

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001  
(916) 319-2001  
FAX (916) 319-2101



March 6, 2026

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Budget  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable David Tangipa, Vice Chair  
Assembly Committee on Budget  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable David Alvarez, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Budget  
Subcommittee No. 3  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: FY 2026-27 Budget Request for CSU Chico Student Housing Infrastructure**

Dear Chair Gabriel, Vice Chair Tangipa, and Chair Alvarez,

I respectfully request \$125 million in one-time funding to support student housing expansion and rehabilitation at California State University, Chico and the prioritization of base increase for capital outlay. This investment would help address a critical shortage of on-campus housing while supporting student success and campus safety.

CSU Chico continues to experience significant unmet demand for student housing. In the most recent academic year, the university reported an 800-student waiting list for on-campus housing, demonstrating the urgent need to expand residential capacity to support current enrollment and future growth.

To address this demand, CSU Chico has identified two pathways:

**Whitney Hall – Residence Hall Rehabilitation or Replacement**

Whitney Hall is an existing 560-bed residence hall built in 1969 that has been offline since 2023 due to critical maintenance issues. The building is currently listed on the CSU Seismic Priority 2 list, requiring major structural upgrades to meet modern safety standards. Current estimates place the cost of repairing the building—including seismic retrofitting and HVAC replacement—at approximately \$60 million, with an additional

\$20 million needed to address deferred maintenance and other consequences of its prolonged closure. Due to the scale of these repairs, the campus is evaluating whether renovation is feasible or whether demolition and replacement with a new residence hall—estimated at \$125 million—would provide a more sustainable long-term solution.

### **Creekside Commons – New 800-Bed Residence Hall**

CSU Chico also proposes the construction of Creekside Commons, a new 800-bed residence hall located along Big Chico Creek within the campus core. This project would significantly expand the campus housing supply while providing modern residential facilities designed to support student success and campus engagement.

Increasing housing capacity is essential to CSU Chico's long-term student success strategy. The university intends to implement a first-year live-on requirement, a policy that has been widely adopted across the CSU system because students who live on campus during their first year are significantly more likely to remain enrolled and ultimately graduate. However, CSU Chico currently lacks the housing capacity necessary to support this initiative.

Investing in campus housing also improves safety and access to essential services by allowing students to live closer to academic resources, counseling services, and campus support programs.

The Governor's proposed CSU base funding increase presents an opportunity to address critical infrastructure needs within the system. The Legislative Analyst's Office has recommended that the Legislature consider earmarking a portion of the proposed CSU base increase for facilities and deferred maintenance projects, recognizing that aging infrastructure and insufficient housing capacity remain major challenges across CSU campuses. Directing a portion of this funding toward student housing projects such as those at CSU Chico would represent a strategic investment in both student success and long-term system sustainability.

Therefore, I respectfully request the prioritization of capital outlay projects in the FY 2026–27 budget to support student housing development and rehabilitation at CSU Chico.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you require additional information or would like to discuss this proposal further, please contact Andrew Nickens in my office at (916) 319-2011.

Sincerely,



**HEATHER HADWICK**

Assemblymember, District 1