

# **Greenbook**

## **LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget**

### **Department of Higher Education**

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Attachment:

    Appropriation Spreadsheet

# LBO Greenbook

## Department of Higher Education

### Quick look...

- The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) oversees and coordinates Ohio's network of public and private, nonprofit colleges and universities and Ohio Technical Centers.
- Total budget: \$3.16 billion in FY 2026 and \$3.03 billion in FY 2027.
- State Share of Instruction (SSI) increases by 1.7% in FY 2026 and 1.0% in FY 2027. SSI comprises 70.0% of the \$6.19 billion total biennial budget for ODHE.
- The budget provides \$220.6 million in FY 2026 and \$207.4 million in FY 2027 for need-based student financial aid through the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) Program.
- The budget also boosts funding for the Governor's Merit, War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children, and Choose Ohio First scholarship programs. It also provides \$82.7 million in non-GRF support in FY 2026 for revolving loans to state institutions of higher education that desire to reduce the physical square footage of their campuses.

Fund Group	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
General Revenue	\$2,824,220,362	\$2,979,633,249	\$3,016,188,191	\$2,994,470,701
Dedicated Purpose	\$101,720,756	\$78,112,128	\$111,985,529	\$19,376,683
Third Frontier Bond	\$7,925,641	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000
Federal	\$27,149,228	\$27,706,309	\$26,852,738	\$7,872,525
Total	\$2,961,015,987	\$3,093,451,687	\$3,163,026,458	\$3,029,719,909
% change	--	4.5%	2.2%	-4.2%
GRF % change	--	5.5%	1.2%	-0.7%

## Overview

### Agency overview

The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) oversees and coordinates Ohio's network of public colleges and universities, Ohio Technical Centers, and a host of independent colleges and universities. It authorizes and approves new degree programs at existing institutions, advises the Governor and the General Assembly on higher education policy, advocates for and manages state operating and capital funds for public colleges and universities and student financial aid programs for all students, provides fiscal oversight of all public institutions, identifies gaps in Ohio's trained workforce, and oversees the development of workforce education to fulfill the needs of Ohio's industries, among other responsibilities. ODHE is led by the Chancellor of Higher Education, who is appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

## Appropriation summary

The budget provides total appropriations of \$3.16 billion in FY 2026 and \$3.03 billion in FY 2027 for ODHE. The preceding table shown in the “**Quick look**” section presents the appropriations by fund group. The General Revenue Fund (GRF) supports 97.1% of the budget appropriations for ODHE. GRF appropriations increase by 1.2% in FY 2026 compared to FY 2025 actual spending and decrease by 0.7% from FY 2026 to FY 2027. The GRF increase in FY 2026 is mostly for State Share of Instruction (SSI); Governor’s Merit, War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans’ Children, and Choose Ohio First grant and scholarship programs; and supplemental funding for the Ohio State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. Non-GRF appropriations make up the remaining 2.9% of ODHE’s budget, including Dedicated Purpose Fund (DPF) supported items (2.1%), federal funds (0.6%), and Third Frontier bond funds (0.3%). DPF appropriations increase by 43.4% in FY 2026 compared to FY 2025 spending primarily due to \$82.7 million appropriated for revolving loans to state institutions of higher education that desire to reduce the physical square footage of their campuses. Federal funding decreases in FY 2027 due to the budget’s transfer of the administration of the federal Aspire Program from ODHE to the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) beginning that same fiscal year. Aspire provides grants to develop and administer courses with a focus on instruction in basic literacy, workplace literacy, family literacy, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), and preparation for high school equivalency tests.

## State Share of Instruction

The SSI formula is used to distribute the core state operating funding for public higher education. Overall, the budget provides GRF line item 235501, State Share of Instruction, with appropriations of \$2.16 billion in FY 2026, an increase of \$36.2 million (1.7%), and \$2.18 billion in FY 2027, an increase of \$21.4 million (1.0%). For the most part, the budget continues the traditional SSI formula used for the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium. The traditional SSI formula computes funding separately for two sectors: (1) the university main and regional campus sector (universities), and (2) the community college sector, which includes community colleges, state community colleges, and technical colleges.

In addition to the traditional SSI formula allocations, the budget establishes two new SSI funding components and earmarks a total of \$17.5 million in each fiscal year for five centers for civics, culture, and society from GRF line item 235501, State Share of Instruction. The budget allocates line item 235501 as follows:

- An earmark of up to \$100.0 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 to be distributed to state institutions according to a formula established by the Chancellor based on employment outcomes of the graduates of each college and university, using data from the U.S. Census Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes project. In counting students under this formula, the Chancellor must use as a factor employment by the graduates of each institution, measured at the two-digit level of the Classification of Instructional Programs codes by the National Center for Education Statistics. The budget also requires that universities and community colleges receive 76.8% and 23.2%, respectively, of this earmark in each fiscal year.

- An earmark of up to \$10.0 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 to be distributed to state institutions according to a formula devised by the Chancellor that provides funding bonuses of \$10,000 per graduate for technician-aligned associate degrees, as determined by the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT), that are produced above a historical baseline of institutional production, as calculated by the Chancellor. In developing this formula, the Chancellor must give priority to retention-based outcomes and count only graduates that are employed by an Ohio-based employer.
- An earmark of \$8.5 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 to be distributed to Ohio State University (OSU) to support the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society.
- An earmark of \$3.0 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 to be distributed to the University of Toledo (UTO) to support the Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership.
- An earmark of \$2.0 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 to be distributed to Miami University (MUN) to support its center for civics, culture, and society.
- An earmark of \$2.0 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 to be distributed to Cleveland State University (CLS) to support its center for civics, culture, and society.
- An earmark of \$2.0 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 to be distributed to Wright State University (WSU) to support its center for civics, culture, and workforce development.
- The remainder distributed according to the traditional SSI formula, with 23.2% being distributed to the community colleges and 76.8% being distributed to the universities.

Table 1 summarizes the total SSI funding under line item 235501 by earmarks for FY 2025 (before capital component adjustments) and the proposed amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027. As the table shows, funding for the traditional SSI formula is lower under the budget than in FY 2025 due to the proposed incorporation of postsecondary employment outcomes and technician associate degree bonuses as new factors in the formula. More details for the traditional SSI formula components are provided below. LBO's [ODHE Redbook \(PDF\)](#) for H.B. 96 of the 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly contains a more detailed analysis of each of the traditional SSI formula components.

Table 1. Breakdown of Total SSI Funding by Earmark (\$ in millions)			
Funding Component	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Traditional SSI formula	\$2,119.8	\$2,028.9	\$2,050.3
Postsecondary employment outcomes	N/A	\$100.0	\$100.0
Technician associate degree bonuses	N/A	\$10.0	\$10.0
Ohio State University Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society	N/A	\$8.5	\$8.5
University of Toledo Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership	N/A	\$3.0	\$3.0
Miami University Center for Civics, Culture, and Society	N/A	\$2.0	\$2.0

**Table 1. Breakdown of Total SSI Funding by Earmark (\$ in millions)**

Funding Component	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Cleveland State University Center for Civics, Culture, and Society	N/A	\$2.0	\$2.0
Wright State University Center for Civics, Culture, and Workforce Development	N/A	\$2.0	\$2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,119.8</b>	<b>\$2,156.4</b>	<b>\$2,177.8</b>

In addition to the new SSI components and earmarks, the budget prohibits a state institution from receiving its traditional SSI formula allocation for a fiscal year if that state institution fails to report data for a full academic year for any of the years included in the three-year reporting period for a fiscal year's SSI allocation, unless the Chancellor determines that exceptional circumstances warrant the institution receiving full or partial allocation.

### **University sector funding under SSI formula**

The budget earmarks 76.8% of the remainder of GRF line item 235501, State Share of Instruction in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027, for universities under the traditional SSI formula distribution. Based on this allocation, this sector will receive at least \$1.56 billion in FY 2026 and \$1.57 billion in FY 2027. The budget continues to distribute 50% of the earmark for universities based on degree attainment, leaving the remainder after set-asides for doctoral and medical programs, or about 30%, to be distributed based on course completions. In addition, universities will receive \$76.8 million each fiscal year from their shares of the postsecondary employment outcomes measure, for a total of \$1.63 billion in FY 2026 and \$1.65 billion in FY 2027. The following table breaks out university sector funding by component for FY 2025 (before capital component adjustments) and under the budget for FY 2026 and FY 2027. The table does reflect the allocation of technician associate degree bonuses because, unlike other formula components, the budget does not require specific shares of this new funding to be allocated to each sector.

**Table 2. Breakdown of SSI Funding for Universities (\$ in millions)**

Funding Component	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Degree attainment	\$813.9	\$779.1	\$787.3
Course completion	\$490.3	\$469.3	\$474.3
Doctoral set-aside	\$191.8	\$183.6	\$185.5
Medical II set-aside	\$104.3	\$99.9	\$100.9
Medical I set-aside	\$27.5	\$26.3	\$26.6
<b><i>Traditional SSI Subtotal</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,627.9</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,558.2</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,574.6</i></b>
Postsecondary employment outcomes	N/A	\$76.8	\$76.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,627.9</b>	<b>\$1,635.0</b>	<b>\$1,651.4</b>



In FY 2027, the budget also conditions \$75.0 million of the funding allocated to universities under the traditional SSI formula on compliance with a number of provisions enacted in S.B. 1 of the 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, which made many changes to the law regarding the operations of state institutions of higher education. By March 1, 2026, each state university must submit a report that demonstrates the state university's compliance with the applicable S.B. 1 provisions. State universities determined to be compliant will receive their share of the conditional funding in monthly payments in the same manner as they receive traditional SSI formula distributions. Any state university that is determined to be noncompliant will not receive their share of the conditional funding.

### Community college sector funding under SSI formula

The budget earmarks 23.2% of the remainder of GRF line item 235501, State Share of Instruction, in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027, for community colleges under the traditional SSI formula distribution, except that the amount calculated for Eastern Gateway Community College must be distributed in FY 2026 as follows: (1) up to \$2.9 million for final closeout costs of the college, (2) up to \$2.5 million to reimburse the Controlling Board Emergency Purposes/Contingencies Fund (Fund 5KM0), and (3) the remainder to remain in the GRF. After these allocations, this sector will receive at least \$465.3 million in FY 2026 and \$475.7 million in FY 2027 in funding under the traditional SSI formula. Under the budget, community college funding continues to be based 50% on course completions, 25% on student success factors, and 25% on completion milestones. In addition, community colleges will receive \$23.2 million each fiscal year from their shares of the postsecondary employment outcomes measure, for a total of \$488.5 million in FY 2026 and \$498.9 million in FY 2027. The following table breaks out community college sector funding for FY 2025 (before capital component adjustments) and under the budget for FY 2026 (after the \$5.4 million reduction in distributions related to Eastern Gateway) and FY 2027.

Table 3. Breakdown of SSI Funding for Community Colleges (\$ in millions)			
Funding Component	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Course completion	\$245.9	\$232.7	\$237.8
Student success	\$123.0	\$116.3	\$118.9
Completion milestones	\$123.0	\$116.3	\$118.9
<b>Traditional SSI Subtotal</b>	<b>\$491.9</b>	<b>\$465.3*</b>	<b>\$475.6</b>
Postsecondary employment outcomes	N/A	\$23.2	\$23.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$491.9</b>	<b>\$488.5</b>	<b>\$498.9</b>

\*After \$5.4 million reduction in distributions related to Eastern Gateway Community College

### Tuition and fee increase restrictions

The budget continues to require that boards of trustees of state institutions of higher education restrain increases of tuition and fees. It also authorizes community and technical colleges to increase tuition and general fees by no more than \$10 per credit hour over what the

institution charged in the prior academic year. The budget exempts the following fees from these limits: (1) student health insurance, (2) fees for auxiliary goods or services provided to students at the cost incurred to the institution, (3) fees assessed to students as a pass-through for licensure and certification examinations, (4) fees in elective courses associated with travel experiences, (5) elective service charges, (6) fines, and (7) voluntary sales transactions.

The budget also continues to permit institutions to increase instructional and general fees for students participating in undergraduate tuition guarantee programs, but it prohibits each state university from charging a guaranteed amount of tuition and fees to the cohort entering in the 2025-2026 or 2026-2027 academic year that is more than 3% above what was charged to the prior academic year's cohort. Otherwise, a state university would be permitted under continuing law to increase its guaranteed tuition amounts by up to the sum of the average rate of inflation for the previous 36-month period and the percentage amount the General Assembly restrains increases on in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees for the applicable fiscal year.

### **Strategic Square Footage Reduction initiative**

The budget creates a revolving loan program to assist state institutions of higher education with the cost to reduce the physical square footage of campus buildings. Under this initiative, the Chancellor, in consultation with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC), will award revolving loans to state institutions of higher education to enable them to demolish campus facilities. The Chancellor and OFCC will establish a competitive process for ranking applicants and awarding the loans, with priority given to state institutions whose general student population has decreased. It also requires the Chancellor and OFCC to consider eight factors in making the final awards. Recipient institutions must annually provide the Chancellor with a summary of financial information regarding the loan. If any net proceeds arise from the demolition of real property under this initiative, the budget requires, at the direction of the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Director, those proceeds to be credited to the newly created Strategic Square Footage Reduction Fund (Fund 5CJ1). A state institution that receives a loan under the initiative is prohibited from constructing any new facility at the same time demolition is occurring.

The budget supports the initiative with an appropriation of \$82.7 million in FY 2026 from Fund 5CJ1. The fund will receive cash from transfers from the Ohio Tuition Trust Reserve Fund. The Treasurer of State must transfer funds from the Ohio Tuition Reserve Fund to Fund 5CJ1 upon the request of the Chancellor and the approval of the OBM Director. For more information on this initiative, see **"C10:3: Strategic Square Footage Reduction (ALI 2356A2)."**

### **Guaranteed admission**

The budget guarantees admission to any state institution of higher education for each high school graduate in the top 10% of the graduate's graduating class. However, a state institution may delay admission to its main campus and, instead, admit a student to a regional campus if the student does not meet the standards for unconditional admission. A student who graduates in the top 5% of the student's graduating class is guaranteed admission to the main campus of the state institution, provided the recipient meets the application and acceptance deadlines for admission to the main campus.

## Direct Admissions Pilot Program

The budget requires the Chancellor, in consultation with the DEW Director, to establish the Direct Admissions Pilot Program to notify students at participating high schools if they meet the admissions requirements of participating postsecondary education institutions. The Chancellor must endeavor to implement the program so that students graduating in the 2026-2027 school year may participate. As part of the program, the Chancellor must do all of the following:

- Establish an automated process (to the extent possible and in accordance with applicable law) that uses a student's academic record in existing student information systems and information held by a student's high school to determine whether the student meets the admissions requirements;
- Establish an application process for public and chartered nonpublic schools and postsecondary institutions; and
- Issue a report, at least once each school year, about the pilot program.

The program is voluntary for secondary and postsecondary institutions. If a school's governing body adopts a written policy authorizing its high schools to participate in the pilot program, it must then submit a copy of its policy to the Chancellor and DEW Director within 90 days of adopting it and develop a procedure to determine if students who wish to participate in the pilot program meet any eligibility requirements established by the Chancellor.

## Governor's Merit Scholarship residency requirement

The budget requires, beginning with first-time scholarships awarded for FY 2027, each student who accepts a scholarship under the Governor's Merit Scholarship program to sign a statement of commitment to reside in this state for the three years immediately following the recipient's graduation from an Ohio institution of higher education. For more information on this program, including changes made to it by the budget, see "**C2:2: Governor's Merit Scholarship (ALI 235530).**"

## Co-op internship programs at state institutions

The budget requires, no later than the 2027-2028 academic year, each state institution of higher education to develop and implement a co-op internship program that aligns with JobsOhio's target economic sectors and connects students with Ohio-based employers to facilitate work-based learning opportunities related to the student's course of study. An institution must work with JobsOhio to develop and implement its program, which must include identifying industry and employer partners. By June 30 of the year following the program's implementation, and each year thereafter, each institution must report to the Chancellor the number of participating students, which employers are partnering with the institution, and how many participating students have received or accepted offers of employment after graduation as a direct result of the program. The Chancellor must consult with JobsOhio and any other appropriate stakeholders to develop the goals, structure, and parameters of the program.

