



Passport to College: 2015-16 Incentive Grant Summary

March 2017



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 2015-16, fifty schools agreed to provide these enhanced services.

DIRECT AND INDIRECT USES OF FUNDING

- Provided private tutors for Passport students.
- Paid testing, admissions, application, and postsecondary graduation fees.
- Established a private computer lab for Passport students.
- Created a lending library for laptops, textbooks, iPads, and calculators; provided students with school supplies.
- Provided supplies for dorm room set-up.
- Assisted with transportation expenses.
- Provided students with meals, snacks, food vouchers, food care packages; made referrals to campus food bank.
- Oversaw *Passport Navigators* peer-mentoring program.
- Assisted students with basic household needs, and with rent and childcare over the summer.
- Covered medical expenses and counseling costs for disability services access.
- Developed incentives for students meeting quarterly goals.
- Paid for staff travel to meetings with social workers and independent living providers.
- Offered workshops on nutrition, motivation, and personal success.
- Paid for graduation expenses such as cap and gown rental.
- Purchased a prepaid cell phone and minutes to keep in contact with students.
- Established a secure place for student document storage.
- Coordinated campus visits and tours of four-year colleges.
- Held face-to-face meetings and seminars to address needs in enrollment, academic guidance, personal counseling, financial aid advocacy, career services, and financial planning.
- Provided special assistance for students seeking employment and internships.

LESSONS LEARNED

Successes:

- Students are earning credentials, graduating, and transferring from community colleges to four-year universities.
- Building rapport is essential so 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.
- External issues interfere in student success.
- There is a lack of student housing at community colleges.
- Preparation for math courses is inconsistent.