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Maryland Higher Education Commission

FY 2022 Annual Report

**Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program
(MD-HEOCAP)**

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**MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION OUTREACH AND COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM
(MD-HEOCAP)**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program (MD-HEOCAP) is a state grant program that provides funding to college access focused nonprofit organizations to support efforts to enhance college and career awareness and college completion for low-income Maryland students.

MD-HEOCAP supports and aligns with the college access and completion goals as defined in the Maryland State Plan for Postsecondary Education, and the *College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013*. Maryland has taken significant measures to move the state forward with enhancing college and career awareness and college completion.

Through this grant program, eligible nonprofit organizations receive funding to carry out statewide outreach efforts on college access and completion. These outreach efforts support and encourage low-income students to attend and complete college.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The purpose of the Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program (MD-HEOCAP) is to:

- Encourage low-income Maryland high school students to attend and complete college;
- Connect potential college and university students with nonprofit organizations that have a history of successful higher education outcomes for low-income high school students;
- Create a matching fund for nonprofit organizations to increase outreach efforts for low-income students;
- Provide funding for nonprofit organizations that are established in the community to provide targeted outreach to encourage low-income students to enroll in college; and
- Increase the number of low-income students attending and succeeding in college.

An eligible nonprofit meets the following criteria:

- Established 501(C)(3) nonprofit with five or more consecutive years of business;
- Located in Maryland;
- Have established partnership(s) with a local school system and/or higher education institution;
- Provide college access activities, communication, and services with a proven track record of success; and
- Offer services to enhance and increase college access and completion for low-income Maryland high school students.

GRANT FUNDING

The Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program (MD-HEOCAP) provides grant funding to eligible nonprofit organizations through a competitive grant process. In FY 2023, grants of up to \$140,000 were awarded to support a twelve month grant period from October 2022 to October 2023. Grant payments for this program are disbursed in two increments, the first 50 percent is disbursed upon award and the final 50 percent is disbursed upon receipt and approval of the required interim progress report. Grantees are required to provide one-to-one matching funds equal to the grant award.

REPORTING

To ensure accountability and sound fiscal management, MHEC requires grantees to submit an interim progress report and a final report outlining project activities and outcomes. The interim report is

submitted approximately six months after the start of the grant cycle and provides preliminary information about project activities. Grantees provide data related to the first phase of their evaluation of the project. MHEC releases the grantees' final payment after the interim progress report is received and approved. Final reports address the full term of the grant and evaluate projected outcomes.

For the FY 2023 grant cycle, interim progress reports are due April 2023 and final reports are due January 2024. At the time of this report, there is no outcome data available for the FY 2023 grant cycle.

FY 2023 GRANT AWARDS

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program (MD-HEOCAP) was issued in July 2022. Five organizations submitted applications for the FY 2023 grant period. A review panel was convened to review submitted grant applications. Review panel members independently reviewed and scored each application. Funding recommendations were developed based on panel reviews. All FY 2023 applicants were recommended for funding. Notifications of grant awards were announced in October 2022.

Grant Number	Organization (Grantee)	Project Title	Award
23-100	The CollegeBound Foundation	Expanding College Access and Completion for Baltimore City Schools' Students	\$140,000.00
23-101	First Generation College Bound	College Access	\$140,000.00
23-102	NDMU	Educator Preparation Pipeline to Increase College Completion (EPICC)	\$137,590.00
23-103	KIPP Baltimore, Inc.	KIPP Forward	\$140,000.00
23-104	Collegiate Directions, Inc.	Scholars and Student Support Program	\$140,000.00

Due to the competitive grant process, there is not an eligible waitlist for funding. Organizations are required to submit a new application for every grant cycle.

FY 2023 PROJECT SUMMARIES

The CollegeBound Foundation

Expanding College Access and Completion for Baltimore City Schools' Students

The CollegeBound Foundation seeks to further expand its scope with the support of the MD-HEOCAP grant funding in two ways: (1) increase to-college support for Baltimore City Schools' students through city wide seminars targeting high school seniors, one-day and overnight college bus tours, and FAFSA completion sessions; and (2) provide through-college support through grant funding and CollegeBound's College Completion Program.

First Generation College Bound

College Access

The College Access Program uses four critical components to deliver services to students. (1) The Winning Attitude for Education component helps students set goals and understand the hard work needed to achieve those goals. (2) The Best Fit and College Affordability component creates a customized report for each student that identifies colleges where they are most likely to be admitted and receive the necessary financial aid to cover the direct cost of education. (3) The Matriculation Support component assists students after receiving college acceptances to complete the college-bound process and prevent the summer melt--the phenomenon in which students who are accepted to college, don't attend. (4) The College Retention component supports students pursuing their college degrees, encouraging them to complete their degree.

Notre Dame of Maryland University*Educator Preparation Pipeline to Increase College Completion (EPPICC)*

The purpose of the EPPICC program is to support and encourage low-income Maryland high school students from underrepresented groups to attend and complete a Maryland state-approved educator preparation program. Support from the MD-HEOCAP grant will focus on the college access and completion outreach within the EPPIC program. MD-HEOCAP funding will support a series of college access and completion seminars on site at partner high schools. Seminars will provide (1) college access and completion materials, (2) workshops on special topics for program participants to introduce and reinforce college success skills, (3) guidance on the full college admissions, matriculation, transfer, and completion process, and (4) sessions on financial aid, college application guidance, college study skills, and other relevant topics.

KIPP Baltimore, Inc.*KIPP Forward*

The KIPP Forward program provides innovative approaches to career and college readiness and persistence. The KIPP Forward team provides students with counseling, targeted programming, and individualized support to increase achievement of their unique academic and career goals. By prioritizing key transitions in academic trajectory and personal development, the relationships forged between KIPP Forward team members increase the likelihood that students successfully graduate from high school and continue on to pursue proven paths to financial freedom and career satisfaction.

Collegiate Directions, Inc.*Scholars and Student Support Program*

Building on successful outreach efforts and to support expanded efforts to reach more low-income students, this program will support additional college application and FAFSA workshops to reach more Maryland students. Through these workshops, students will increase their awareness of the steps required to complete their college and financial aid applications, will be provided comprehensive resource lists to guide their progress, will take meaningful steps towards the completion of these applications, and will be provided the opportunity to make in-person connections with trained adult mentors. In addition, counselor training will be provided through the Counselors' Collaborative program which will increase awareness of best practices in guiding students through the college admission and financial aid processes.

CONCLUSION

MD-HEOCAP is a state grant program that provides funding for college access focused nonprofits to enhance college and career awareness and college completion for low-income high school students in Maryland. A total of \$697,590 was awarded to five nonprofit organizations to serve low income Maryland students in FY 2023.