positive outcomes of this program:

### **1) LGBTQ+ SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE**

The impact of LGBTQ+ support infrastructure, hiring dedicated personnel, LGBTQ+ centers and evidence-based interventions, cannot be overstated in fostering an inclusive educational environment for the LGBTQ+ students. LGBTQ+ centers serve as vital hubs for community-building, providing a haven where students can find understanding, acceptance, and the resources they need to thrive. These centers facilitate networking, offer educational programs, and provide mental health support, all of which contribute to improved academic success and overall well-being.

### **2) UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TOWARD UNCONDITIONAL BELONGING**

In the journey toward creating a truly inclusive and equitable learning environment for LGBTQ+ students, the concept of intersectionality emerges as a crucial lens through which our system and campuses must view the experiences of LGBTQ+ students. Addressing intersectionality is pivotal, as it acknowledges the interconnectedness of various identities – gender, sexual orientation, race, socioeconomic status and more – which collectively shape an individual’s experiences. LGBTQ+ students often face unique and compound challenges due to their intersecting identities.

While targeted investments in the LGBTQ+ program are essential to providing specific resources and support, it is equally important to leverage the California Community Colleges' DEIA efforts to address systemic barriers and promote a culture of unconditional belonging. These efforts include cultivating a campus climate that removes inequitable barriers and student friction points, ensuring a culturally relevant curriculum that celebrates diversity and empowers students to see themselves reflected in their education, and strengthening robust professional development activities that deepen the system's competency to deliver culturally competent services that are resonate with diverse student populations. By focusing resources and efforts on both sustaining the LGBTQ+ program and accelerating the system's DEIA priorities, California community colleges have a unique opportunity to tap into a comprehensive strategy that will magnifies the positive impact of the LGBTQ+ program.

### **3) STRENGTHENING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE DESIGN AND DELIVERY FOR LGBTQ+ STUDENTS**

The mental health journey of LGBTQ+ students is often marked by distinct challenges that require tailored approaches to design and delivery of mental health services. Navigating an environment that may not always be fully affirming of their identities, these students contend with issues like stigma, discrimination, and internalized shame, all of which can significantly impact their psychological well-being. Therefore, it is imperative that mental health services are thoughtfully designed to cater to the unique needs of LGBTQ+ students.

By embracing the unique needs of LGBTQ+ students in the design and delivery of mental health services, California community colleges are taking a crucial step towards addressing mental health inequity and fostering a sense of unconditional belonging for the LGBTQ+ students. It is critical to intentionally collaborate between campus LGBTQ+ organizations, public and non-profit mental health partners, and other support providers to ensure that mental health services are inclusive and affirming of LGBTQ+ students, including through cultural competency training, creating visible and welcoming spaces within mental health facilities, tailored support groups, culturally relevant services and LGBTQ+ inclusive resources.

## REFERENCES AND RELATED MATERIALS

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## APPENDIX A: AMOUNT ALLOCATED PER COLLEGE

District	College	Allocation
Allan Hancock	Allan Hancock College	\$86,463
Antelope Valley	Antelope Valley College	\$90,035
Barstow	Barstow College	\$41,255
Butte	Butte College	\$77,656
Cabrillo	Cabrillo College	\$72,216
Cerritos	Cerritos College	\$146,531
Chabot-Las Positas	Chabot College	\$82,465
Chabot-Las Positas	Las Positas College	\$55,759
Chaffey	Chaffey College	\$133,897
Citrus	Citrus College	\$83,021
Coast	Coastline Community College	\$69,086

District	College	Allocation
Coast	Golden West College	\$84,477
Coast	Orange Coast College	\$109,504
Compton	Compton College	\$43,705
Contra Costa	Contra Costa College	\$53,488
Contra Costa	Diablo Valley College	\$108,675
Contra Costa	Los Medanos College	\$64,426
Copper Mountain	Copper Mountain	\$30,626
Desert	Desert, College of the	\$84,646
El Camino	El Camino College	\$136,994
Feather River	Feather River College	\$28,477
Foothill - De Anza	De Anza College	\$114,536
Foothill - De Anza	Foothill College	\$96,861
Gavilan	Gavilan College	\$49,306
Glendale	Glendale College	\$103,072
Grossmont-Cuyamaca	Cuyamaca College	\$66,206
Grossmont-Cuyamaca	Grossmont College	\$91,387
Hartnell	Hartnell College	\$71,013
Imperial	Imperial	\$75,196
Kern	Bakersfield College	\$166,294
Kern	Cerro Coso College	\$47,942
Kern	Porterville College	\$43,183
Lake Tahoe	Lake Tahoe Community College	\$41,125
Lassen	Lassen College	\$29,549
Long Beach	Long Beach City College	\$170,853
Los Angeles	East Los Angeles College	\$173,836
Los Angeles	L.A. City College	\$138,507
Los Angeles	L.A. Harbor College	\$74,042
Los Angeles	L.A. Mission College	\$73,328
Los Angeles	L.A. Pierce College	\$97,521
Los Angeles	L.A. Southwest College	\$70,252
Los Angeles	L.A. Trade-Tech College	\$83,865

