

Eligibility

Will you consider national umbrella organizations that work with place-based programs?

Applying entities with more unique situations should contact an NCAN staff member to discuss their circumstances.

We provide success services but not access services. What about those of us that only serve low-income students once they are in college?

Organizations that only provide success services are eligible to receive this grant.

Is there an age preference for students? Would an organization serving adults to return and complete college be eligible?

There is no age requirement. Yes, such a program would be eligible to receive a Success Replication grant.

Is there a minimum number of students served?

No, the grant's purpose is to expand the proportion of students receiving success services, and there are no minimums to program or cohort sizes.

Budget

How strict is the suggested budget range of \$750K-\$2M for applying entities?

The range is an estimate, not a mandate. This is our best estimate of the budget size indicative of organizations that are appropriate fits for a Success Replication grant, given what the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation knows about its grantees and what NCAN knows about our members. That said, NCAN will consider applicants whose budgets are reasonably situated from either end of this range according to the strength and propriety of their applications and proposed grant activities.

Is the budget range of \$750K-\$2M a program budget limit or an organization limit?

If the entity applying is an organization dedicated to college access and/or success, we will consider the organization's budget. If the entity applying is a program within a multi-service organization (e.g., a settlement house or comprehensive youth services agency), we will consider the college access and success program's specific budget.

Uses of Grant Funds

What about structural interventions that have the potential to change outcomes for large numbers of students but can't be attributable to specific students? Are these appropriate under this grant?

Without knowing what the specific interventions are, this question is difficult to answer. The measures required as part of grant reporting apply to the outcomes of specific students, so any intervention that fails to capture these may be inappropriate for this grant.

Would scholarships, incentives to students, or internships be allowed under this grant?

Yes, if such items are reasonable in amount and are strategic and sustainable components of the organization's college success services.

Can we use grant funds to pay off students' previous debts or balances owed?

Yes, if such payments are reasonable in amount and are strategic and sustainable components of the organization's college success services.

Can you provide examples of how the funding could be used, given the constraints imposed by the grant?

Beyond salaries and benefits for new employees, appropriate uses of grant funds include, but are not limited to:

- Professional development
- Travel and incidentals for student meetings or campus visits
- Stipends for students providing college success peer support
- Ancillary tools for data reporting like the NSC Student Tracker service or the FoYoSt NSC Data Visualizer
- Last-dollar scholarships or funds for books for students
- Texting services

Applicant budgets must demonstrate that over the two years of the grant, the organization will assume increasing responsibility for each of the items in their proposed budget.

Can you provide examples of items for which the funding may NOT be used?

- Registration or travel to the NCAN national conference
- Acquiring a new or enhancing an existing database

If texting for success was a strategy we planned to integrate into our database, but is not yet added to the database due to cost, can just the cost of the texting integration be considered (not the database itself)?

Yes, this would be an appropriate use of grant funds so long as it is well-integrated in the applicant's grant activity.

Grant Reporting

Is the 20 percent increase specific to the number of students served or in the quantifiable amount of program services they receive?

Grant reporting is related to the increased proportion of students receiving success services, not to the amount of services these students receive.

We use a database that runs our graduates through the National Student Clearinghouse, but we do not have a contract directly with Clearinghouse. Will that hurt our data portion of our application?

No, this would not hurt the data portion of your application.

What if you track data without the use of the National Student Clearinghouse now?

The National Student Clearinghouse Student Tracker service is a valuable tool that NCAN encourages all member programs to use. If your program currently has some way to track students' outcomes without the use of Student Tracker, please describe these activities in your grant application. For standardized grant reporting, it is likely that all grantees would need to use the Student Tracker service, but we will consider applicants who do not currently use this service.

Miscellaneous

Are we allowed to reach out to NCAN staff on an individual basis throughout the grant process?

Yes, if you have individual questions not covered by the webinar or this FAQ please feel free to reach out to Sara Melnick, NCAN Deputy Director, at melnicks@collegeaccess.org