## **College Credit Plus Program**

The budget authorizes each board of trustees of a state institution of higher education to lower tuition rates for courses taken at that institution by high school students who do not qualify for funding under the College Credit Plus (CCP) Program. It further requires tuition rates to align with the institution's rates for courses eligible for funding under CCP. Continuing CCP policy requires students who register for more than 30 credit hours in a year to pay for the entire course that placed them over the 30-credit hour maximum. The tuition and fees charged by the institution beyond the 30-credit hour maximum may be more than the fees charged under CCP. Therefore, under this provision, a student would be charged at the lower CCP tuition rates.

The budget also reinstates the requirement that the Chancellor issue an annual report on CCP outcomes. Prior law had sunset this requirement for December 2023.

## **Accelerated College and Career Pathways Program**

The budget establishes the Accelerated College and Career Pathways Program, under which each state university must establish at least one accelerated 90-hour degree program aligned to an in-demand career by the 2027-2028 academic year. Each state university has authority to determine the number and types of accelerated degrees to offer. Furthermore, each state university must (1) include accelerated 90-hour degree programs in course and program catalogues, (2) ensure accelerated 90-hour degree programs are properly accredited and meet the requirements set by the Chancellor for those programs, (3) work collaboratively with local and regional business community partners to identify in-demand career areas during program development, and (4) report to the Chancellor on a variety of data related to accelerated degree programs.

The budget also requires each state institution to develop, in consultation with local and regional primary and secondary education partners, model CCP pathways that are aligned with the university's accelerated 90-hour degree programs and regional and state workforce needs. Each public and participating nonpublic secondary school must include those model CCP pathways as part of the CCP information schools must provide to students enrolled in grades 6-11 and their parents prior to February 1 each year under continuing law.

The Chancellor must (1) determine and provide the criteria for approving accelerated 90-hour degree programs established under the program, (2) provide technical assistance to each state university during the development of accelerated 90-hour degree programs and aligned model CCP pathways, and (3) publish annually on the Chancellor's website the information reported by the state universities. Finally, the budget prohibits the Chancellor from distributing SSI funds to a state university in any fiscal year that the university does not comply with the program.

## **College credit for military training, experience, and coursework**

The budget permits the Chancellor to require state and private institutions of higher education to establish a process to evaluate military training, experience, and coursework and to award appropriate equivalent college credit to a student who is a veteran of the armed forces. The Chancellor may also adopt rules to implement such requirements.

## **Credential and work experience consideration**

The budget requires, prior to admitting any students applying for enrollment after July 1, 2025, each state institution to consider an applicant's work experience and credentials earned as part of the admissions process. Upon the student's acceptance, a state institution must either grant credit for prior learning or experience or detail the potential opportunities and required documentation needed to grant such credit based on the review of the student's specific information provided in the application.

## **General education requirements**

The budget requires the board of trustees of each state institution to complete several responsibilities related to evaluation of its institution's general education requirements. First, it requires, by December 31, 2026, the board to formally review and evaluate the components of its institution's general education curriculum and adopt a resolution acknowledging completion of that review. Then, by March 31, 2027, it must formally evaluate its institution's general education curriculum to enhance content that furthers the state's postsecondary education attainment and workforce goals and consider adjusting the curriculum in several areas, including civics, culture, and society; artificial intelligence, STEM, and computational thinking; entrepreneurship and principles of innovation; and workforce readiness. Finally, by June 30, 2027, the board must adopt a resolution summarizing the changes made to its institution's general education curriculum and submit a copy to the Chancellor. The Chancellor is then required to provide a copy of each resolution to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

## **Curricular approval process**

The budget declares that a board of trustees of a state institution of higher education has the ultimate authority to establish new academic programs, schools, colleges, institutes, departments, and centers at the institution. It also requires each board to adopt a curricular approval process to establish and modify academic programs, curricula, courses, general education requirements, and degree programs. The process must (1) grant the faculty senate, or comparable representative body, the opportunity to provide advice, feedback, and recommendations on the establishment and modification of academic programs, curricula, courses, general education requirements, and degree programs, (2) clarify that all feedback and recommendations by the faculty senate, or comparable representative body, is advisory in nature, and (3) retain the board's final, overriding authority to approve or reject any establishment or modification of academic programs, curricula, courses, general education requirements, and degree programs.

Each board must develop its initial curricular approval process by March 30, 2026, and update it every five years. The board must submit each completed version of the curricular approval process to the Chancellor.

## **American civic literacy course exemptions**

Under continuing law, a state institution of higher education may exempt a student from the requirement to complete at least a three-credit hour course, or the equivalent, in the subject area of American civic literacy. The budget requires the board of trustees of each state institution

of higher education to adopt a resolution specifying the conditions under which the institution may grant an exemption from this requirement for a student. It also eliminates the exemption after the 2030-2031 academic year.

## **Higher education institution program review**

The budget requires each state, private nonprofit, and private for-profit institution of higher education to annually submit information to the state on a variety of topics, including the institution's accreditation status, a plan to preserve student records indefinitely in case of closure, the results of any external degree program evaluations that occurred in the last year, and any degree programs eliminated in the last year. Each institution must submit the information to the Chancellor while private for-profit institutions must also submit the same information to the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools (SCR). The budget also permits the Chancellor to rescind approval of a state institution's program or a private nonprofit institution's authorization if an institution fails to submit the required information or if the Chancellor finds the information insufficient. Similarly, if a private for-profit institution fails to submit the required information or SCR or the Chancellor finds the submitted information is insufficient, SCR may suspend, withdraw, or revoke a school's certificate of registration or program authorization.

An institution is required to immediately notify the Chancellor (a for-profit institution must also notify SCR) if it is placed on special monitoring status by the federal government or an accrediting organization, receives preliminary or final accreditation findings, is under investigation by a government agency, fails to make specified payments, makes budget revisions resulting in a substantially reduced ending fund balance or a larger deficit, or becomes aware of significant negative variance between its annual budget and actual revenues or expenses projected at the end of the fiscal year. In addition, a state institution is required to inform the Chancellor if it has requested an advance of a state subsidy.

## **Contracts with online program managers**

The budget contains several provisions related to contracts between a state, private nonprofit, or private for-profit institution of higher education and an online program manager that provides marketing and recruitment services and at least one additional service, including course design, technology, or faculty training, to support an online degree. Generally, it requires any institution that enters into a contract with an online program manager to (1) ensure the contract is in compliance with relevant program standards and requirements, (2) post on each online degree program website it maintains that it utilizes an online program manager for services, and (3) require the online program manager to identify itself when providing services to students. The budget also prohibits any of those institutions from permitting an online program manager to control, make decisions regarding, administer, or disburse student financial aid.

## **Student records and fiscal caution**

The budget contains a number of provisions related to student record preservation plans, fiscal caution of state institutions of higher education, and governance authorities at state institutions of higher education, some of which are summarized below. According to ODHE, these provisions generally respond to emerging needs in higher education in the state, assist ODHE in

identifying and supporting institutions under fiscal distress, and provide for the preservation of student records in case an institution closes. For more details about these provisions, please see the LSC bill analysis and comparison document for H.B. 96. The budget:

- Requires state and private nonprofit institutions of higher education and private for-profit career colleges and schools to annually provide the Chancellor or SCR, respectively, with a plan to preserve student records indefinitely if the institution were to close.
- Requires the Chancellor, in consultation with OBM, to adopt rules that include: (1) criteria for determining when to review and, if necessary, declare a state institution under fiscal caution, (2) requirements for a state institution on fiscal caution to submit a financial recovery plan, submit a three-year forecast of revenues and expenditures, consult with the Auditor of State regarding steps to bring the institution's financial accounting and reporting into compliance with the Auditor's requirements, and submit regular reports related to the fiscal caution, and (3) criteria for determining when to declare the termination of the fiscal caution of a state institution.
- Authorizes the Chancellor, OBM, or the Auditor to conduct any audit or analysis necessary to assess the fiscal condition of any state institution.
- Requires a governance authority appointed for a state institution to include one member with expertise in academic affairs and accreditation and one member with expertise in either state agency budgets or state institution finances.

## **State community college tax operating levy**

Under continuing law, a community college and technical college may levy property taxes to support operating costs if the tax levy is approved by voters in the college's service district. The budget permits a state community college (the third type of community college) to submit to certain voters a property tax levy to pay for its operating expenses. The college, even though it may encompass territory in several counties, must submit the question only to voters in the county in which the college's main campus is located. The tax may be levied for any specified number of years, or for a continuing period, and may be renewed or replaced before its expiration. If county voters approve the levy, the colleges may only use revenue from the tax to support its operations in that county and the college's board of trustees must charge a lower tuition rate to students who reside in that county.

## **Civics Centers operations**

The budget makes several changes to the operations of the Cleveland State University Center for Civics, Culture, and Society; the Miami University Center for Civics, Culture, and Society; the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society at Ohio State University; the Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership at the University of Toledo; and the Wright State University Center for Civics, Culture, and Workforce Development (Civics Centers). The budget:

- Establishes the Ohio Civics Board, consisting of the directors of the Civics Centers, to (1) support the Civics Centers to more effectively pursue their missions of teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped American and Ohio

constitutional order and society, (2) aid voluntary cooperation between the centers, including coordinating intercollegiate efforts and initiatives among the centers to promote collaboration and serve the entire state of Ohio, (3) advise the General Assembly and Chancellor on matters pertaining to civic education, including best practices, program development, and statewide initiatives to enhance civic literacy and engagement, (4) advise the General Assembly and Chancellor on curriculum development and standards at state institutions of higher education and public primary and secondary education providers, and on the centers' operations, and (5) assist the academic councils of the centers in fulfilling their statutory duties, including facilitating the selection process for directors. In addition, the Board must submit an annual report to the General Assembly and the Chancellor by December 1 each year detailing its activities, recommendations, and findings related to civic education, higher education curricula, primary and secondary public education curricula, and the centers' operations.

- Requires the director of each of the Civics Centers to approve each respective center's courses that meet the university's general education requirements, in addition to overseeing, developing, and approving the center's curriculum.
- Eliminates the requirement that the directors of the centers at Ohio State, Toledo, Miami, and Cleveland State consult with their respective university deans (Wright State's center already did not have this requirement).
- Eliminates requirements that the centers at Ohio State, Toledo, Miami, and Cleveland State be located in a specific location on their respective campuses. It, instead, requires each university to provide adequate and appropriate space for its respective Civics Center, as jointly determined by the center's director and either the university president or provost.

## **Eastern Gateway Community College provisions**

The budget repeals the Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC) district, effective September 30, 2025. Other community and technical colleges may serve counties (Columbiana, Jefferson, Mahoning, and Trumbull) previously served by EGCC. It also requires the Chancellor, in consultation with higher education institutions and other appropriate stakeholders, to monitor and evaluate the ongoing availability of postsecondary educational offerings within the four-county service district formerly served by EGCC. The Chancellor, to the extent possible, must ensure a strong continuity of postsecondary educational access to residents of the region, with a particular focus on access to programs aligned with regional workforce priorities. The budget permits the Chancellor, if necessary, to seek to achieve favorable outcomes by engaging with other higher education institutions to encourage uninterrupted access to educational opportunities, including outcomes associated with academic program offerings, program-related equipment, or physical facilities. Finally, the budget requires the Chancellor, or a third party if the Chancellor enters into an agreement with one, to serve indefinitely as the records custodian for EGCC upon it ceasing operations. EGCC's last day of instruction was July 28, 2024, and it officially dissolved in October of that same year.



## **FAFSA support system and Campus Community Grant repeals**

The budget repeals the requirement that the Chancellor establish and administer a statewide system of regional Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) support teams to support public schools with FAFSA completion and college access programming. The initiative was supported by a \$1.0 million appropriation from GRF line item 2355A1, FAFSA Support Teams, in FY 2025.

It also repeals the Campus Community Grant Program, under which ODHE provided funding to institutionally sanctioned student organizations at institutions of higher education to support intergroup and interfaith outreach and cultural competency between institutionally sanctioned student organizations. S.B. 94 of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly established the program and supported it with a \$1.0 million appropriation from GRF line item 2355A3, Campus Community Grant Program, in FY 2025.

## **Attainment Goal 2025**

Prior law required the Chancellor, in conjunction with DEW, to annually submit a report on the progress the state is making in increasing the percentage of adults in the state with a college degree, industry certificate, or other postsecondary credential to 65% by the year 2025. The budget repeals this requirement. Instead, it requires the Chancellor, in collaboration with DEW and OWT, to establish the level of attainment necessary to achieve identified performance targets across a range of degrees and credentials by December 31, 2025.

## **Ohio Co-Op/Internship Program report**

Prior law required the Chancellor to annually report to the Governor and General Assembly on the academic and economic impact of the Ohio Co-Op/Internship Program. The budget eliminates this requirement.

## **Higher education data reporting**

The budget permits the Chancellor, to reduce duplicative reporting, to use data or information submitted to the Higher Education Information (HEI) system and other public data exchanges to fulfill reporting requirements, so long as the information is materially consistent.

## **Youngstown State University (YSU) capital project change**

The budget amends H.B. 2, the capital appropriations and reappropriations act of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, to redirect a capital appropriation of \$700,000 from Fund 7034 line item C34591, Penguin City Brewing Company Upgrade Project, to Fund 7034 line item C34500, Basic Renovations, both under YSU's capital budget.

## **Vetoed provisions**

### **SSI-CCP and 90-hour degree program set-aside for universities**

The Governor vetoed a provision that would have added a sixth component to the traditional SSI distribution formula for universities as described in the “**University sector funding under SSI formula**” section above. Specifically, the provision would have reserved 5% of the amount earmarked for traditional SSI for universities to support CCP pathways

and accelerated 90-hour degree programs under the Accelerated College and Career Pathways Program, under which each state university must establish at least one accelerated 90-hour degree program aligned to an in-demand career by the 2027-2028 academic year (see **“Accelerated College and Career Pathways Program”** section above).

### **Ohio Higher Education Research Public Policy Consortium awards**

The budget requires the Chancellor, in consultation with DEW, Job and Family Services (JFS), the Inter-University Council, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and other entities, to establish the Ohio Higher Education Research Public Policy Consortium to develop and maintain a biennial statewide research agenda that identifies key policy challenges and research priorities crucial to the state’s future, drawing on input from policymakers, practitioners, and community stakeholders. To support the Consortium’s research activities, the budget requires the Chancellor to award competitive grants to faculty and post-graduate students whose research aligns with the biennial research agenda, with half of the grant to be distributed upon grant approval and the remaining half released upon successful completion of the research and submission of a final report. The Governor vetoed a provision that would have limited a grant to a maximum of \$10,000. For more information on this provision, see **“C6:4: Ohio Higher Education Public Policy Research Consortium (ALI 2355A4).”**

### **Graduate earmark based on retention-rate outcomes**

As described above in the **“State Share of Instruction”** section, the budget earmarks up to \$100.0 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 from GRF line item 235501, State Share of Instruction, to be distributed to state institutions according to a formula established by the Chancellor based on employment outcomes of the graduates of each college and university, using data from the U.S. Census Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes project. The Governor vetoed a provision that would have required the formula to include retention-rate outcomes. The vetoed provision directed these outcomes (which would have been given the highest priority in the formula) to be based on factors including the number of graduates employed by an Ohio-based employer and employment outcomes of the graduates of each college and university, with graduates who are Ohio residents and employed by an Ohio-based employer weighted higher than graduates who are employed by an Ohio-based employer but are not Ohio residents.

