CU BOULDER BUDGET MODEL REDESIGN

CU Boulder is transforming its budget allocation model. This effort, officially launched in December 2020 by Chancellor Philip DiStefano, seeks to collaboratively design a campus budget model that serves as a tool to accomplish the campus's mission as a comprehensive public teaching and research university.

Budget model redesign phases

PHASE 1

DIAGNUSTIC

PHASE 1 COMPLETE

- "Alignment analysis" between guiding principles and current state across:
 - Stakeholder interview themes
 - Funds flows and incentives
- Context on historical allocations, including benchmarking
- Recommendations to inform future initiative activities

PHASE 2

SOLUTION DESIGN

IN PROGRESS

- Determine the structure of the budget model
- Collect data and build actuals model
- Strategic Alignment Committee (SAC) makes high level design recommendations
- Further define model based upon SAC recommendations
- Continue campus engagement

PHASE 3

IMPLEMENTATION READINESS

ANTICIPATED SPRING/SUMMER 2022

- New model launches in a "hold harmless" first year
- Determine if changes are needed to related campus budget processes
- Develop governance structure for new model, including roles and responsibilities
- Build and launch training and tools for university stakeholders with fiscal roles

How the budget model is being built



More information, including a Budget 101 video and a list of project committee members, can be found at colorado.edu/budget.

Convening additional working groups based on model design needs



University of Colorado Boulder

Preliminary budget model recommendations

The Strategic Alignment and Design committees have taken a methodical approach to recommending design elements of the budget model. Accomplishments to date include:

- Developed guiding principles and allocation priorities through 40+ stakeholder interviews and listening sessions
- Reviewed historical allocation decisions, benchmarks, and current funds flow
- Developed recommendations for a funding allocation method to integrate priorities such as retention and graduation

What will be different?

| OLD MODEL | NEW MODEL |
|--|---|
| Colleges, schools and units receive an annual budget based on the previous year's budget, plus or minus an incremental amount based on whether the campus revenues grew or shrank. This aligns most closely with an incremental budget model. | Annual budgets for colleges and schools will be based in part on enrollments, including metrics that foster enhanced retention and graduation rates. This most closely aligns with an incentive-based budget model. For campus support units, the budget model will initially be similar to the existing model (base budget + incremen- tal changes). |
| Does not have predictable funding for strategic investments. | Will include a strategic investment pool to allow campus to intentionally and meaningfully invest in campus-wide priorities. |
| The budgeting method has not been reviewed for effectiveness; nor does it include a consistent budget request process. | Budget model will be reviewed for effectiveness every three years and will include a consistent budget request process (still to be determined). |

What the budget model won't do

New budget models **do not in and of themselves create new resources**. Budget models are not **magic solutions;** instead, they are tools that support leaders in managing their operations by informing decisions and increasing awareness of financial impacts.

What's next

Budget model presentations for all colleges and schools will take place during the spring semester. Presentations for campus support units will take place into the summer and fall.

A rollout of the model in fiscal year 2022-23, beginning in July 2022, is planned.

Visit colorado.edu/budget for updates and resources.

