



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TAB I

March 26, 2021

Board of Higher Education American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Stimulus Funding Priorities

The United States Congress recently passed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package. While the federal funding will expand the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, which includes direct benefits for students and funding for institutions, the act also appropriates over \$350 billion in aid for state and local governments, from which Utah is estimated to receive over \$2.7 billion.

When Utah receives the state and local federal stimulus funding, the Legislature may seek funding opportunities in higher education. Although legislative leadership and the Governor are in the early stages of determining how much money Utah will receive—what purposes it can be used for, and where it will be appropriated—the Board should be prepared to present prioritized funding needs for the System.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Board adopt the following funding priorities for American Rescue Plan Act appropriation opportunities:

- Expanding the Utah college access advising program
- Funding an advocacy campaign for the value of higher education and expanding awareness of higher education opportunities
- Funding capital projects
- Funding the Keys to Success program
- Investing in systemwide IT infrastructure
- Funding the study and implementation of shared services
- Technical education tuition assistance