### **Earmark for S.B. 1 compliance for universities**

As described above in the **“University sector funding under SSI formula”** section, the budget earmarks \$75.0 million of the funding allocated to universities under the traditional SSI formula in FY 2027 to state universities that comply with a number of provisions enacted in S.B. 1 of the 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The Governor vetoed portions of this provision that would have required: (1) the House and Senate higher education committees to each determine whether a state university is in full compliance with the specified S.B. 1 provisions and to report those determinations to OBM, (2) the university reports demonstrating compliance to be submitted to the chairs of the House and Senate higher education committees, in a form and manner to be determined by the committees, and (3) the Controlling Board to approve release of the funds and consider a release only from compliant universities.

# Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget

## Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the funding for each appropriation line item (ALI) in the Ohio Department of Higher Education's (ODHE) budget. For organizational purposes, these ALIs are grouped into ten major categories based on their funding purposes. The analysis for an ALI with a lower category or subcategory designation will appear before that for an ALI with a higher category or subcategory designation. That is, the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:8 will appear before the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C2:1 and the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:3 will appear before the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:8.

To aid the reader in locating each ALI in the analysis, the following table shows the category in which each ALI has been placed, listing the ALIs in order within their respective fund groups and funds. This is the same order the ALIs appear in the ODHE section of the budget bill.

In the analysis, each appropriation item's actual expenditures for FY 2025 and appropriations for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are listed in a table. Following the table, a narrative describes how the appropriation is used. If the appropriation is earmarked, the earmarks are listed and described.

Categorization of ODHE’s Appropriation Line Items for Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 Budget				
Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Category	
General Revenue Fund Group				
GRF	235321	Operating Expenses	C8:1	Planning and Coordination
GRF	235402	Sea Grants	C3:3	Agricultural and Sea Grant Programs
GRF	235406	Articulation and Transfer	C7:4	Higher Education Collaboration
GRF	235408	Midwest Higher Education Compact	C7:6	Higher Education Collaboration
GRF	235413	Computer Science	C5:5	Workforce and Regional Economic Development
GRF	235414	Grants and Scholarship Administration	C2:12	Student Access
GRF	235417	Technology Maintenance and Operations	C7:2	Higher Education Collaboration
GRF	235425	Ohio Work Ready Grant	C2:7	Student Access
GRF	235428	Appalachian New Economy Workforce Partnership	C5:6	Workforce and Regional Economic Development
GRF	235438	Choose Ohio First Scholarship	C2:3	Student Access
GRF	235443	Aspire – State	C5:2	Workforce and Regional Economic Development
GRF	235444	Ohio Technical Centers	C5:1	Workforce and Regional Economic Development

## Categorization of ODHE's Appropriation Line Items for Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 Budget

Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Category
GRF	235450	Military and Veterans Offices	C8:3 Planning and Coordination
GRF	235474	Area Health Education Centers Program Support	C4:5 Medical Support
GRF	235475	Campus Security Support Program	C8:2 Planning and Coordination
GRF	235476	Campus Student Safety Grant Program	C8:4 Planning and Coordination
GRF	235492	Campus Safety and Training	C8:5 Planning and Coordination
GRF	235501	State Share of Instruction	C1:1 College and University Instructional Operations
GRF	235504	War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarships	C2:4 Student Access
GRF	235507	OhioLINK	C7:1 Higher Education Collaboration
GRF	235508	Air Force Institute of Technology	C6:3 Basic and Applied Research
GRF	235510	Ohio Supercomputer Center	C6:2 Basic and Applied Research
GRF	235511	The Ohio State University Extension Service	C3:2 Agricultural and Sea Grant Programs
GRF	235514	Central State Supplement	C2:6 Student Access
GRF	235515	Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine	C4:4 Medical Support
GRF	235519	Family Practice	C4:3 Medical Support
GRF	235520	Shawnee State Supplement	C2:6 Student Access
GRF	235525	Geriatric Medicine	C4:8 Medical Support
GRF	235526	Primary Care Residencies	C4:6 Medical Support
GRF	235530	Governor's Merit Scholarship	C2:2 Student Access
GRF	235533	Program and Project Support	C5:3 Workforce and Regional Economic Development
GRF	235535	Ohio State Agricultural Research	C3:1 Agricultural and Sea Grant Programs
GRF	235536	The Ohio State University Clinical Teaching	C4:1 Medical Support
GRF	235537	University of Cincinnati Clinical Teaching	C4:1 Medical Support
GRF	235538	University of Toledo Clinical Teaching	C4:1 Medical Support
GRF	235539	Wright State University Clinical Teaching	C4:1 Medical Support
GRF	235540	Ohio University Clinical Teaching	C4:1 Medical Support
GRF	235541	Northeast Ohio Medical University Clinical Teaching	C4:1 Medical Support
GRF	235543	Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine Clinic Subsidy	C4:9 Medical Support
GRF	235546	Central State Agricultural Research and Development	C3:1 Agricultural and Sea Grant Programs
GRF	235548	Central State Cooperative Extension Services	C3:2 Agricultural and Sea Grant Programs

## Categorization of ODHE's Appropriation Line Items for Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 Budget

Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Category
GRF	235552	Capital Component	C10:2 Facilities and Debt Service
GRF	235555	Library Depositories	C7:5 Higher Education Collaboration
GRF	235556	Ohio Academic Resources Network	C7:3 Higher Education Collaboration
GRF	235558	Long-term Care Research	C4:10 Medical Support
GRF	235563	Ohio College Opportunity Grant	C2:1 Student Access
GRF	235569	The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine Supplement	C4:2 Medical Support
GRF	235572	The Ohio State University Clinic Support	C4:7 Medical Support
GRF	235578	Federal Research Network	C6:1 Basic and Applied Research
GRF	235585	Educator Preparation Programs	C5:8 Workforce and Regional Development Programs
GRF	235591	Co-Op Internship Program	C5:7 Workforce and Regional Development Programs
GRF	235595	Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program	C2:8 Student Access
GRF	235599	National Guard Scholarship Program	C2:5 Student Access
GRF	2355A4	Ohio Higher Education Public Policy Research Consortium	C6:4 Basic and Applied Research
GRF	235909	Higher Education General Obligation Bond Debt Service	C10:1 Facilities and Debt Service
<b>Dedicated Purpose Fund Group</b>			
2200	235614	Program Approval and Reauthorization	C8:7 Planning and Coordination
4560	235603	Sales and Services	C8:8 Planning and Coordination
4E80	235602	Higher Educational Facility Commission Administration	C10:4 Facilities and Debt Service
5AH1	235688	Super RAPIDS	C5:4 Workforce and Regional Development Programs
5CJ1	2356A2	Strategic Square Footage Reduction	C10:3 Facilities and Debt Service
5D40	235675	Conference/Special Purposes	C8:9 Planning and Coordination
5FR0	235650	State and Non-Federal Grants and Award	C8:6 Planning and Coordination
5P30	235663	Variable Savings Plan	C9:1 Ohio Tuition Trust Authority
5YD0	235494	Second Chance Grant Program	C2:10 Student Access
5ZD0	235426	Rural Practice Incentive Program	C2:11 Student Access
5ZY0	235592	Grow Your Own Teacher Program	C2:9 Student Access
6450	235664	Guaranteed Savings Plan	C9:2 Ohio Tuition Trust Authority
6820	235606	Nursing Loan Program	C4:11 Medical Support
<b>Bond Research and Development Fund Group</b>			
7014	235639	Research Incentive Third Frontier – Tax	C6:5 Basic and Applied Research

## Categorization of ODHE's Appropriation Line Items for Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 Budget

Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Category
<b>Federal Fund Group</b>			
3120	235611	Gear-up Grant	C2:13 Student Access
3120	235612	Carl D. Perkins Grant/Plan Administration	C5:9 Workforce and Regional Economic Development
3120	235641	Aspire – Federal	C5:2 Workforce and Regional Economic Development
3120	235669	Industry Credential Transfer Assurance Guides Initiative	C7:4 Higher Education Collaboration
3BG0	235651	Gear Up Grant Scholarships	C2:13 Student Access
3N60	235658	John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program	C2:14 Student Access

**Category 1: College and University Instructional Operations****C1:1: State Share of Instruction (ALI 235501)**

Earmark	FY 2025 Actual*	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
University main and regional campuses	\$1,626,764,821	\$1,558,182,456	\$1,574,609,080
Community and technical colleges	\$493,441,519	\$470,700,950	\$475,663,160
Postsecondary employment outcomes	\$0	\$100,000,000	\$100,000,000
Technician associate degree bonuses	\$0	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
Ohio State University Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society	\$0	\$8,500,000	\$8,500,000
University of Toledo Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Miami University Center for Civics, Culture, and Society	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Cleveland State University Center for Civics, Culture, and Society	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Wright State University Center for Civics, Culture, and Workforce Development	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
GRF ALI 235501 total	\$2,120,206,340	\$2,156,383,406	\$2,177,772,240
% change	--	1.7%	1.0%

\*The FY 2025 actual amounts take into account capital component and other adjustments related to the dissolution of Eastern Gateway Community College. See page 54 for additional details about the capital component adjustments.

Ohio's State Share of Instruction (SSI) serves as the state's primary financial support to public higher education in Ohio. SSI provides unrestricted operating subsidies to Ohio's 60 public colleges and universities, funding a portion of the operating costs of serving approximately

292,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) students enrolled in those colleges and universities. SSI is distributed to campuses in approximately equal monthly payments during a given fiscal year. The budget continues to permit any institution that receives additional SSI subsidy above what it received in the prior year to use the additional distribution to provide need-based aid and counseling, support services, and workforce preparation services to its students. The **“State Share of Instruction”** section of this Greenbook provides more details on the SSI formula, including distribution amounts for each sector, and changes in the budget.

The budget provides the following earmarks of line item 235501:

- Up to \$100.0 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 to be distributed to state institutions according to a formula established by the Chancellor based on employment outcomes of the graduates of each college and university, using data from the U.S. Census Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes project. The budget requires that 76.8% of these funds be distributed to universities and 23.2% be distributed to community colleges.
- Up to \$10.0 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 to be distributed to state institutions according to a formula devised by the Chancellor that provides funding bonuses of \$10,000 per graduate for technician-aligned associate degrees, as determined by the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT), that are produced above a historical baseline of institutional production, as calculated by the Chancellor. In developing a formula, the budget requires the Chancellor to give priority to retention-based outcomes and count only graduates that are employed by an Ohio-based employer.
- A total of \$17.5 million in each fiscal year to support the centers for civics, culture, and society or workforce development within Ohio State, Toledo, Miami, Cleveland State, and Wright State. Each of the five centers is an independent academic unit within the university. Funding for each of the five centers was provided under GRF line item 235533, Program and Project Support, in FY 2024 and FY 2025.
- The remainder of line item 235501 is distributed according to the traditional SSI formula as follows:
  - 23.2% for community colleges, except that the amount distributed to Eastern Gateway Community College must be distributed as follows: (1) up to \$2.9 million in FY 2026 for final close out costs of the college, (2) up to \$2.5 million in FY 2026 to reimburse the Controlling Board Emergency Purposes/Contingencies Fund (Fund 5KM0) for funds received in June 2025 to pay off the college’s bond debt, and (3) the remainder to remain in the GRF.
  - 76.8% for universities and their regional campuses, with \$75.0 million in FY 2027 conditioned on compliance with certain provisions of S.B. 1 of the 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

Additionally, the budget requires the Chancellor, by September 1 of each fiscal year, to certify to the Director of the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) the amount necessary to pay any outstanding prior-year obligations to higher education institutions under the SSI formulas, as determined by the Chancellor. It also permits the Director, upon the Chancellor’s request, to transfer cash up to the amount certified for SSI reconciliation from the State Financial

Aid Reconciliation Fund (Fund 5Y50) to the GRF, and appropriates that amount to GRF line item 235505, State Share of Instruction Reconciliation. This line item was last used in FY 2024, when \$2.0 million was spent to reconcile FY 2023 SSI payments for 13 universities and \$0.4 million was spent to reconcile FY 2021 and FY 2022 SSI payments for 22 community colleges.

## Category 2: Student Access

This category supports efforts to increase participation in higher education by providing a variety of student aid, from direct financial assistance for college students to institutional subsidies that help institutions maintain lower and more affordable tuitions.

### C2:1: Ohio College Opportunity Grant (ALI 235563)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235563, Ohio College Opportunity Grant	\$227,378,729	\$220,600,000	\$207,400,000
% change	--	-3.0%	-6.0%

The Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) provides need-based financial aid for higher education students based on their student aid index (SAI),<sup>1</sup> as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Currently, Ohio residents with an SAI of 3,750 or less and a maximum household income of \$96,000 are eligible for OCOG awards. In general, the awards are determined by subtracting the sum of the SAI and associated Pell award (a fixed amount) from the average instructional and general fees charged by the student's respective institutional sector. In FY 2026, the fixed SAI and Pell award combination used to determine OCOG awards is \$7,395. This combined Pell/SAI amount generally exceeds the average instructional and general fees for community colleges. Therefore, students attending these institutions generally do not receive OCOG. Students attending Central State University, Shawnee State University, and, beginning in FY 2026, regional campuses receive an adjusted OCOG award amount because their tuition levels and costs are slightly higher than the fixed SAI and Pell award combination. The Chancellor publishes award amounts on ODHE's website each fiscal year in an OCOG award table. The budget continues the FY 2025 maximum award levels for each sector in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 as follows: \$4,000 for full-time students at eligible public universities, \$5,000 for full-time students at eligible nonprofit institutions, and \$2,000 for full-time students at private career colleges.

Before determining OCOG award amounts, the Chancellor must use funds from line item 235563 to (1) pay tuition waivers and student fees for eligible students in the Ohio Safety Officer's College Memorial Fund Program (OSOCMF), which provides tuition assistance for children and spouses of peace officers, firefighters, and safety officers who were killed in the line of duty, and (2) provide grants on behalf of eligible adopted resident students under the college grant program established by H.B. 45 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

<sup>1</sup> Beginning in FY 2025, SAI replaced the expected family contribution (EFC) in determining OCOG eligibility.



The budget authorizes the Director of OBM to transfer cash, up to the certified amount of canceled prior-year encumbrances in item 235563, from the GRF to the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Reserve Fund (Fund 5PU0). Under continuing law, Fund 5PU0 is used as necessary to pay grant obligations in excess of the GRF appropriations made for the program.

### **C2:2: Governor's Merit Scholarship (ALI 235530)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235530, Governor's Merit Scholarship	\$22,630,000	\$47,000,000	\$70,000,000
% change	--	107.7%	48.9%

This line item provides individual scholarships of \$5,000 per academic year to eligible students determined to be in the top 5% of each public or nonpublic high school's graduating class, as determined by the Chancellor in consultation with the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW). The budget expands student eligibility for a scholarship from public and chartered nonpublic students to public and nonpublic students, including nonchartered nonpublic ones. It also requires that eligibility be based upon rankings at the end of the students' junior year, as determined by the schools using criteria established by the Chancellor and DEW. Each eligible student receives an award for up to the equivalent of four academic years at a public or private, nonprofit college or university, contingent on satisfactory academic progress. The Chancellor and DEW must also determine the eligibility for home-schooled high school graduates to provide them with a level of access to the scholarship. Beginning with first-time scholarships awarded for FY 2027, a student who accepts a scholarship must sign a statement of commitment to reside in Ohio for the three years immediately following the individual's graduation from college.

The scholarships are applied to eligible expenses, as determined by the Chancellor, included within the institution's published cost of attendance. Institutions receiving funds under this program are prohibited from (1) changing their scholarship or financial aid programs to shift the cost of those programs onto this one, and (2) reducing their level of merit-based financial aid below what they provided in the most recent academic year in the aggregate to all students or on a per-student basis. In addition to supporting scholarships, the budget expressly authorizes the Chancellor to use line item 235530 to administer the program. The Chancellor may establish guidelines for the program so long as limits are not placed on the number of students receiving an award that enroll at a qualifying institution.

