



I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Higher education groups ask Congress for at least \$120 billion in relief** – The American Council on Education, five other CEF members, and other higher education organizations [wrote to Congress](#) on Thursday [asking for at least \\$120 billion in higher education assistance in the next COVID-relief appropriations bill](#). The letter updates earlier requests for smaller amounts, noting dramatically decreased revenues and increased costs associated with the pandemic. The letter includes the impact of state budget cuts on higher education budgets, and how the funding cuts affect students, faculty and staff, and the broader economy. The effects of the pandemic on higher education were also highlighted in a [New York Times article](#) about the cuts in courses, faculty, and staff that some colleges and universities are already making as a result of funding losses. [A number of K-12 organizations this Spring asked for more than \\$200 billion in relief for elementary and secondary education](#).
- **COVID-relief negotiations stalled** – Congress is not going to reach agreement and pass a relief bill before the election despite conceptual support for a “big” package from the Administration and the House passage of two different options of the Heroes Act. The outlook for passage in a lame-duck session of Congress is uncertain and will likely depend upon economic and stock market movement, a potential worsening of COVID health outcomes, and the willingness of Republican Senators to vote for a package larger than what they have already proposed.

II. CEF member information

- **Please take a moment to complete CEF’s brief survey** – Each fall, CEF surveys its membership to ensure we are providing the benefits you want and to ask for suggestions for improvement. [The survey will take only a few minutes, and all responses are anonymous](#). Your feedback will help us tailor our activities, advocacy, and information to what you most value. Please take the time to respond and feel free to comment on areas that were not addressed. [Click here](#) to take the survey.
- **Reminder: nominations to run for CEF’s 2021 Board are due on Monday** – [If you’re interested in running for a position on CEF’s 2021 Board of Directors, nominations are due this Monday, November 2](#) - the nomination form is attached. In December, CEF members will elect 7 members to CEF’s 2021 Board of Directors: three officers who will serve a one-year term and four other Board members who will serve two-year terms. The new president will appoint two additional members.

III. Events

- **ACCT briefing on “Increasing the Pell Maximum Award” tomorrow** – CEF member the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) is hosting a three-part webinar series on strengthening the Pell Grant program, with the first briefing tomorrow, Oct. 29, at 2:00 p.m. ET. Information and registration for tomorrow’s briefing, “Increasing the Pell Maximum Award - an Imperative to Meet Students’ True College Costs,” is online [here](#).

- **CEF Briefing for congressional staff and CEF members on “State Education Budgets and the Impact of COVID-19”** – Thursday, November 12, 2-3:30 p.m. ET, via Zoom. Panelists will discuss how state education budgets work and why some states are already cutting budgets while others are able to hold off for now. Panelists will also address the impact of looming state revenue shortages on pre-K-12 education as well as the possible impacts on post-secondary education, both for students and institutions of higher education. Please [RSVP here](#) - you must register in advance to get the Zoom webinar link.
 - Panelists:**
 - [Michael Griffith](#), Senior Researcher and Policy Analyst, Learning Policy Institute
 - [Dr. Jennifer Ma](#), Senior Policy Research Scientist, The College Board
 - Additional panelist pending confirmation

- **CEF’s upcoming schedule** – CEF won’t be convening Friday meetings until Congress returns after the election, but below are the dates of other CEF events for the next month.
 - **Monday, Nov. 2** – Deadline to submit a nomination to run for CEF’s Board of Directors. See information above.
 - **Thursday, Nov. 12** – 2:00 -3:30 p.m. ET, Briefing for CEF members and congressional education staffers on state education budgets and the impact of COVID-19. See registration and details above.
 - **Friday, Nov. 13** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Nov. 16-20** – #HearOurEdStories week on social media.
 - **Tuesday, Nov. 17 (tent)** – Twitterchat on priorities for education funding next year. We will share materials in advance.
 - **Friday, Nov. 20** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Tuesday, Nov 24** - 2021 CEF Board nominations and recommended slate shared in advance of annual meeting on Dec. 11.
 - **Friday, Nov. 27** – No Friday meeting the day after Thanksgiving.

- Sarah