

NC Community College System Capital Needs

**Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Building and
Infrastructure Needs of the State**

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NCCCS 101

- **System of 58 community colleges**
 - State Board of Community Colleges establishes statewide policies.
 - Each college is governed by a local board of trustees.
- **Provide technical education and college transfer (credit) programs, workforce continuing education, and basic skills instruction.**
- **Serve around 800,000 students annually, which equate to about 220,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) students.**

Financial Support of Community Colleges

State

G.S. 115D-31

- **Plant fund**
 - **Furniture and equipment for administrative and instructional purposes**
- **Operating costs**
 - **Instruction**
 - **Administration**
 - **Related support services**

Local

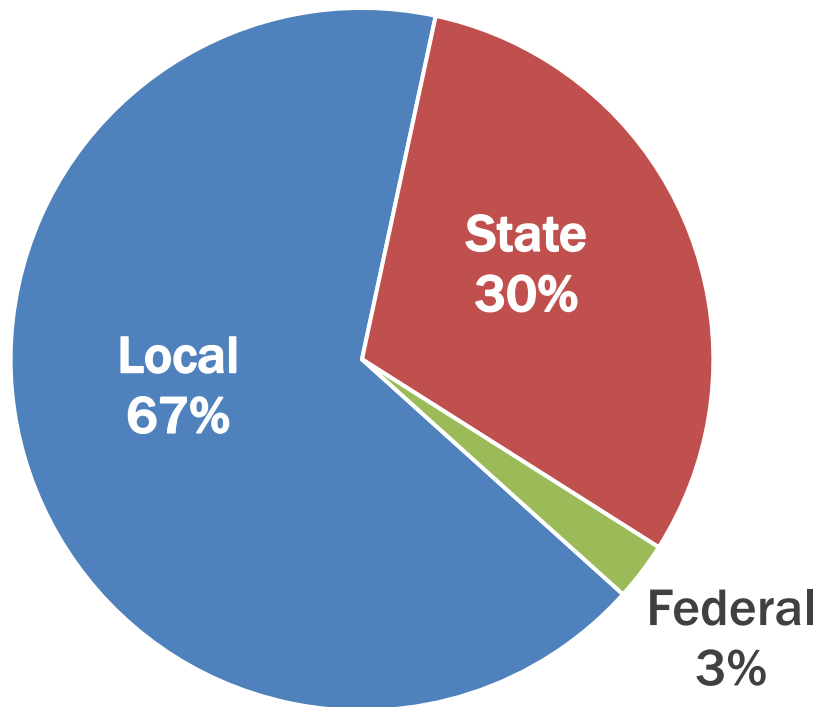
G.S. 115D-32

- **Plant Fund**
 - **Land acquisition**
 - **New construction/R&R**
 - **Other furniture & equipment**
- **Operating costs**
 - **Plant operation and maintenance**
 - **Related support services**

While capital construction is the legal responsibility of the county, G.S. 115D-31 authorizes the State to provide capital funds to local institutions, provided that it is matched on a dollar-to-dollar basis.

Historic Capital Funding

Funds Expended or Obligated (1963-2015)



State Funding for CI

- **State Bond Funds**
 - 1993 Bond: \$250 million
 - 2000 Higher Education Bond: \$600 million
 - 2016 Connect NC Bond: \$350 million
- **General Fund Appropriations**
 - Appropriated in Community College (not Capital) section of the budget
 - Most appropriations in the past were designated for specific colleges (“special projects”)

Unlike public schools, there is no recurring funding source for community college capital needs.

Governance & Oversight

CI Project Approvals

- **Local board of trustees**
- **State Board of Community College**
 - **System Office CI Staff = 2.5 employees**
 - **SBCC approval requires county manager/finance officer certification of:**
 - **Availability of county funds for project (if applicable)**
 - **Estimated annual operating and utility costs have been reviewed and that this info will be “shared with the proper county officials to seek an appropriate adjustment to the college’s budget as the new facility is brought online.”**

Governance & Oversight

Project Oversight

- **With the exception of 3 colleges with delegated authority, State Construction Office reviews and oversees college CI projects per G.S. 143-341.**
 - This is often an issue of conflict with county commissioners, particularly if project is 100% locally-funded and sometimes results in local bills.
- **System Office**
 - Provides colleges technical assistance on CI process questions.
 - Reviews and approves for payment all invoices supported with State funds.

System-wide CI Needs

- Identification of CI priorities is locally driven.
- System Office surveys colleges annually on top new construction and R&R needs.
- Most recent survey of colleges' top 3 CI priorities (new construction and/or R&R) exceeded \$2 billion.
- Needs are driven by:
 - Aging facilities
 - Enrollment growth
 - Changing workforce needs