### **C2:3: Choose Ohio First Scholarship (ALI 235438)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235438, Choose Ohio First Scholarship	\$26,619,571	\$32,000,000	\$32,000,000
% change	--	20.2%	0.0%

This line item provides scholarships under the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program (COF) to students pursuing science (including health science), technology, engineering, and

mathematics (STEM) or STEM education degrees at one of Ohio's institutions of higher education. Under COF, selected institutions are awarded funds through a competitive grant process based on their STEM recruitment and retention plans. Recipient institutions then distribute scholarships to students.

The budget authorizes the Director of OBM to transfer cash, up to the certified amount of canceled prior-year encumbrances in item 235438, from the GRF to the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Reserve Fund (Fund 5PV0). Under continuing law, Fund 5PV0 is used as necessary to pay scholarship obligations in excess of the GRF appropriations made for the program.

### **C2:4: War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarships (ALI 235504)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235504, War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarships	\$20,810,796	\$25,000,000	\$30,000,000
% change	--	20.1%	20.0%

This line item provides funds for scholarships for the children of deceased or severely disabled Ohio veterans of wartime military service in the U.S. armed forces. The scholarship can be used at both state-assisted institutions and private institutions. In FY 2026, scholarships for students at state-assisted, two-year and four-year institutions are equal to 77% of instructional and general fees. Scholarships for students at private institutions are \$6,330. Scholarship recipients must be Ohio residents under the age of 25, full-time undergraduates, and maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA). Overall, the number of eligible scholarship applicants has increased from 825 students in FY 2014 to approximately 2,200 students in FY 2024, primarily due to growing diagnoses of severe post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). It is expected the number of eligible students will continue to rise, nearly 10% per year in FY 2026 and FY 2027, as eligibility and awareness of the program increase.

The budget authorizes the Director of OBM to transfer cash, up to the certified amount of canceled prior-year encumbrances in line item 235504, from the GRF to the War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship Reserve Fund (Fund 5PW0). Fund 5PW0 is used as necessary to pay scholarship obligations in excess of the GRF appropriations made for the program.

### **C2:5: National Guard Scholarship Program (ALI 235599)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235599, National Guard Scholarship Program	\$15,573,268	\$18,399,750	\$18,399,750
% change	--	18.2%	0.0%

This program provides higher education scholarships to all authorized personnel of the Ohio National Guard (ONG). The program serves as both a recruitment and retention tool for the

Guard and has proved to be an effective incentive for enlisting. The line item provides funds for both scholarship grants and marketing efforts. The program's purpose is to recognize the service of the ONG by providing access to higher education for its members. The scholarship covers full tuition for students of state-assisted institutions and an amount equivalent to the average state-assisted award for students of private institutions. The scholarship is available for up to 12 full-time quarters or eight full-time semesters, equivalent to four years of study. Students must apply for the scholarship before each quarter or semester. The budget authorizes a portion of line item 235599 to be used to administer the program if both the Chancellor and the Adjutant General agree to it.

The budget authorizes the Director of OBM to transfer cash, up to the certified amount of canceled prior-year encumbrances in line item 235599, from the GRF to the National Guard Scholarship Reserve Fund (Fund 5BM0). Under continuing law, Fund 5BM0 is used as necessary to pay scholarship obligations in excess of the GRF appropriations made for the program.

### **C2:6: Campus Supplements (ALIs 235514 and 235520)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235514, Central State Supplement	\$12,397,000	\$12,768,910	\$13,151,977
% change	--	3.0%	3.0%
GRF ALI 235520, Shawnee State Supplement	\$9,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000
% change	--	33.3%	0.0%

These line items provide additional subsidy to Central State University and Shawnee State University with the intent of allowing the universities to maintain lower tuition, fund scholarships, and increase access for minority students, mainly African-Americans, and students from the Appalachian region of the state, respectively. In FY 2025, Central State University's tuition was the lowest among the 13 university main campuses. Shawnee State's tuition was the second lowest.

### **C2:7: Ohio Work Ready Grant (ALI 235425)**

Earmark	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
AI Integration in Community Colleges Pilot Grant Program	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000
Remainder – Ohio Work Ready Grant Program	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
GRF ALI 235425 total	\$10,000,000	\$10,500,000	\$10,500,000
% change	--	5.0%	0.0%

This line item supports the Ohio Work Ready Grant Program, under which the Chancellor awards up to \$3,000 to eligible students who are enrolled at a community college, state university branch campus, or an Ohio Technical Center (OTC). For a student who received a first-time grant

prior to FY 2026, the student had to be enrolled in a credit or noncredit program that leads to an industry-recognized credential, certificate, or degree and prepares the student for a job that is either (1) identified as an “in-demand” or “critical” job as determined by the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT), or (2) submitted by a community college, state university branch campus, or OTC and will meet regional workforce needs, as determined by the Chancellor. Instead, the budget requires a student who receives a first-time grant on and after September 30, 2025, to be enrolled in a program that meets alternative criteria established by the Chancellor, in consultation with OWT, based on the emerging workforce needs of the state. A student cannot receive a grant for more than six semesters or the equivalent of three academic years.

Under the program, the Chancellor, in consultation with the providers of qualified programs, also collects and reports program metrics that include certain demographics of recipients, success rates, and the total number of industry-recognized credentials awarded, disaggregated by subject or program area. The budget specifies that technician-aligned associate degrees be included in the total number of industry-recognized credentials.

Additionally, the budget earmarks \$500,000 in each fiscal year for the Chancellor to award five competitive grants of \$100,000 each in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 to community colleges to implement artificial intelligence (AI) initiatives under the new AI Integration in Community Colleges Pilot Grant Program. The budget requires the Chancellor to establish procedures and criteria for awarding the grants, giving preference to community colleges that show a strong commitment and track record to integrating AI into education, workforce development, and industry alignment. The grants may be used for: (1) integrating AI curriculum into credential programs, (2) establishing AI-based College Credit Plus Program offerings, (3) training faculty and staff on the uses of AI technologies relevant to local industry or state needs, (4) supporting students with practical AI skills through certifications and project-based learning, (5) purchasing AI hardware and software, (6) utilizing AI in streamlining administrative functions and student services, and (7) contracting with vendors to provide any or all of these services. The Chancellor must monitor grant recipient performance and submit a report on the pilot program, upon its completion, to the General Assembly.

## **C2:8: Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program (ALI 235595)**

<b>Fund/ALI</b>	<b>FY 2025 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2026 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY 2027 Appropriation</b>
GRF ALI 235595, Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program	\$2,235,051	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
% change	--	34.2%	0.0%

This line item provides a combination of a grant and a loan to certain eligible students enrolled in commercial driver training schools certified by the Director of Public Safety and other approved programs offered at state institutions of higher education; private, nonprofit, and for-profit institutions; and career centers and joint vocational school districts. The total amount of the grant and loan awarded to each student cannot exceed the lesser of \$20,000 or the cost of tuition and related expenses of a commercial driver’s license (CDL) training program. A student who accepts aid under the program must sign a promissory note to pay back the loan funds if the

student does not satisfy the residency, employment, or training program requirements. ODHE will forgive an individual's loan after one year of documented employment and residency in Ohio.

### **C2:9: Grow Your Own Teacher Program (ALI 235592)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
5ZY0 ALI 235592, Grow Your Own Teacher Program	\$814,782	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
% change	--	206.8%	0.0%

This line item is used by the Chancellor to administer the Grow Your Own Teacher College Scholarship Program. Under the program, the Chancellor, in conjunction with DEW, awards annual scholarships of up to \$7,500 for up to four years to certain low-income high school seniors and district employees who commit to teaching in a qualifying school for at least four years after graduating from a teacher training program. A teacher training program, in consultation with DEW, may grant credit to a qualifying employee who has commensurate work experience at a qualifying school for completion of a teacher training program. Any scholarship awarded under this program will be converted into a loan if the recipient fails to fulfill the teaching commitment within six years after graduating. The Chancellor and Attorney General must collect payments on a converted loan but are prohibited from charging interest on those payments.

The program is supported by H.B. 33 cash transfers of \$5.0 million in FY 2024 and \$10.0 million in FY 2025 from the GRF to the Grow Your Own Teacher Program Fund (Fund 5ZY0). In FY 2026, the budget requires the OBM Director to transfer up to \$9.0 million cash from Fund 5ZY0 back to the GRF.

The budget also requires ODHE to implement and administer the Ohio Teacher Apprenticeship Program under this line item. The Ohio Teacher Apprenticeship Program strengthens partnerships between educator preparation programs at Ohio's institutions of higher education with K-12 schools and their communities.

### **C2:10: Second Chance Grant Program (ALI 235494)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
5YD0 ALI 235494, Second Chance Grant Program	\$2,062,732	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
% change	--	-3.0%	0.0%

This line item distributes funds to qualifying institutions of higher education and OTCs to provide grants to eligible students under the Second Chance Grant Program. In general, the program provides \$3,000 to help certain individuals who have some college credit but no bachelor's degree reenroll in higher education to obtain a degree or credential. To support the program, the budget transfers up to \$4.0 million cash in FY 2026 from the GRF to the Second Chance Grant Pilot Program Fund (Fund 5YD0).

**C2:11: Rural Practice Incentive Program (ALI 235426)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
5ZD0 ALI 235426, Rural Practice Incentive Program	\$383,206	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
% change	--	291.4%	0.0%

This line item is used by the Chancellor to repay up to \$50,000 of an educational loan taken by an attorney in exchange for the attorney's employment or practice as a service attorney in an underserved community under the Rural Practice Incentive Program, which was established by H.B. 150 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The budget revises the program by expanding eligibility for it, modifying the factors used to determine underserved communities, and requiring a participating attorney to sign a promissory note payable to the state for failing to satisfy service obligations. For a detailed description of these provisions, see the "**Rural Practice Incentive Program**" section of the [LSC bill analysis \(PDF\)](#) for H.B. 96 of the 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, which is available on the General Assembly's website: [legislature.ohio.gov](http://legislature.ohio.gov).

To support the program, the budget transfers \$3.0 million cash in FY 2026 from the GRF to the Rural Practice Incentive Fund (Fund 5ZD0). Fund 5ZD0 also receives all damages collected from program participants who fail to fulfill their service obligations.

**C2:12: Grants and Scholarship Administration (ALI 235414)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235414, Grants and Scholarship Administration	\$956,090	\$922,538	\$985,378
% change	--	-3.5%	6.8%

This line item supports the operating expenses of student financial aid and grant programs administered by ODHE. In addition, this line item supports costs for state financial aid audits.

**C2:13: Gear-up Grant and Scholarships (ALIs 235611 and 235651)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
3120 ALI 235611, Gear-up Grant	\$2,579,337	\$2,956,000	\$2,956,000
% change	--	14.6%	0.0%
3BG0 ALI 235651, Gear Up Grant Scholarships	\$971,124	\$3,100,000	\$3,100,000
% change	--	219.2%	0.0%

These federal funds support programs at the state and local partnership levels to encourage low-income middle and high school students to raise their academic expectations, stay in school, take challenging courses, and go to college. FED Fund 3120 line item 235611,

Gear-up Grant, provides a comprehensive system of school and community-based services including academic preparation, afterschool and summer enrichment services, advising, tutoring, and mentoring in targeted schools and communities in the state with low college participation and high remediation rates. These consortia will help outside partners replicate their efforts in other parts of the state. According to ODHE, Gear-up requires a 1:1 match from state or private funding sources. FED Fund 3BG0 line item 235651, Gear Up Grant Scholarships, is used to provide scholarships to Gear-up high school graduates who attend a state institution of higher education. A new grant award totaling \$28.0 million, covering both programs, was awarded in FY 2022. The new award is expected to support both programs for seven years.

### **C2:14: John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program (ALI 235658)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
3N60 ALI 235658, John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program	\$171,210	\$128,000	\$128,000
% change	--	-25.2%	0.0%

This line item supports the federal John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program, which provides loan repayment assistance for state and federal public defenders and state prosecutors who agree to remain employed in hard-to-staff locations for at least three years. Recipients of the Ohio John R. Justice Loan Repayment grants may be competitively selected. Award amounts depend on the number of qualified recipients, but cannot exceed \$10,000 per attorney per calendar year or an aggregate total of \$60,000 per attorney.

### **Category 3: Agricultural and Sea Grant Programs**

This category of appropriations supports the land-grant missions of Central State University (CSU) and the Ohio State University (OSU), including agricultural research and development, cooperative extensive services, and the sea grant program that seeks to improve the development and management of Lake Erie.

### **C3:1: Agricultural Research and Development (ALIs 235535 and 235546)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235535, Ohio State Agricultural Research	\$38,284,000	\$37,169,000	\$37,169,000
% change	--	-2.9%	0.0%
GRF ALI 235546, Central State Agricultural Research and Development	\$5,828,000	\$5,828,000	\$5,828,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

One of the primary missions of land-grant universities is to engage in agricultural research and development. These line items provide state support for agricultural research and

development efforts by Ohio's two land-grant institutions, OSU and CSU. The combined funding for agricultural research and development in the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium amounts to \$43.0 million in each fiscal year, over 86% of which flows to OSU through the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC). The budget continues to require OARDC to internally allocate funding from line item 235535 through a competitive process based on demonstrated performance.

## OARDC

OARDC is the nation's largest and Ohio's only comprehensive AgBioscience research organization. It serves as the research arm of OSU's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Headquartered in Wooster, OARDC also has ten "outlying agricultural research stations" located in every region of Ohio.

OARDC also trains graduate students and works with researchers at other OSU colleges, including the colleges of Human Ecology, Medicine and Public Health, and Veterinary Medicine. The Center serves such diverse groups as consumers, farmers and other producers, food processors, environmentalists, landfill managers, and researchers.

## CSU agriculture research and development

This item is used by CSU to meet the 1:1 match required for federal funds. Generally, item 235546 will provide 50% of CSU's annual budget for agriculture research and development. The rest will be supported by federal funds.

## C3:2: Cooperative Extension Service (ALIs 235511 and 235548)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235511, The Ohio State University Extension Service	\$26,269,000	\$25,504,000	\$25,504,000
% change	--	-2.9%	0.0%
GRF ALI 235548, Central State Cooperative Extension Services	\$5,168,000	\$5,168,000	\$5,168,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

These line items support the offering of cooperative extension services by OSU and CSU. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, extension services provide relevant information through nonformal education and learning activities to farmers, small business owners, consumers, and families in both rural and urban areas. Since October 2015, OSU and CSU have partnered in the offering of agricultural extension services pursuant to federal law that requires a single, comprehensive extension program for a state. Both universities serve as co-executives in counties in which they both have programs and coordinate to create a unified extension program. Although cooperative, and often co-located, both universities work individually and collaboratively to provide services to diverse populations across Ohio. The combined funding for extension services in the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium amounts to \$30.7 million in each fiscal year, over 83% of which flows to the OSU Extension.



## OSU Extension

The OSU Extension is headquartered in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and has had partnerships with the faculties and staffs of many departments across OSU. Located in every county, the OSU Extension is an educational entity that creates partnerships with individuals, families, communities, businesses and industries, and organizations to strengthen the lives of Ohioans through research-based educational programs. OSU Extension programs focus broadly on health and wellness, workforce development, thriving across lifespan, sustainable food systems, citizen engagement, and environmental quality. The programs under the Cooperative Extension Service are designed to help people improve their lives, businesses, and communities through research-based education using scientific knowledge focused on identified issues and needs.

The Extension uses funds from GRF line item 235511, The Ohio State University Extension Service, as a match to obtain approximately \$34.1 million each year in federal and county funds and to leverage an additional \$26.0 million each year from grants and philanthropic gifts.

## CSU Extension

CSU Extension's mission is "to be a premier community-based outreach and educational program leader that provides a holistic Extension approach to improve the overall conditions facing families in rural and urban communities and addressing agricultural issues in rural and urban locations." To achieve this, CSU Extension has placed a county agent in five of Ohio's major cities or counties. CSU Extension's community approach focuses on adapting to different community demands and specializing in particular food and agriculture systems.

Similar to OSU Extension's line item 235511, CSU Extension uses funds from line item 235548, Central State Cooperative Extension Services, to meet the match needed to draw down federal funds.