District	College	Allocation
Los Angeles	L.A. Valley College	\$107,216
Los Angeles	West Los Angeles College	\$81,433
Los Rios	American River College	\$176,042
Los Rios	Cosumnes River College	\$102,737
Los Rios	Folsom Lake College	\$69,793
Los Rios	Sacramento City College	\$133,851
Marin	Marin, College of	\$63,613
Mendocino-Lake	Mendocino College	\$41,719
Merced	Merced College	\$81,681
Mira Costa	Mira Costa College	\$94,687
Monterey	Monterey Peninsula College	\$57,922
Mt. San Antonio	Mt. San Antonio College	\$254,923
Mt. San Jacinto	Mt. San Jacinto College	\$111,775
Napa Valley	Napa Valley College	\$44,460
North Orange	Cypress College	\$100,481
North Orange	Fullerton College	\$122,824
Ohlone	Ohlone College	\$73,042
Palo Verde	Palo Verde	\$38,285
Palomar	Palomar Community College	\$116,708
Pasadena	Pasadena City College	\$150,594
Peralta	College of Alameda	\$48,796
Peralta	Berkeley City College	\$53,161
Peralta	Laney College	\$68,765
Peralta	Merritt College	\$55,166
Rancho Santiago	Santa Ana College	\$195,255
Rancho Santiago	Santiago Canyon College	\$107,606
Redwoods	College of the Redwoods	\$45,141
Rio Hondo	Rio Hondo College	\$108,110
Riverside	Moreno Valley College	\$68,185
Riverside	Norco College	\$68,611
Riverside	Riverside City College	\$135,103

District	College	Allocation
San Bernardino	Crafton Hills College	\$45,175
San Bernardino	San Bernardino Valley College	\$83,036
San Diego	San Diego City College	\$100,411
San Diego	San Diego Mesa College	\$119,683
San Diego	San Diego Miramar	\$92,471
San Francisco	San Francisco City College	\$144,438
San Joaquin	San Joaquin Delta College	\$115,175
San Jose - Evergreen	Evergreen Valley College	\$69,128
San Jose - Evergreen	San Jose City College	\$64,017
San Luis Obispo	Cuesta College	\$75,922
San Mateo	Canada College	\$48,525
San Mateo	College of San Mateo	\$60,255
San Mateo	Skyline College	\$68,184
Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara City College	\$97,277
Santa Clarita	Canyons, College of the	\$135,189
Santa Monica	Santa Monica College	\$162,502
Sequoias	College of the Sequoias	\$94,024
Shasta-Tehama-Trinity	Shasta College	\$70,161
Sierra	Sierra College	\$107,034
Siskiyou	College of the Siskiyou	\$32,130
Solano	Solano College	\$65,325
Sonoma	Santa Rosa Jr. College	\$117,749
South Orange	Irvine Valley College	\$90,741
South Orange	Saddleback College	\$137,191
Southwestern	Southwestern College	\$119,420
State Center	Clovis Community College	\$66,634
State Center	Fresno City College	\$154,325
State Center	Madera College	\$46,717
State Center	Reedley Community College	\$66,448
Ventura	Moorpark College	\$91,186
Ventura	Oxnard College	\$63,968



District	College	Allocation
Ventura	Ventura College	\$82,580
Victor Valley	Victor Valley College	\$88,244
West Hills	West Hills College Coalinga	\$39,393
West Hills	West Hills College Lemoore	\$45,452
West Kern	Taft College	\$44,149
West Valley - Mission	Mission College	\$57,236
West Valley - Mission	West Valley College	\$57,854
Yosemite	Columbia College	\$33,180
Yosemite	Modesto Junior College	\$114,409
Yuba	Woodland Community College	\$41,464
Yuba	Yuba College	\$52,637



Front cover photo: Napa Valley College

Photo at right: Fullerton College

Back cover photo: Fullerton College



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