

November 28, 2018







Drive 55 Mission: to 55 Workforce Ready.

Vision

Postsecondary education as a viable choice

Streamlined processes

Responsive, flexible, supportive

Stakeholders

Students

Institutions

Employers and workforce

Communities

THEC's Role

Policy Development

Strategic Partner

Capacity Builder



Guiding Strategies

Research & building the policy framework

Supporting & reaching out to adult learners

Supporting & building capacity within institutions to better serve adults

Developing & leveraging employer and workforce partnerships

Coordinating regional initiatives & promoting community ownership



All adult-focused initiatives of the Drive to 55

2015:





2018:





2018:















































Tennessee Reconnect Grant (signed into law May 24, 2017)

Last dollar scholarship for adults to attend a community college (or other eligible institution) tuition-free

Available beginning Fall 2018

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Complete the FAFSA and be classified as an independent student
- Not already have earned an associate or baccalaureate degree
- Have been a TN resident for at least one year preceding date of application
- Be admitted to an eligible institution
- Participate in a college success program (advising) through the Tennessee
 Reconnect Community initiative as determined by THEC

Tennessee Reconnect grantees must enroll in 6 hours each semester and maintain a 2.0 GPA to remain eligible

What Support Can They Access?

- Reconnect Success Plan
- Support from their college
- Tennessee Reconnect Community Navigators
- Local Community Support







Student applies for the Reconnect grant

Generates a Reconnect Success Plan

- Questions on application to determine basic stude
- Reconnect Success Plan is generated as a "map"or next steps based on student's chosen institution, 7 Community, and the students specific needs or co
- Continued communication to all Reconnect grants as they progress to align with the Reconnect Succe Plan

Generates a Reconnect Success Plan

- Questions on application to determine basic student support needs
- Reconnect Success Plan is generated as a "map"of support services and next steps based on student's chosen institution, Tennessee Reconnect Community, and the students specific needs or concerns
- Continued communication to all Reconnect grantees as they progress to align with the Reconnect Success Plan



Connects applicant to staff at both the TRCs and the institutions

The work of the institutions B.



Goal: to provide an environment in which adult learners can be successful and complete a degree

Community College Reconnect Teams

Academic Initiatives

Adult Learner Support Services

Enrollment Management

Advising and Career Services



- High Touch
- Locally-based
- Institution-neutral
- Navigation support to and through college

Based on the Graduate! Network Model

What are communities doing to support Tennessee Reconnect?

- Reconnect Ambassadors reach out to Reconnectors and help them to their next step
 - Employers
 - Churches
 - Community/volunteer groups
 - Chambers
 - State Agencies
- Communities and employers are finding local solutions when resources aren't there to connect to
 - Childcare
 - Flexible schedules
 - Repurposing tuition reimbursement dollars for other college costs, like tools, books, and online fees

What we know about Tennessee Reconnect Grant Applicants

33,258

- White (54%)
- Female (72%)
- Average age: 34
- With children (56%)
- Highest education level HS diploma (85%)
- 86% plan to work while enrolled
- 49% are making \$25K or less per year



33,258 applied for the grant





28,808

(86%) filed the FAFSA Of those who filed the FAFSA.

69% are Pell eligible 63% are first-generation Median AGI is \$30,000 14,962 enrolled at the CCs



23,010

(80%) eligible

Reasons for Ineligiblity

- 1. Ineligible institution (33%)
- Z. Not independent (19%)
- 3. Defaulted/Misused funds (16%)
- 4. Other (Active TNP; Graduate degree, Blank EFC etc.)

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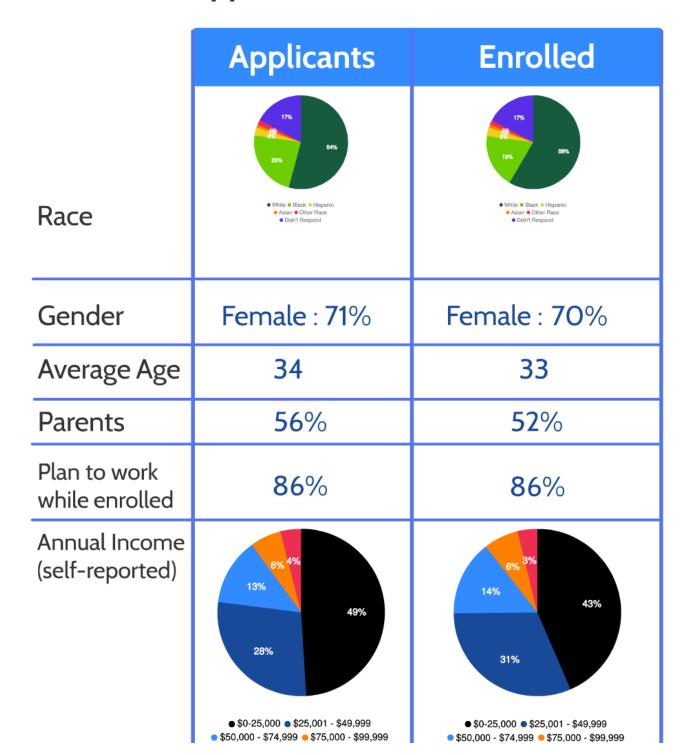
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Reconnect Applicants vs. Enrolled Students



Lessons Learned

- College needs to fit into the adult's life, not the other way around
- Partnerships are key
- There is a desire and need for these supports and opportunities
- We still have a lot to learn

What's Next?

- Why did applicants not enroll?
- What influences the enrollment differences between institutions?
- Who persists?
- What interventions are most impactful?
- How do institutions respond?
 What are their observations?
- Collecting and connecting the data for action

Mary Laphen

Tennessee Reconnect Community Network Director

Mary.Laphen@tn.gov