## C3:3: Sea Grants (ALI 235402)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235402, Sea Grants	\$317,000	\$308,000	\$308,000
% change	--	-2.8%	0.0%

This line item matches federal funds for the Ohio Sea Grant Program, the mission of which is to improve the development and management of Lake Erie. The Ohio Sea Grant Program is one of 34 Sea Grant programs in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Sea Grant College Program and a part of the OSU land-grant program. According to ODHE, state funds leverage about \$6.5 million annually in federal funds. The program also supports extension agents as well as workshops, field trips, and conferences at Stone Laboratory, which was founded in 1895 as Ohio's Lake Erie laboratory and is the oldest freshwater biological field station in the U.S.

## Category 4: Medical Support

This category of appropriations provides support to Ohio's medical, dental, and veterinary education programs and bolsters Ohio's health industry.

### **C4:1: Clinical Teaching (ALIs 235536, 235537, 235538, 235539, 235540, and 235541)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235536, The Ohio State University Clinical Teaching	\$9,745,000	\$9,461,000	\$9,461,000
% change	--	-2.9%	0.0%
GRF ALI 235537, University of Cincinnati Clinical Teaching	\$8,343,000	\$8,085,000	\$8,085,000
% change	--	-3.1%	0.0%
GRF ALI 235538, University of Toledo Clinical Teaching	\$6,247,000	\$6,065,000	\$6,065,000
% change	--	-2.9%	0.0%
GRF ALI 235539, Wright State University Clinical Teaching	\$4,535,000	\$4,447,000	\$4,447,000
% change	--	-1.9%	0.0%
GRF ALI 235540, Ohio University Clinical Teaching	\$2,934,000	\$2,849,000	\$2,849,000
% change	--	-2.9%	0.0%
GRF ALI 235541, Northeast Ohio Medical University Clinical Teaching	\$3,018,000	\$2,930,000	\$2,930,000
% change	--	-2.9%	0.0%

These six line items provide subsidies in support of laboratory and clinical teaching components of the medical and other health-related curricula at each of Ohio's six public medical colleges. These items help defray the costs of clinical training for Ohio's student health professionals. Clinical training is regarded as a fundamental component in the education of physicians and other health care professionals. Areas of subsidized training include medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physical and occupational therapy, and medical technologies. A significant majority of the students receive some clinical experience each year.

The budget continues an earmark of \$1.5 million in each fiscal year from line item 235539 to support the Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance Center at Wright State University.

### **C4:2: The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine Supplement (ALI 235569)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235569, The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine Supplement	\$5,304,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000
% change	--	182.8%	0.0%

This line item provides supplemental support for the College of Veterinary Medicine at the Ohio State University (OSU), Ohio's only college of veterinary medicine. Prior temporary law required line item 235569 to be used by the college to provide supplemental support for education, research, and operations. Instead, the budget requires the college to use line item 235569 to increase enrollment of Ohio students, with the express goal that 70% of the students entering the college in the 2026-2027 academic year be Ohio students.

### **C4:3: Family Practice (ALI 235519)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235519, Family Practice	\$3,191,000	\$3,098,000	\$3,098,000
% change	--	-2.9%	0.0%

This line item funds family practice initiatives. Specifically, it supports family practice residencies and instruction in the departments of family medicine within each medical college in Ohio, both public and private. State-assisted medical schools are required to establish and maintain departments of family medicine. The Family Practice appropriation supports an incentive-based subsidy that rewards medical schools for the number of medical school graduates who: (1) go on to family practice residencies, (2) establish family medicine practices in Ohio, and (3) serve underserved populations and/or geographic areas of Ohio. The subsidy's purpose is to raise the quality and number of family practice physicians practicing in the state. The budget continues to require funds from line item 235519 to be distributed in each fiscal year based on each medical school's share of residents placed in a family practice and graduates practicing in a family practice.

### **C4:4: Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine (ALI 235515)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235515, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine	\$2,163,000	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000
% change	--	-2.9%	0.0%

This line item provides supplemental state funding for the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Medicine. In return, the medical school agrees to use the funds to improve the clinical experiences of its medical students and to increase medical outreach to the residents of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County.

CWRU uses these funds to recruit students across the country and create a curriculum that focuses on health issues in Ohio. Students learn to address critical public health issues that exist in Ohio's communities and provide medical services to underserved populations throughout Cuyahoga County, in part through early clinical experiences. CWRU submits an annual report to ODHE detailing the students participating in health and health care initiatives; the health, health

care, and medical areas addressed at CWRU; and the progress made in delivery of the community curriculum in the preceding year.

#### **C4:5: Area Health Education Centers Program Support (ALI 235474)**

Earmark	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Home Care and Hospice Workforce Program	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Remainder – Area Health Education Centers Program Support	\$900,000	\$899,000	\$899,000
GRF ALI 235474 total	\$900,000	\$1,899,000	\$1,899,000
% change	--	111.0%	0.0%

The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program coordinates the placement of students of medicine and the other health professions into community-based clinical training sites, especially those in regions of physician shortages such as rural and inner city areas. The program also supports other health care workforce development efforts, including pipeline programs facilitating STEM education and the support of practitioners already located in areas with shortages of health care professionals. The program's goal is to improve the geographic distribution and quality of health care personnel and health care delivery in the state. Measurement criteria include the number of training sites served, the number of students receiving education through the program, and student experiences in areas with current shortages of health care professionals.

Additionally, the budget earmarks a total of \$1.0 million in each fiscal year for the Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice (OCHCH) to establish and administer the Home Care and Hospice Workforce Program to enhance the nursing workforce needs across the state. Furthermore, it requires the earmark to be used as follows:

- \$500,000 in each fiscal year to provide competitive scholarships to nursing students in their last year of study as follows: \$20,000 for registered nurse (RN) and Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students, \$10,000 for licensed practical nurse (LPN) to RN bridge students, and \$6,000 for LPN students;
- \$400,000 in each fiscal year to provide competitive grants of \$20,000 for each nurse that receives training and mentoring during the first three months of employment at a home care agency; and
- \$100,000 in each fiscal year to administer the program.

#### **C4:6: Primary Care Residencies (ALI 235526)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235526, Primary Care Residencies	\$1,512,000	\$1,468,000	\$1,468,000
% change	--	-2.9%	0.0%

The Primary Care Residencies line item is an incentive-based subsidy that rewards medical schools based on the number of medical school graduates who: (1) go on to primary care residencies in pediatrics, internal medicine, pediatric internal medicine, or osteopathic medicine, and (2) establish primary care practices in Ohio. The line item supports instruction in primary care specialties, such as internal medicine and pediatrics, to raise the quality and number of primary care physicians in medical practice. The budget continues to require funds from line item 235526 to be distributed in each fiscal year based on each medical school's share of residents placed in a primary care field and graduates practicing in a primary care field.

#### **C4:7: The Ohio State University Clinic Support (ALI 235572)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235572, The Ohio State University Clinic Support	\$772,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
% change	--	-2.8%	0.0%

This line item supports the clinical components of the instructional programs at the dental and veterinary medicine schools at OSU. The clinics provide practical education to dentistry and veterinary medicine students, as well as to dental hygiene students.

#### **C4:8: Geriatric Medicine (ALI 235525)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235525, Geriatric Medicine	\$526,000	\$511,000	\$511,000
% change	--	-2.9%	0.0%

This line item supports the offices of geriatric medicine within the public medical colleges in Ohio. The maintenance of these offices is mandated by state law. The Geriatric Medicine Program helps ensure that all Ohio medical students receive specific education and training within their medical school curricula concerning the care of older adults. To that end, the offices are responsible for including geriatric medicine-related subject matter in existing courses, arranging the courses in sequence, and establishing courses in geriatric medicine wherever appropriate. The program's goal is to improve health care and create a better quality of life for Ohio's senior population.

#### **C4:9: Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine Clinic Subsidy (ALI 235543)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235543, Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine Clinic Subsidy	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

This line item provides state funding for the Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine (KSUCPM). General activities supported by these funds include faculty interaction with small groups of medical students, faculty supervision of medical students in a clinical setting, faculty skills development, and clinical simulation programs. KSUCPM offers a four-year, graduate-level program leading to a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree. Kent State University acquired the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine (OCPM) and renamed it KSUCPM, in 2012. KSUCPM's campus is located in Independence, a suburb of Cleveland.

#### **C4:10: Long-Term Care Research (ALI 235558)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235558, Long-Term Care Research	\$327,000	\$318,000	\$318,000
% change	--	-2.8%	0.0%

This line item supports basic and applied research and graduate studies at Miami University's Scripps Gerontology Center. The Center provides expertise, education, and research concerning issues of state and federal policy about long-term care. The program's goal is to identify cost-effective alternatives for long-term health care at reasonable levels of quality.

#### **Medical education post-graduation residency reports**

The budget continues to require the institutions of higher education receiving the funds described above (with the exception of OSU College of Veterinary Medicine for line item 235569) in support of their medical schools to report to the Chancellor the residency status of graduates that were supported by moneys from their respective items one year and five years after graduating.

#### **C4:11: Nursing Loan Program (ALI 235606)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
6820 ALI 235606, Nursing Loan Program	\$971,610	\$1,203,730	\$1,210,344
% change	--	23.9%	0.5%

This line item supports the Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program (NEALP), which provides financial assistance to Ohio students enrolled in at least half-time study in approved Ohio nurse education programs, including post-licensure nursing instructor programs. The purpose of NEALP is to encourage individuals to become students and instructors in the nursing profession – where Ohio suffers a shortage – and to provide affordable college access to nurses and nursing students.

This line item supports loans of approximately \$1,000 per year to students intending to serve as licensed practical nurses, \$1,800 per year for students intending to serve as registered nurses, and \$7,000 per year to nurses intending to become nurse instructors. Awards for students studying nursing are needs-based and for up to four years of study. After they have obtained the appropriate licensure and are employed in the field of nursing, students will be eligible to have

100% of their outstanding loans canceled in increments of 20% over five years of service. For students studying to be nursing instructors, awards are made on a first-come, first-served basis for up to two years of study. Students that obtain their graduate degree and are employed as nursing instructors are eligible to have 100% of their outstanding loan balance canceled in increments of 25% over four years of service.

The funding for this item is provided by surcharges on the license renewal fees paid by registered nurses and licensed practical nurses.

## Category 5: Workforce and Regional Economic Development

This category of appropriations provides support to Ohio's economy through the development of services and activities to improve the adult workforce.

### C5:1: Ohio Technical Centers (ALI 235444)

Earmark	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Ohio Central School System	\$550,684	\$526,884	\$526,884
OTC assistance	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000
OTCs providing business consultation with matching local dollars	\$3,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Remainder – Ohio Technical Centers	\$19,539,316	\$19,563,116	\$19,563,116
GRF ALI 235444 total	\$23,137,999	\$22,138,000	\$22,138,000
% change	--	-4.3%	0.0%

Ohio Technical Centers (OTCs) provide education and training through full-time and part-time adult career-technical training programs. School districts, joint vocational school districts, and other public educational institutions are eligible for funding. The budget continues to allocate formula funds to OTCs according to a performance-based funding model as follows:

- 50% based on job placement;
- 25% based on program completion;
- 20% based on retention (participants completing half of program hours);
- 5% based on industry-recognized credentials.

The funding model is the same as that used in FY 2024 and FY 2025, except that the budget adds secondary students enrolling in OTC programs through a contract with a school district as being eligible to be counted in the OTC distribution formula. This line item also contains several earmarks.

**C5:2: Aspire (ALIs 235443 and 235641)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235443, Aspire – State	\$7,083,000	\$6,322,267	\$0
% change	--	-10.7%	-100.0%
3120 ALI 235641, Aspire – Federal	\$22,880,385	\$18,996,799	\$0
% change	--	-17.0%	-100.0%
Total Adult Basic and Literacy Education	\$29,963,385	\$25,319,066	\$0
% change	--	-15.5%	-100.0%

In FY 2026, GRF line item 235443, Aspire – State provides the state match for the federal Aspire Program grants appropriated in line item 235641, Aspire – Federal. Beginning in FY 2027, the budget transfers administration of Aspire to DEW, with the state match that fiscal year provided in GRF line item 200572, Adult Education Programs, and federal funding provided in Fund 3120 line item 2006A9, Aspire – Federal. The Aspire Program provides grants to develop and administer courses with a focus on instruction in basic literacy, workplace literacy, family literacy, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), and preparation for high school equivalency tests. A funding cap of 5% is in place for administrative costs.

**C5:3: Program and Project Support (ALI 235533)**

Earmark	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Miami University Ohio Institute for Quantum Computing Research, Talent, and Commercialization and urban bridge to Cleveland	\$0	\$7,000,000	\$0
Strategic Ohio Council on Higher Education Ohio Intern Academy Program	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000
Ashland University Military and Veterans Services Program	\$0	\$935,000	\$0
Kent State University women's wrestling program	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000
University of Dayton Statehouse Civic Scholars	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Sinclair Community College equipment for manufacturing education in Ohio's correctional institutions	\$0	\$350,000	\$0
Kent State University Rising Scholars Program	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Ashland University Ashbrook Center civics education K-12 teacher training and student learning initiative	\$0	\$100,000	\$0
Ohio State University Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0



Earmark	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Miami University Center for Civics, Culture, and Society	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0
Cleveland State University Center for Civics, Culture, and Society	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0
Wright State University Center for Civics, Culture, and Workforce Development	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0
University of Toledo Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0
Earmarks discontinued or moved to another agency	\$3,190,349	\$0	\$0
GRF ALI 235533 total	\$15,490,349	\$9,435,000	\$1,050,000
% change	--	-39.1%	-88.9%

This line item supports various higher education and workforce development programs at several higher education institutions and other schools throughout the state through the earmarks listed above. A number of FY 2025 earmarks from this line item were moved to Fund 5AO0 line item 1956H2, Priority Projects, under the budget of the Department of Development (DEV), including earmarks for support and expansion of unmanned and general aviation STEM pilot programs, the Ohio Aerospace Institute's Space Grant Consortium, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. for Autism, and Ohio State University's East Side Dental Clinic.

#### **C5:4: Super RAPIDS (ALI 235688)**

Earmark	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Youngstown State University taking over operations from Eastern Gateway Community College	\$0	\$2,500,000	\$0
Remainder – Super RAPIDS	\$19,392,014	\$7,500,000	\$0
5AH1 ALI 235688 total	\$19,392,014	\$10,000,000	\$0
% change	--	-48.4%	-100.0%

This line item is used mainly to train students and current workers for specific regional workforce needs by supporting regional, collaborative projects among state institutions of higher education, OTCs, and other secondary and postsecondary education and workforce-related entities. The funds support efforts that build capacity, remove employment and training barriers for prospective and unemployed workers, develop and strengthen business-led strategies in impacted industries, and provide local solutions to employment for communities in economic transition. The Chancellor and OWT use a proposal and review process to award funds under the program, giving priority to proposals that meet certain specified criteria with respect to compliance with state and federal regulations, collaboration, business support and engagement, identification of targeted occupations and industries, project sustainability beyond the grant

period, and evidence of a strong commitment to invest in one or more specific fields. A portion of the funding is used by OWT to meet urgent workforce development and job creation needs throughout the state.

The budget also earmarks up to \$2.5 million in FY 2026 to be distributed to Youngstown State University for assistance with enrolling new students and taking over building operations from Eastern Gateway Community College.

The program is supported by an H.B. 33 cash transfer of \$100.0 million from FY 2023 GRF surplus revenue to the Super RAPIDS Fund (Fund 5AH1). In FY 2026, the budget requires the OBM Director to transfer up to \$10.0 million cash from Fund 5AH1 to the GRF.

