

Why do two-year colleges need Maintenance & Operations (M&O) funding?

- M&O funds are critical to protect the state's capital investment. Inadequate M&O funding places facilities at risk for deterioration and compromises building life and occupant safety.
- Colleges need stable, predictable funding to maintain these buildings.
- Forty (40) projects approved by the Legislature did not receive the corresponding M&O funds to operate them.
- The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges requested \$7 million for M&O. The Governor proposed \$5.2 million.

How are projects funded with Certificates of Participation (COP) unique?

- Projects funded with COPs represent a great partnership between the colleges and the state of Washington.
- The Legislature authorizes the sale of certificates of participation in the state's capital budget. Sale proceeds are used to construct college facilities without tying up state bond capacity.
- Colleges dedicate their own funds to pay off the certificates. Also, students often assess themselves special fees to build student centers.
- "COP" projects become state-owned facilities when colleges pay off the debt.
- The Governor proposed supporting COP projects with M&O funding for buildings that include instruction activities, such as communications, math and science.

