



COLORADO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

CARE FORWARD COLORADO

SBCCOE | AUGUST 2024

www.cccs.edu

Background

- Care Forward Colorado was made possible by Senate Bill 22-226, which dedicated \$26 million in state recovery dollars to train healthcare workers across Colorado.
- Designed to help the state rebuild its healthcare workforce while providing zero-cost pathways that lead to living-wage, high-growth careers.
- This first CCCS report is focused on analyzing the performance outcomes data for two academic years for students who enrolled at the 13 colleges of the CCCS. CCCS plans to publish two follow on reports when additional data becomes available.
- Many schools deployed “first-dollar program” means that funds were provided to cover the cost of tuition, fees, etc before any other financial aid grant or awarded funding.



Funding Distribution

- After allowable administrative and marketing deductions, \$25,715,000 was distributed to 19 institutions of higher education in Colorado.
- The 13 colleges of the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) were allocated a total of \$17,383,335.54
 - *Estimated average funding of \$2,766.85 per participant
- The remaining \$8,331,664.46 was distributed to the state's local district colleges, area technical colleges, and CMU Tech

*Based on spend through May 2024



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Top Five Programs (1-Year Certificates)

- Emergency Medical Tech
- Nursing Aid (CNA)
- Health Information / Medical Records
- Medical Assistant
- Phlebotomy



A photograph of a man in a dark jacket sitting at a table on a train, writing in a notebook. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text "Key Findings" is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font across the middle of the image. A thin yellow line is positioned to the left of the text, starting from the top and extending downwards.

Key Findings

Key Findings

- **Enrollment:** There was a total of 5,604 unduplicated Care Forward recipients for academic years (AY) 22-23 and 23-24. Emergency Medical Tech certificates were the most popular programs, with a significant portion of recipients being students of color (46%), first-generation (60.7%), and adult learners aged 25 and older (56.9%).
- **Number of credits taken:** Care Forward recipients registered for more credits than students in the same program who did not receive Care Forward funds. This trend of higher credit registration among Care Forward recipients was consistent across the majority of CCCS colleges, across different types of credentials (programs), and across various demographic groups of students.



Key Findings

- **Pass rate:** Care Forward recipients passed courses at a higher rate than non-Care Forward students.
- **Credential completion:** Care Forward recipients completed their credentials at a higher rate than non-Care Forward students (40.4% vs. 23.2%).
 - Overall, students of color were less likely to complete thsmaller among Care Forward recipients (40.2% vs. 40.6%).
- **Post-graduation wage:** Care Forward recipients attained a higher wage following their graduation. The median difference between pre- and post-graduation wage among Care Forward recipients was \$14,151.



Key Findings

Enrollments and Demographics

- An average of 46% of the Care Forward recipients were students of color, 40.6% were Pell eligible, 60.7% were first-generation, and 56.9% were adult learners of age 25 and older.
 - Compared with AY22-23 overall CCCS population, a higher proportion of Care Forward students were students of color (46% vs. 40.8%), first-generation (60.7 vs. 44.3%), and adult learners (56.9% vs. 28.6%).

Key Findings

Attempted Credits and Course Pass Rates

- Care Forward recipients registered for more credits than those that did not receive funding (refers to non-Care Forward students in this report).
 - This trend was consistent across the vast majority of CCCS colleges, across different credential types, and across various demographic groups.
- Care Forward recipients not only registered for more credits than non-Care Forward students, but they also passed those courses at a higher rate as well.

Key Findings

Wages

- Care Forward recipients tended to be higher after graduation than their non-Care Forward counterparts, and they tended to graduate at a higher rate as well.

Conclusion

- Care Forward program has been observed to correlate with increased student participation and attainment within supported programs.
 - Not only do Care Forward recipients tend to register for more semester credits on average, but they also tend to pass those courses at a higher rate.
 - These two trends in tandem allow students to progress through a program of study quicker, as well as enter the workforce and boost wages sooner.

Next Steps

- Care Forward is a relatively new program, there were some inherent limitations with data availability, most notably with the availability of wage data after graduation.
 - As such, more follow-ups could be warranted regarding wage outcomes and credential completion as more data becomes available over time.