### **C5:5: Computer Science (ALI 235413)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235413, Computer Science	\$4,000,000	\$4,004,863	\$4,006,508
% change	--	0.1%	0.0%

This line item supports the Teach CS Grant Program, which provides grants for coursework, materials, and examinations to increase the number of teachers who qualify to teach computer science through various pathways, including a supplemental license, endorsement, and continuing education for existing teachers and an alternative resident educator license for industry experts and other nonteachers. ODHE may give priority to education consortia that include economically disadvantaged schools with limited computer science courses or a need for computer science teachers.

The budget expands the purpose of the program to support increasing the number of teachers qualified to teach computer science and expanding the knowledge of existing teachers. It also specifically permits grants to be used for coursework, materials, examinations, teacher stipends, performance-based incentives, and other purposes as determined by the Chancellor to support the expansion of computer science education. In addition to providing awards, the budget expressly authorizes line item 235413 to be used for administrative purposes.

### **C5:6: Appalachian New Economy Workforce Partnership (ALI 235428)**

Earmark	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Mahoning Valley Innovation and Commercialization Center	\$500,000	\$0	\$0
Remainder – Appalachian New Economy Workforce Partnership	\$3,955,000	\$3,955,000	\$3,955,000
GRF ALI 235428 total	\$4,455,000	\$3,955,000	\$3,955,000
% change	--	-11.2%	0.0%

This line item promotes economic development in Appalachian Ohio through integrated investments designed to improve and target the region's information technology and knowledge infrastructure. Led by Ohio University's Voinovich School, the Appalachian New Economy Partnership (ANEP) supports public-private technology partnerships among Ohio's public and private campuses, private industry, local government, and school districts within the 32-county Appalachian region. ANEP's goal is to develop talent, technology, and capital in the areas of entrepreneurship and business assistance, regional public management, and K-16 education to transform Ohio's Appalachian region so that its residents can take part in and benefit from the global economy. ANEP also provides workshops, marketing strategies for distressed communities, and consultation services in planning, marketing, finance, and information systems.

H.B. 33 earmarked \$500,000 in each of FY 2024 and FY 2025 from line item 235428 for the Mahoning Valley Innovation and Commercialization Center. The budget moves this earmark to Fund 5A00 line item 1956H2, Priority Projects, under the DEV budget, and increases the amount to \$625,000 in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027. It also renames the earmark to the Excellence Training Center at Youngstown State University. For additional details about this earmark, see the [LBO Greenbook for DEV \(PDF\)](#).

### **C5:7: Co-Op Internship Program (ALI 235591)**

<b>Earmark</b>	<b>FY 2025 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2026 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY 2027 Appropriation</b>
Ohio University Voinovich School	\$165,000	\$165,000	\$165,000
Washington Center Internship Program	\$127,045	\$0	\$0
Wright State University Model U.N. Program	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Ohio State University John Glenn College of Public Affairs	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
University of Akron Bliss Institute of Applied Politics	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Miami University Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Cleveland State University Student Mentoring and Career Development Program at the Levin College of Advancing Public Service Professionals	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
University of Cincinnati Internship Program	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Kent State University Washington Program in National Issues	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Kent State University Columbus Program	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
University of Toledo Urban Affairs Center	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Bowling Green State University Center for Regional Development	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000

Earmark	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Shawnee State University Institute for Appalachian Public Policy	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Youngstown State University Initiative for Community and Regional Development	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
GRF ALI 235591 total	\$1,192,045	\$1,065,000	\$1,065,000
% change	--	-10.7%	0.0%

This line item provides funding to public policy schools, centers, or internship programs at various public universities through the earmarks listed above.

### **C5:8: Educator Preparation Programs (ALI 235585)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235585, Educator Preparation Programs	\$2,391,643	\$600,000	\$600,000
% change	--	-74.9%	0.0%

This line item will be used in the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium to implement and administer various reporting and surveying requirements of existing educator preparation programs or other educator programs, such as the Ohio Teacher Apprenticeship Program. Beginning with the first full academic year following adoption of new standards, the budget requires each educator preparation program to align its standards for social studies with new standards adopted by DEW to ensure that educators and other school personnel are adequately prepared and trained in social studies. The Chancellor must complete a review and evaluation process to assess the degree to which each program has aligned with the standards within six months of the beginning of the first full academic year in which the new standards are used.

In the prior biennium, ODHE used this line item to contract with the University of Texas at Austin to audit 49 of Ohio's 50 teacher preparation programs to determine the extent to which each program contains coursework in evidence-based strategies for effective literacy instruction aligned to the science of reading, as required by H.B. 33, and to award grants to public and private universities and colleges that assisted them with (1) aligning their educator preparation programs with the science of reading, and (2) placing student teachers with teachers whose instruction and instructional materials are aligned with the science of reading.

### **C5:9: Carl D. Perkins Grant/Plan Administration (ALI 235612)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
3120 ALI 235612, Carl D. Perkins Grant/Plan Administration	\$953,081	\$1,371,939	\$1,388,525
% change	--	43.9%	1.2%

The federal Carl D. Perkins Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (referred to as Perkins V) aims to increase the quality of academic, career, and technical education within the United States. The line item provides federal funding for the administration and development of the academic, career, and technical skills of secondary and postsecondary students who enroll in career and technical education programs to prepare themselves both for postsecondary education and for careers in high-skill, high-wage, or high-demand occupations in the knowledge and skills-based economy. The appropriations support technical assistance, program monitoring, data collection and reporting, campus grant funding calculations, and general direction of the program. The continuing focus of Perkins V is to integrate academic knowledge and technical skill development and to raise the academic performances of all career-technical students.

Perkins V funds are provided to states that, in turn, allocate funds by formula to secondary and postsecondary schools. ODHE receives a transfer of a portion of the federal funds obtained under Perkins V by DEW to administer the Perkins V grant funds for community and technical colleges and some universities, as well as to provide technical assistance to Perkins V campus coordinators.

## Category 6: Basic and Applied Research

This category of appropriations provides research programs and institutions with the means to create new technologies and help the economic vitality of the state.

### C6:1: Federal Research Network (ALI 235578)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235578, Federal Research Network	\$5,251,000	\$5,099,000	\$5,099,000
% change	--	-2.9%	0.0%

This line item funds a collaboration between the Ohio State University; federal installations in Ohio; public and private, nonprofit institutions of higher education; and the private sector to align the state's research assets with emerging missions and job growth opportunities emanating from federal installations, strengthen related workforce development and technology commercialization programs, and better position the state's university system to directly impact new job creation in Ohio. A portion of this appropriation is used to support the growth of small business federal contractors in the state and to expand the participation of Ohio businesses in the federal Small Business Innovation Research Program and related federal programs.

### C6:2: Ohio Supercomputer Center (ALI 235510)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235510, Ohio Supercomputer Center	\$5,086,000	\$5,086,000	\$5,086,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

This line item supports the operations of the Ohio Supercomputer Center (OSC), located at the Ohio State University. OSC provides faculty, students, and researchers at Ohio's public and private colleges and universities access to a statewide high-performance computing resource. OSC is also available to researchers in private industry on a cost-recovery basis. OSC users can access high-performance computing (HPC), including OSC's modeling and simulation services and support. HPC provides the most effective technological tools currently available for solving a range of engineering and scientific problems and enabling advanced research by Ohio's academic and business communities.

During the past several years, the Center has expanded to provide training, scientific computing, and network research services to national HPC and networking groups, enhancing the services offered to Ohio users while building a national reputation. The two most recent capital appropriations acts provided \$10.5 million in funding to update network security hardware and purchase new supercomputing and storage systems that significantly increase computing power and storage capacity. OSC is a member of OH-TECH, Ohio's statewide higher education technology consortium, along with eStudent Services, OhioLINK, and the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet).

### **C6:3: Air Force Institute of Technology (ALI 235508)**

<b>Earmark</b>	<b>FY 2025 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2026 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY 2027 Appropriation</b>
Aerospace Professional Development Center	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Remainder – Air Force Institute of Technology	\$1,925,000	\$1,925,000	\$1,925,000
GRF ALI 235508 total	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

Generally, this line item supports graduate-level research projects at the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and scholarships for graduate-level engineering students participating in the Defense Associated Graduate Student Innovators (DAGSI) Program. AFIT, the first joint research program between the state of Ohio and the U.S. Air Force, provides graduate-level education in logistics and engineering for Air Force personnel. DAGSI is an engineering graduate consortium including AFIT, the University of Dayton, Wright State University, the Ohio State University, and the University of Cincinnati.

The budget also continues an earmark of \$75,000 in each fiscal year to the Aerospace Professional Development Center (APDC) in Dayton for statewide workforce development services in the aerospace industry. APDC works with the aerospace and defense community to attract and connect high-tech job seekers to jobs across Ohio.

### C6:4: Ohio Higher Education Public Policy Research Consortium (ALI 2355A4)

Earmark	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Consortium operating expenses	\$0	\$75,000	\$75,000
Remainder – Competitive research grants	\$0	\$425,000	\$425,000
GRF ALI 2355A4 total	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000
% change	--	N/A	0.0%

This new line item will be used to support the Ohio Higher Education Public Policy Research Consortium. Specifically, the budget requires the Chancellor, in consultation with DEW, Job and Family Services (JFS), the Inter-University Council, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and other entities to establish this consortium to develop and maintain a biennial statewide research agenda that identifies key policy challenges and research priorities crucial to the state's future, drawing on input from policymakers, practitioners, and community stakeholders.

The bulk of this line item will be used to support competitive grants to faculty and postgraduate students whose research aligns with the consortium's biennial research agenda. Grants must be awarded in a tiered structure based on project scope and complexity. Half of the award amount will be disbursed upon grant approval and the remaining half released upon successful completion of the research and submission of a final report. ODHE must (1) establish a clear rubric to evaluate proposed research projects that contains a peer-reviewed process, involving both academic experts and relevant practitioners and (2) manage the grant process and disseminate research findings through the ODHE's website, policy briefs, community forums, and annual presentations to the standing committees of each house of the general assembly that consider higher education legislation.

The budget earmarks \$75,000 in each fiscal year from this line item for the Chancellor to establish and administer the consortium.

### C6:5: Research Incentive Third Frontier – Tax (ALI 235639)

Earmark	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Water quality improvement	\$2,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Spinal cord research	\$1,309,186	\$750,000	\$750,000
Infant mortality reduction	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0
Cyber-security initiatives	\$1,124,238	\$750,000	\$750,000
I-Corps@Ohio Program	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Ohio Innovative Exchange Program	\$199,547	\$200,000	\$200,000
Remainder – collaborative research proposals	\$1,567,029	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
Fund 7014 ALI 235639 total	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

Overall, the budget appropriates \$8.0 million in each fiscal year from Fund 7014 line item 235639, Research Incentive Third Frontier – Tax. Of that amount, \$4.0 million (50%) in each fiscal year is earmarked to support research on specified topics and certain programs, each of which are listed in the table above. The following briefly describes the two specific organizations or programs receiving funding. The I-Corps@Ohio Program, an initiative of ODHE modeled after the National Science Foundation’s I-Corps Program, assists faculty and graduate students from Ohio universities and colleges to validate the market potential of their technologies and assist with launching start-up companies. The Ohio Innovation Exchange Program (OIEx) provides a statewide research expertise portal and data-sharing model that highlights Ohio’s biomedical and engineering faculty. OIEx’s goal is aimed at enhancing inter-institutional collaborations, resource sharing, and improvement of industry collaboration, product development, and technology commercialization.

The remaining \$4.0 million (50%) in each fiscal year, will fund collaborative research proposals at Ohio’s research universities through the Research Incentive Third Frontier Program. The program aims to enhance the basic research capabilities and promote new research strengths at Ohio’s 13 public universities, one stand-alone public medical college, and two private universities (CWRU and the University of Dayton) in order to strengthen academic research that contributes to economic growth. The program rewards institutions’ successes in attracting external research funds by fractionally matching those external funds obtained during the previous year. Each institution must submit to ODHE a plan that explains its allocation of the matching funds for (1) academic and state purposes, (2) strengthening research programs, and (3) increasing external funding. The plan must also include an evaluation process to determine and report the results of the increased state support. Further, an institution’s plan must also demonstrate significant investments in Third Frontier activities funded at that institution. The budget requires a portion of the \$4.0 million remaining in each fiscal year be used by the Chancellor to support and promote research that is intended to be commercialized. It also requires that the discoveries, inventions, or patents developed be retained by the researcher, unless all or a portion of the interests are specifically granted to the state college or university at which the researcher is employed.

## Category 7: Higher Education Collaboration

This category of appropriations serves the educational needs of Ohio’s citizens through enhanced collaborations among institutions of higher education.

### C7:1: OhioLINK (ALI 235507)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235507, OhioLINK	\$6,447,000	\$6,447,000	\$6,447,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

This line item supports the operations of OhioLINK, a statewide cooperative electronic library and information retrieval system. OhioLINK enables access to the shared library collections of Ohio’s public and private colleges and universities and the State Library of Ohio,



with approximately 38 million library materials statewide. OhioLINK's goal is to provide easy access to information and rapid delivery of library materials throughout the state. OhioLINK offers the following electronic services: a library catalog, research databases, a multi-publisher electronic journal center, a collection of e-books, an electronic theses and dissertations center, and a music center. Other services include a digital asset management and preservation solution and integration with the Digital Public Library of America.

About 19% of operating funding is used to support core statewide electronic content licenses for electronic journals and research databases, delivery courier services, or IT costs. Through the cooperative purchase and use of electronic information resources, OhioLINK achieves significant economies of scale. OhioLINK is a member of OH-TECH, Ohio's statewide higher education technology consortium, along with eStudent Services, OSC, and OARnet.

### **C7:2: Technology Maintenance and Operations (ALI 235417)**

Earmark	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Ohio Reach	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Remainder – eStudent Services, HEI system, Information Technology Solutions	\$4,405,821	\$4,370,396	\$4,378,397
GRF ALI 235417 total	\$4,555,821	\$4,520,396	\$4,528,397
% change	--	-0.8%	0.2%

Generally, this line item is used to support the development and implementation of information technology solutions designed to improve ODHE's performance and capacity, which the budget specifically allows to be provided by OH-TECH, Ohio's statewide higher education technology consortium. More specifically, the purpose of the item is to provide Shared Infrastructure (SI) services to ODHE. SI provides application and server infrastructure, endpoint management, program management, and local area network (LAN) services to support ODHE business services.

The budget permits a portion of line item 235417 in each fiscal year to be used for the eStudent Services Program and for any other strategic priorities of the Chancellor. eStudent Services is a state-of-the-art statewide collaborative electronic education system and is a member of OH-TECH, along with OARnet, OhioLINK, and OSC. The budget also requires a portion of line item 235417 in each fiscal year to be used for the HEI system. This system holds public and private institutional data in the areas of facilities, faculty-staff, academic programs, enrollment, financials, and financial aid. These funds are to be used for the continued operations of the system and, potentially, a re-write and integration of HEI file structures. Funding for the upgrades and maintenance of the HEI system has been appropriated in recent capital budget acts. Additionally, the budget earmarks \$150,000 in each fiscal year to support Ohio Reach to provide mentoring and support services to former foster youth attending college.

**C7:3: Ohio Academic Resources Network (ALI 235556)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235556, Ohio Academic Resources Network	\$3,568,000	\$3,568,000	\$3,568,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

This line item supports the operations of the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet), which provides high-speed networking services to Ohio's higher education institutions, K-12 school districts, state and local governments, public broadcasting stations, and academic medical centers. OARnet provides internet access to millions of Ohioans, including students, researchers, and the general public. The program provides high-quality, fiber optic, backbone internet services to help link Ohio's academics to global information resources, distance learning, and state library networks such as OhioLINK. Program funds are provided to Ohio's state-assisted campuses for improving research, distance learning, education and economic development programs, and maintaining and enhancing network connections, including base operations and expansions for enhanced connectivity, functionality, and services. The budget also requires OARnet, to the extent that network capacity is available, to supply bandwidth to eligible economic development programs. OARnet is a member of OH-TECH, Ohio's statewide higher education technology consortium, along with eStudent Services, OhioLINK, and OSC.

