



## Passport to College: 2012-13 Incentive Grant Summary

April 2014



**Institutional incentive grants support colleges' efforts to recruit and retain Passport students. This is accomplished through the Passport Viable Plan for providing enhanced student support services to enrolled former foster youth.**

**In 2012-13, forty-nine schools agreed to provide these enhanced services.**

### DIRECT AND INDIRECT USES OF INCENTIVE GRANT FUNDING

- Provided private tutors for Passport students.
- Paid testing and application fees.
- Established a private computer lab for Passport students.
- Created a lending library for laptops, textbooks, iPads, and calculators and provides students with school supplies.
- Provided supplies for dorm room set-up.
- Assisted with transportation expenses such as bus passes, car insurance, toll fees, and parking permits
- Provided students with meals, snacks, food vouchers, food care packages; Made referrals to the campus food bank.
- Provided college staff with specialized Passport training.
- Provided oversight to Passport Navigators, a peer-mentoring program for Passport students.
- Assisted students with basic household needs, and with rent and childcare over the summer.
- Covered medical expenses and counseling costs for disability services access.
- Paid for Passport staff and Work-Study wages.
- Developed incentives for students meeting quarterly goals.
- Paid for staff travel for meeting with social workers and independent living providers.
- Offered workshops on nutrition, motivation, and personal success.
- Paid for graduation expenses (cap and gown rental).
- Purchased a pre-paid cell phone and minutes to keep in contact with students.
- Established a secure place for student document storage.
- Took students on outings to help develop social skills in a healthy, safe environment.
- Coordinated student programs including campus visits and tours of four-year colleges.
- Held face-to-face meetings with students to address needs in enrollment, academic guidance, personal counseling, financial aid advocacy, and career services, and held financial planning seminars.
- Provided intervention with instructors and students, and enrolled students in TRiO programs.
- Held special orientations, welcome functions, and assistance with transferring.
- Provided special assistance for students seeking employment and internships.

### LESSONS LEARNED

#### Successes:

- Students are earning credentials, graduating, and transferring from community colleges into four-year universities.
- Incentives really work in getting students connected to program staff.
- Building rapport is essential so that students will reach out in times of crisis.
- When paired with food, activities have much better attendance.
- Coordination and involvement with community-based programs has increased campus success.

#### Challenges:

- Student engagement is inconsistent.
- Early support is crucial for student success.
- External issues interfere in student success.
- A lack of student housing at community colleges.
- Preparation for math courses is inconsistent.