**C7:4: Articulation and Transfer (ALIs 235406 and 235669)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235406, Articulation and Transfer	\$2,210,172	\$2,269,500	\$2,314,890
% change	--	2.7%	2.0%
3120 ALI 235669, Industry Credential Transfer Assurance Guides Initiative	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000
% change	--	N/A	0.0%

These line items support ODHE's efforts to achieve an effective statewide articulation and transfer system that addresses issues arising from the increasing student mobility throughout Ohio's higher education system, in particular those issues arising from the transfers of students and their course credits among state-assisted colleges and universities. The system also supports military and apprenticeship pathways and the articulation of credit from high schools, high school career-technical programs, and Ohio Technical Centers to public institutions of higher education. The system facilitates transfers by establishing and implementing uniform course equivalencies and transfer policies, by creating a seamless transfer module so that course credits earned by students at one institution may be applicable or transferable to other institutions in Ohio, and by ensuring the equitable treatment of all students.

According to ODHE, line item 235406, Articulation and Transfer, supports the increased workload associated with various transfer initiatives including the Industry Recognized Credential

Transfer Assurance Guides (ITAGS). ITAGS has mainly been supported by federal funds in line item 235669, Industry Credential Transfer Assurance Guides Initiative. ITAGs guarantee the award of college-level credit to students earning agreed upon industry-recognized credentials. The initiative provides a framework of articulation agreements to determine how credit is awarded for industry certifications and state licenses. Among the activities included under the initiative, ODHE will develop and deploy statewide articulation agreements, modify its Course Equivalency Management System to incorporate ITAGS, provide training to community colleges and universities on reporting credit obtained through the ITAGS process, and conduct a summative evaluation of the implementation and outcomes of ITAGS.

All state articulation issues are overseen by the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council, with members from Ohio's public colleges and universities and five officials from state and private organizations in both K-12 and postsecondary education.

### **C7:5: Library Depositories (ALI 235555)**

<b>Fund/ALI</b>	<b>FY 2025 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2026 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY 2027 Appropriation</b>
GRF ALI 235555, Library Depositories	\$900,000	\$700,000	\$500,000
% change	--	-22.2%	-28.6%

This line item supports a collaborative effort among Ohio's public universities to provide high-density storage for rarely used and duplicative library materials, thereby providing an economical alternative to additional traditional library space that would be needed to store such materials. The item provides funding for the storage operations at five regional depositories. The goal is to provide highly efficient storage and delivery services for the public universities' expanded print collection and make them available to students, faculty, and researchers at all OhioLINK institutions. The five regional depositories are located at the campuses of Miami University, the Northeast Ohio Medical University, Ohio University, the Ohio State University, and at the Northwestern Ohio Book Depository, which serves Bowling Green State University and the University of Toledo and its medical campus. The budget continues to permit OhioLINK to administer the program at the discretion of the Chancellor.

### **C7:6: Midwest Higher Education Compact (ALI 235408)**

<b>Fund/ALI</b>	<b>FY 2025 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2026 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY 2027 Appropriation</b>
GRF ALI 235408, Midwest Higher Education Compact	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

This line item supports Ohio's membership dues to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact's (MHEC) commission for the next two fiscal years. MHEC is a nonprofit regional organization established in 1991 by an agreement among member states to advance higher education services and opportunities in the Midwest region. It is charged with promoting

interstate cooperation and resource sharing in higher education through cost-savings programs, student access (including reduced tuition), and policy research.

The 12 member states of MHEC are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The Compact's members meet twice each year to establish goals and priorities, review programs, and approve the operating budget.

## Category 8: Planning and Coordination

This category of appropriations provides ODHE and state-assisted institutions of higher education with operational and administrative support to perform efficiently and effectively. It also provides campus safety and security support at campuses throughout the state.

### C8:1: Operating Expenses (ALI 235321)

Earmark	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Enhanced security operations and services	\$1,361,487	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
Remainder – Operating Expenses	\$7,177,340	\$7,550,000	\$8,050,000
GRF ALI 235321 total	\$8,538,827	\$8,750,000	\$9,250,000
% change	--	2.5%	5.7%

This line item equips ODHE with essential resources, mainly personnel, to enable the agency to pursue its mandated mission to serve Ohio's colleges and universities and to provide higher education policy and budget advice to the Governor and to the General Assembly. This item supports the agency's personal services, maintenance, and equipment. In addition to these services, the line item supports the operations and maintenance of the Higher Educational Information system and the administration of the Research Incentive Program.

Additionally, the budget earmarks \$1.2 million in each fiscal year for the Chancellor, in consultation with OH-TECH, to enhance information technology network security operations and services for the benefit of all members of OH-TECH. The budget also permits the Ohio Academic Resource Network (OARnet) and the Ohio Supercomputer Center to use a portion of the earmarked funds to enhance their respective network security operations to better serve clients who store sensitive data that is subject to the highest data privacy standards imposed by federal regulations and national research organizations, including, but not limited to, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Defense.

### C8:2: Campus Security Support Program (ALI 235475)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235475, Campus Security Support Program	\$1,489,144	\$4,000,000	\$0
% change	--	168.6%	-100.0%

This line item, created in S.B. 94 of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, supports institutionally sanctioned student organizations, located on or off campus, affiliated with communities that are at risk for increased threats of violent crime, terror attacks, hate crimes, or harassment to enhance security measures and increase student safety at institutions of higher education throughout the state. ODHE may use a portion of these funds to administer the program.

The budget also requires, by July 1, 2026, the Chancellor to submit reports regarding the programs funded under this line item and GRF line item 235476, Campus Student Safety Grant Program, to the chairpersons of the House and Senate higher education committees. The reports must include information about award recipients and how funds have been spent under each program.

### **C8:3: Military and Veterans Offices (ALI 235450)**

Earmark	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Grants to military and veterans offices	\$0	\$255,000	\$255,000
Military community advocates scholarships	\$0	\$213,750	\$213,750
Sponsor attendance at NVLF's Advancement Institute	\$0	\$91,800	\$91,800
Remainder – NVLF's administrative and other costs	\$0	\$583,450	\$583,450
GRF ALI 235450 total	\$0	\$1,144,000	\$1,144,000
% change	--	N/A	0.0%

This new line item will be used to support higher education institutions that are members of the Ohio Veterans Education Council (OVEC). The Chancellor may consult with the Director of Veterans Services as needed. The budget provides the following earmarks of line item 235450:

- \$255,000 in each fiscal year to be used for grants to military and veterans offices at institutions of higher education to support growth in private philanthropy, in collaboration with the National Veterans Leadership Foundation (NVLF).
- Up to \$213,750 in each fiscal year for the Chancellor to award scholarships of \$2,500 to students who serve as military community advocates, including up to six students at an OVEC public university and up to three students at an OVEC public community college or private nonprofit university or college.
- \$91,800 in each fiscal year to sponsor staff from military and veterans offices at institutions of higher education to attend the NVLF's Advancement Institute.
- The remainder of line item 235450 to support NVLF administrative costs, create a website to connect veterans to programs and offerings at all OVEC member colleges and universities, administer membership and Ohio Purple Star status, facilitate information sharing, and support any other expenses as determined appropriate by the Chancellor, in consultation with NVLF.

**C8:4: Campus Student Safety Grant Program (ALI 235476)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235476, Campus Student Safety Grant Program	\$613,664	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
% change	--	63.0%	0.0%

This line item, created in S.B. 94 of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, awards grants to institutions of higher education that demonstrate increased threats of violent crime, terror attacks, hate crimes, or harassment toward students and institutionally sanctioned student organizations at the institution to enhance security measures and increase student safety.

As mentioned above under GRF line item 235475, Campus Security Support Program, the budget also requires, by July 1, 2026, the Chancellor to submit reports regarding the programs funded under this line item and line item 235475 to the chairpersons of the House and Senate higher education committees. The reports must include information about award recipients and how funds have been spent under each program.

**C8:5: Campus Safety and Training (ALI 235492)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235492, Campus Safety and Training	\$638,568	\$200,000	\$200,000
% change	--	-68.7%	0.0%

This line item provides support for the “Changing Campus Culture” Program aimed at ending sexual violence on Ohio’s college campuses. The line item is used to continue developing model best practices in line with emerging trends, research, and evidence-based trainings.

**C8:6: State and Non-Federal Grants and Award (ALI 235650)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
5FR0 ALI 235650, State and Non-Federal Grants and Award	\$2,733,460	\$1,405,944	\$1,412,670
% change	--	-48.6%	0.5%

This line item is used to spend the proceeds of various temporary nonfederal grants. The grants typically focus on completion, retention, student success, and curriculum initiatives.

**C8:7: Program Approval and Reauthorization (ALI 235614)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
2200 ALI 235614, Program Approval and Reauthorization	\$555,466	\$769,126	\$789,679
% change	--	38.5%	2.7%

This line item enables ODHE to directly contract with and reimburse consultants who review and evaluate higher education institutions' degree program proposals, conduct institutional authorization and reauthorization reviews, and perform institutional oversight reviews for private, proprietary, and out-of-state institutions, pursuant to Chapter 1713 of the Revised Code. The consultants provide institutional oversight to ensure that Ohio's degree programs are of the highest educational quality.

The appropriation is supported by remittances from institutions requesting reviews, evaluations, authorizations, and reauthorizations and participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement; the institutions are responsible for all costs associated with the authorization process. The costs incurred through approval and reauthorization are driven by the number of authorization requests that ODHE receives from public, private, proprietary, and out-of-state institutions; the number of reauthorization requests received from currently authorized institutions; and the number of institutional oversight reviews performed by ODHE. Each institutional request for authorization or reauthorization must be accommodated by ODHE, which must also provide appropriate oversight reviews each year. The total number of reviews per year can vary depending on the institutions' circumstances. The appropriation is also used for ongoing maintenance of a database system for tracking program approvals.

**C8:8: Sales and Services (ALI 235603)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
4560 ALI 235603, Sales and Services	\$140,000	\$129,725	\$133,017
% change	--	-7.3%	2.5%

This line item covers the costs of producing official publications and delivering services associated with ODHE's Higher Education Information (HEI) system, as well as miscellaneous meeting expenses. The line item is supported by the proceeds from HEI-related goods and services, conference fees, and the sale of publications that are deposited into Fund 4560.

**C8:9: Conferences/Special Purposes (ALI 235675)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
5D40 ALI 235675, Conferences/Special Purposes	\$17,487	\$125,000	\$125,000
% change	--	614.8%	0.0%

This line item is supported by registration fees paid by persons participating in conferences and training as well as gifts and bequests for specific purposes. Moneys are used to pay for the costs associated with the conferences and for the purposes specified by the gifts and bequests.

## Category 9: Ohio Tuition Trust Authority

This category of appropriations provides support for the operations and activities of the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority (OTTA) and Ohio's 529 college savings program oversight. OTTA was created in 1989 to provide a tax advantaged investment option for Ohio families to save for their children's college education. The Chancellor has governing power over OTTA's operations. The Ohio Tuition Trust Advisory Board acts as an advisory board to the Chancellor. The Advisory Board is made up of 11 members, including one appointed by the Governor that must have experience in the field of banking, investment banking, insurance, or law. All of OTTA's operations are funded through fee revenue generated through its programs – no expenditures are made from the GRF.

OTTA is responsible for Ohio's 529 college savings program, the CollegeAdvantage Savings Plan. A 529 college savings program is a state-operated investment plan named after the section of the federal Internal Revenue Code that specifies the various tax advantages of participating in the program. These tax advantages include tax-free growth while the value of the account accumulates, and withdrawals that are exempt from both federal and state income taxes if the distributions are used to pay for qualified higher education expenses. The qualified expenses include tuition, room and board, and any other fees or costs that are required for enrollment or attendance at the college or university. Funds invested in the plan may be used at any college in the country. In addition, 529 account owners are permitted to use distributions from 529 plans to pay K-12 tuition and other education expenses up to \$10,000 per student, per year, for enrollment at public or private elementary and secondary schools. Additionally, expenses associated with principal and interest payments on certain qualified loans for an account's beneficiary or the beneficiary's siblings and certain apprenticeship programs registered and certified by the Secretary of Labor under the National Apprenticeship Act are included as a "qualified education expense" under a plan. Taxpayers may claim a deduction on their state income tax return for contributions of up to \$4,000 per year per child. Contributions over the limit for a child may be carried forward to future years.

### C9:1: Variable Savings Plan (ALI 235663)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
5P30 ALI 235663, Variable Savings Plan	\$7,465,559	\$8,522,034	\$8,522,034
% change	--	14.2%	0.0%

Line item 235663 supports OTTA's administrative costs associated with running Ohio's 529 college savings program that is currently open to new enrollments and contributions. The Variable Savings Plan includes advisor-sold investment options, options that investors can buy directly, and FDIC-insured savings accounts and certificates of deposit. The options are managed by various investment and banking firms. OTTA's administrative costs are funded through fees



charged to customer accounts. The fees are calculated based on a small percentage of assets under management (AUM) from customers in the advisor-sold and direct plans. Customers with assets in savings or certificates of deposit do not pay any fees. However, OTTA collects a small percentage directly from the manager of those funds in the form of revenue sharing based on AUM.

### **C9:2: Guaranteed Savings Plan (ALI 235664)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
6450 ALI 235664, Guaranteed Savings Plan	\$875,254	\$1,110,131	\$1,110,132
% change	--	26.8%	0.0%

The oldest savings plan operated by OTTA, the Guaranteed Savings Plan, offered units that can be reimbursed for a portion of tuition, but no longer accepts new enrollments or contributions. Funding for this line item comes from the reserve fund within the program, which contains fees that were assessed on each sale (approximately \$5 per contract) when the program was open for new enrollments and contributions.

Line item 235664 pays for the administrative costs of operating the Guaranteed Savings Plan, which was established in October 1989. The plan has been suspended for new enrollees since October 8, 2003, and suspended for new contributions to existing accounts since January 1, 2004. The Guaranteed Savings Plan suspension was due to an actuarial deficit, initially caused largely by the combination of the downturn in the economy and the stock market, and the large increases in tuitions at Ohio's public colleges and universities after the removal of tuition caps in FY 2002 and FY 2003.

Since new enrollments and contributions to the program have been suspended, the main activities of the program have been processing withdrawals, answering questions from program participants, and making program participants aware of investment options available under the Variable Savings Plan. The other priority of the program is to effectively manage the existing assets in the program to maximize the investment return while minimizing risk. Program staff will continue to provide the declining number of account holders with required communications, quarterly and annual statements, and tax forms.

## **Category 10: Facilities and Debt Service**

This category of appropriations provides funds for the servicing of debt obligations incurred by the state and for the administration of capital-related activities.

### **C10:1: Higher Education General Obligation Bond Debt Service (ALI 235909)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235909, Higher Education General Obligation Bond Debt Service	\$271,061,780	\$250,000,000	\$210,000,000
% change	--	-7.8%	-16.0%

This line item provides the funds necessary to make debt service payments during the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium on general obligation (GO) bonds issued to build and renovate facilities at state-supported colleges and universities throughout the state. In November 1999, Ohio voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing the state to issue GO bonds for funding higher education's capital projects. GO bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the state and thus can be issued at lower interest rates than other types of bonds. Since FY 2000, only general obligation bonds have been issued for state-supported higher education capital projects.

### **C10:2: Capital Component (ALI 235552)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 235552, Capital Component	\$3,629,596	\$1,236,561	\$1,236,561
% change	--	-65.9%	0.0%

This line item provides funding for campuses that requested and received capital appropriations lower than their formula-allocated capital appropriation amount in the capital formula used prior to FY 2012. The budget restricts the funds distributed through this line item to capital-related purposes. This line item was established in FY 1998 to implement an incentive-based capital funding policy. Under this policy, ODHE used a formula to recommend capital funding based on the amount and age of space, the number of student enrollments, and the total capital appropriations available. Funding for the Capital Component Program is equal to the difference between ODHE's recommended capital funding amount under the prior formula and actual capital appropriations received. In FY 2012, ODHE established a new method of making campus capital allocations based on statewide priorities and cooperative strategy among the institutions. Funding for the program continues, however, for outstanding debt issued for capital appropriations prior to FY 2012. According to ODHE, this policy is set to expire by June 30, 2029.

The SSI formula reduces a campus's SSI subsidy if the campus requested and received capital appropriations greater than its formula-determined amount. The reduction amount equals the difference between a campus's formula-determined debt service amount in the prior capital formula and the debt service amount actually received by the campus. For all applicable campuses, these reduced subsidies are deducted from GRF line item 235501, State Share of Instruction, and transferred to the Capital Component line item.

### **C10:3: Strategic Square Footage Reduction (ALI 2356A2)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
5CJ1 ALI 2356A2, Strategic Square Footage Reduction	\$0	\$82,650,000	\$0
% change	--	N/A	-100.0%

This new line item will be used by the Chancellor, in consultation with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC), to award revolving loans to state institutions of higher education to enable them to demolish campus facilities. The Chancellor and OFCC will establish a

competitive process for ranking applicants and awarding the loans, with priority given to state institutions whose general student population has decreased. The budget also requires the Chancellor and OFCC to consider eight factors in making the final awards. Recipient institutions must annually provide a summary of financial information regarding the loan. If any net proceeds arise from the demolition of real property under this initiative, the budget requires, at the direction of the OBM Director, those proceeds to be credited to the newly created Strategic Square Footage Reduction Fund (Fund 5CJ1). A state institution that receives a loan under the initiative is prohibited from constructing any new facility at the same time demolition is occurring.

The budget requires the Treasurer of State, upon request by the Chancellor and approval by the OBM Director, to transfer funds from the Ohio Tuition Trust Reserve Fund to Fund 5CJ1. The Reserve Fund is a custodial fund that holds money from the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority's Guaranteed Savings Plan that is not actuarially necessary to pay tuition credit obligations and receives interest and investment income earned by those dollars.

#### **C10:4: Higher Educational Facility Commission Administration (ALI 235602)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
4E80 ALI 235602, Higher Educational Facility Commission Administration	\$38,275	\$69,839	\$73,807
% change	--	82.5%	5.7%

This line item supports ODHE's administration of the Higher Educational Facility Commission (HEFC), an agency of the state that provides for the issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds for Ohio's independent nonprofit private colleges and universities and nonprofit hospitals and health care systems. HEFC does not have a separate staff or permanent offices; it relies on bond counsel (who is paid by the universities and hospitals for which bonds are issued) and the support of ODHE for its operations. ODHE staff support includes accounting and recordkeeping, scheduling and coordinating HEFC meetings and project applications, and preparing HEFC's annual report.

Each eligible entity pays an application fee for each bond issuance. The fee is deposited in the HEFC Operating Expense Fund (Fund 4610) and used to fund the operations of HEFC. The budget authorizes the transfer of up to the amount appropriated from line item 235602 in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 from Fund 4610 to the HEFC Administration Fund (Fund 4E80) used by ODHE, to enable ODHE to perform HEFC's administrative duties.

HEFC receives a separate appropriation of \$15,513 each fiscal year from Fund 4610 line item 372601, Operating Expenses. This item is mainly used to pay state audit costs and certain membership fees and to reimburse Commission members for their actual expenses related to HEFC's official business, including cost of travel and professional development opportunities. Additional details about the Commission and its activities are available in the [LBO Greenbook for HEFC \(PDF\)](#).

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**H.B. 96 - Main Operating Appropriations Bill**

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	FY 2025	Appropriation FY 2026	Appropriation FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
<b>BOR Ohio Department of Higher Education</b>								
GRF	235321	Operating Expenses	\$7,939,352	\$8,538,827	\$8,750,000	\$9,250,000	2.47%	5.71%
GRF	235402	Sea Grants	\$308,000	\$317,000	\$308,000	\$308,000	-2.84%	0.00%
GRF	235406	Articulation and Transfer	\$2,066,893	\$2,210,172	\$2,269,500	\$2,314,890	2.68%	2.00%
GRF	235408	Midwest Higher Education Compact	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	235413	Computer Science	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,004,863	\$4,006,508	0.12%	0.04%
GRF	235414	Grants and Scholarship Administration	\$983,882	\$956,090	\$922,538	\$985,378	-3.51%	6.81%
GRF	235417	Technology Maintenance and Operations	\$4,397,808	\$4,555,821	\$4,520,396	\$4,528,397	-0.78%	0.18%
GRF	235419	Mental Health Support	\$9,956,905	\$9,964,958	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
GRF	235425	Ohio Work Ready Grant	\$9,635,147	\$10,000,000	\$10,500,000	\$10,500,000	5.00%	0.00%
GRF	235428	Appalachian New Economy Workforce Partnership	\$4,243,000	\$4,455,000	\$3,955,000	\$3,955,000	-11.22%	0.00%
GRF	235438	Choose Ohio First Scholarship	\$20,797,069	\$26,619,571	\$32,000,000	\$32,000,000	20.21%	0.00%
GRF	235443	Aspire - State	\$7,083,000	\$7,083,000	\$6,322,267	\$0	-10.74%	-100.00%
GRF	235444	Ohio Technical Centers	\$22,464,000	\$23,137,999	\$22,138,000	\$22,138,000	-4.32%	0.00%
GRF	235450	Military and Veterans Offices	\$0	\$0	\$1,144,000	\$1,144,000	N/A	0.00%
GRF	235474	Area Health Education Centers Program Support	\$899,000	\$900,000	\$1,899,000	\$1,899,000	111.00%	0.00%
GRF	235475	Campus Security Support Program	\$0	\$1,489,144	\$4,000,000	\$0	168.61%	-100.00%
GRF	235476	Campus Student Safety Grant Program	\$0	\$613,664	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	62.96%	0.00%
GRF	235492	Campus Safety and Training	\$597,640	\$638,568	\$200,000	\$200,000	-68.68%	0.00%
GRF	235501	State Share of Instruction	\$2,094,658,776	\$2,120,206,340	\$2,156,383,406	\$2,177,772,240	1.71%	0.99%
GRF	235504	War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarships	\$17,486,342	\$20,810,796	\$25,000,000	\$30,000,000	20.13%	20.00%
GRF	235505	State Share of Instruction Reconciliation	\$2,441,115	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A
GRF	235507	OhioLINK	\$6,140,000	\$6,447,000	\$6,447,000	\$6,447,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	235508	Air Force Institute of Technology	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	235510	Ohio Supercomputer Center	\$4,844,000	\$5,086,000	\$5,086,000	\$5,086,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	235511	The Ohio State University Extension Service	\$25,504,000	\$26,269,000	\$25,504,000	\$25,504,000	-2.91%	0.00%

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Final Appropriations  
All Fund Groups - Detail**

**H.B. 96 - Main Operating Appropriations Bill**

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	FY 2025	Appropriation FY 2026	Appropriation FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
<b>BOR Ohio Department of Higher Education</b>								
GRF	235514	Central State Supplement	\$12,036,000	\$12,397,000	\$12,768,910	\$13,151,977	3.00%	3.00%
GRF	235515	Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine	\$2,100,000	\$2,163,000	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000	-2.91%	0.00%
GRF	235519	Family Practice	\$3,098,000	\$3,191,000	\$3,098,000	\$3,098,000	-2.91%	0.00%
GRF	235520	Shawnee State Supplement	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	33.33%	0.00%
GRF	235525	Geriatric Medicine	\$511,000	\$526,000	\$511,000	\$511,000	-2.85%	0.00%
GRF	235526	Primary Care Residencies	\$1,468,000	\$1,512,000	\$1,468,000	\$1,468,000	-2.91%	0.00%
GRF	235530	Governor's Merit Scholarship	\$0	\$22,630,000	\$47,000,000	\$70,000,000	107.69%	48.94%
GRF	235533	Program and Project Support	\$17,000,000	\$15,490,349	\$9,435,000	\$1,050,000	-39.09%	-88.87%
GRF	235535	Ohio State Agricultural Research	\$37,169,000	\$38,284,000	\$37,169,000	\$37,169,000	-2.91%	0.00%
GRF	235536	The Ohio State University Clinical Teaching	\$9,461,000	\$9,745,000	\$9,461,000	\$9,461,000	-2.91%	0.00%
GRF	235537	University of Cincinnati Clinical Teaching	\$8,085,000	\$8,343,000	\$8,085,000	\$8,085,000	-3.09%	0.00%
GRF	235538	University of Toledo Clinical Teaching	\$6,065,000	\$6,247,000	\$6,065,000	\$6,065,000	-2.91%	0.00%
GRF	235539	Wright State University Clinical Teaching	\$4,447,000	\$4,535,000	\$4,447,000	\$4,447,000	-1.94%	0.00%
GRF	235540	Ohio University Clinical Teaching	\$2,849,000	\$2,934,000	\$2,849,000	\$2,849,000	-2.90%	0.00%
GRF	235541	Northeast Ohio Medical University Clinical Teaching	\$2,930,000	\$3,018,000	\$2,930,000	\$2,930,000	-2.92%	0.00%
GRF	235543	Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine Clinic Subsidy	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	235546	Central State Agricultural Research and Development	\$5,828,000	\$5,828,000	\$5,828,000	\$5,828,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	235548	Central State Cooperative Extension Services	\$5,168,000	\$5,168,000	\$5,168,000	\$5,168,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	235552	Capital Component	\$3,629,566	\$3,629,596	\$1,236,561	\$1,236,561	-65.93%	0.00%
GRF	235555	Library Depositories	\$1,100,000	\$900,000	\$700,000	\$500,000	-22.22%	-28.57%
GRF	235556	Ohio Academic Resources Network	\$3,262,000	\$3,568,000	\$3,568,000	\$3,568,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	235558	Long-term Care Research	\$318,000	\$327,000	\$318,000	\$318,000	-2.75%	0.00%
GRF	235563	Ohio College Opportunity Grant	\$157,772,084	\$227,378,729	\$220,600,000	\$207,400,000	-2.98%	-5.98%
GRF	235569	The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine Supplement	\$5,150,000	\$5,304,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	182.81%	0.00%
GRF	235572	The Ohio State University Clinic Support	\$750,000	\$772,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	-2.85%	0.00%

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Final Appropriations  
All Fund Groups - Detail**

**H.B. 96 - Main Operating Appropriations Bill**

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	FY 2025	Appropriation FY 2026	Appropriation FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
<b>BOR Ohio Department of Higher Education</b>								
GRF	235578	Federal Research Network	\$5,099,000	\$5,251,000	\$5,099,000	\$5,099,000	-2.89%	0.00%
GRF	235585	Educator Preparation Programs	\$335,316	\$2,391,643	\$600,000	\$600,000	-74.91%	0.00%
GRF	235591	Co-Op Internship Program	\$1,135,000	\$1,192,045	\$1,065,000	\$1,065,000	-10.66%	0.00%
GRF	235595	Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program	\$3,663,846	\$2,235,051	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	34.23%	0.00%
GRF	235598	Rural University Program	\$412,000	\$412,000	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
GRF	235599	National Guard Scholarship Program	\$17,022,622	\$15,573,268	\$18,399,750	\$18,399,750	18.15%	0.00%
GRF	2355A1	FAFSA Support Teams	\$0	\$989,500	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
GRF	2355A3	Campus Community Grant Program	\$0	\$722,339	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
GRF	2355A4	Ohio Higher Education Public Policy Research Consortium	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	N/A	0.00%
GRF	235909	Higher Education General Obligation Bond Debt Service	\$248,294,999	\$271,061,780	\$250,000,000	\$210,000,000	-7.77%	-16.00%
<b>General Revenue Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$2,824,220,362</b>	<b>\$2,979,633,249</b>	<b>\$3,016,188,191</b>	<b>\$2,994,470,701</b>	<b>1.23%</b>	<b>-0.72%</b>
2200	235614	Program Approval and Reauthorization	\$615,764	\$555,466	\$769,126	\$789,679	38.46%	2.67%
4560	235603	Sales and Services	\$120,000	\$140,000	\$129,725	\$133,017	-7.34%	2.54%
4E80	235602	Higher Educational Facility Commission Administration	\$64,179	\$38,275	\$69,839	\$73,807	82.47%	5.68%
5AH1	235688	Super RAPIDS	\$62,625,571	\$19,392,014	\$10,000,000	\$0	-48.43%	-100.00%
5AO1	235613	Northeast Ohio Medical University Dental School	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A
5CJ1	2356A2	Strategic Square Footage Reduction	\$0	\$0	\$82,650,000	\$0	N/A	-100.00%
5D40	235675	Conference/Special Purposes	\$22,119	\$17,487	\$125,000	\$125,000	614.82%	0.00%
5FRO	235650	State and Non-Federal Grants and Awards	\$193,871	\$2,733,460	\$1,405,944	\$1,412,670	-48.57%	0.48%
5HC8	659698	BOR Home and Community Based Services	\$12,939,752	\$32,294,854	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
5NH0	235517	Talent Ready Grant Program	\$9,892,026	\$10,242,394	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
5P30	235663	Variable Savings Plan	\$7,764,727	\$7,465,559	\$8,522,034	\$8,522,034	14.15%	0.00%
5Y50	235618	State Financial Aid Reconciliation	\$0	\$125,036	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
5YD0	235494	Second Chance Grant Program	\$1,976,243	\$2,062,732	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	-3.04%	0.00%
5ZD0	235426	Rural Practice Incentive Program	\$0	\$383,206	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	291.43%	0.00%

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Final Appropriations  
All Fund Groups - Detail**

**H.B. 96 - Main Operating Appropriations Bill**

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	FY 2025	Appropriation FY 2026	Appropriation FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
<b>BOR Ohio Department of Higher Education</b>								
5ZY0	235592	Grow Your Own Teacher Program	\$30,975	\$814,782	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	206.83%	0.00%
6450	235664	Guaranteed Savings Plan	\$797,842	\$875,254	\$1,110,131	\$1,110,132	26.84%	0.00%
6820	235606	Nursing Loan Program	\$677,689	\$971,610	\$1,203,730	\$1,210,344	23.89%	0.55%
<b>Dedicated Purpose Fund Group Subtotal</b>			<b>\$101,720,756</b>	<b>\$78,112,128</b>	<b>\$111,985,529</b>	<b>\$19,376,683</b>	<b>43.37%</b>	<b>-82.70%</b>
7014	235639	Research Incentive Third Frontier - Tax	\$7,925,641	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Bond Research and Development Fund Group Subtotal</b>			<b>\$7,925,641</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
3120	235611	Gear-up Grant	\$2,124,682	\$2,579,337	\$2,956,000	\$2,956,000	14.60%	0.00%
3120	235612	Carl D. Perkins Grant/Plan Administration	\$846,681	\$953,081	\$1,371,939	\$1,388,525	43.95%	1.21%
3120	235641	Aspire - Federal	\$17,974,840	\$22,880,385	\$18,996,799	\$0	-16.97%	-100.00%
3120	235669	Industry Credential Transfer Assurance Guides Initiative	\$132,011	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000	N/A	0.00%
3BG0	235651	Gear Up Grant Scholarships	\$1,179,363	\$971,124	\$3,100,000	\$3,100,000	219.22%	0.00%
3HQ0	235509	GEER - Higher Education Initiatives	\$4,768,101	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A
3HQ0	2356A1	Science of Reading	\$0	\$151,173	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
3N60	235658	John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program	\$123,550	\$171,210	\$128,000	\$128,000	-25.24%	0.00%
<b>Federal Fund Group Subtotal</b>			<b>\$27,149,228</b>	<b>\$27,706,309</b>	<b>\$26,852,738</b>	<b>\$7,872,525</b>	<b>-3.08%</b>	<b>-70.68%</b>
<b>Ohio Department of Higher Education Total</b>			<b>\$2,961,015,987</b>	<b>\$3,093,451,687</b>	<b>\$3,163,026,458</b>	<b>\$3,029,719,909</b>	<b>2.25%</b>	<b>-4.21%</b>