

Ohio Department of Education & Ohio Department of Higher Education Funding



Community Connectors

The Community Connectors grant introduced by the Governor and state legislature in 2014, aims to bring together students, their parents, schools, communities, faith or values based organizations and businesses in mentoring programs. The grant targets students (grades 5-12) in low-performing/high-poverty schools. College Now Greater Cleveland was awarded its second community connector grant of \$127,680 to work with eighth grade students in Warrensville Heights.

GEAR UP

In 2014, the State of Ohio was awarded a seven-year, \$4.2 million GEAR UP grant. College Now was an integral partner on the writing and implementation of the statewide grant, in partnership with Parma City Schools. In 2017, College Now, in partnership with Cleveland Heights High School was awarded a seven-year \$1.1 million GEAR UP grant. These grants work to transform schools by helping at-risk students prepare for and achieve success in college. GEAR UP staff work to create a college-going culture by providing exposure opportunities including college campus visits and afterschool activities, and by helping students through the college-going process. College Now has a history of successfully implementing GEAR UP grants. College Now's participation in the last State of Ohio GEAR UP grant, implemented in Elyria from 2006-2011, led to a 36% increase in the percentage of students testing at or above grade level in English and a 33% increase in the percentage of students testing at or above grade level in mathematics.

Finish for Your Future

College Now has partnered with the Ohio Department of Higher Education's *Finish for Your Future* project, funded by the Lumina Foundation Adult Promise initiative. Finish for Your Future sets the goal of increasing the number of adults enrolled in higher education from the current 27 percent to 40 percent by 2025. This ambitious goal will be attained by developing a coalition among the public universities and colleges that will implement supportive policies and programs that enable adult students to complete their degrees and credentials. College Now will be providing technical assistance for five Ohio colleges to replicate the successful (Re)Connect to College project, which entails outreach to students who stopped out of school and assistance to reenroll.

21st Century Community Learning Centers

After school education programs play an important role in the lives of youth. The time between the school bell ringing and when parents return from work can be one with limited supervision. In 2018, College Now received nine 21st Century CLC's grants averaging \$187,000 per program per year to support the "impact!" program at the Cleveland Public Library (two sites), Warrensville Heights Library, Euclid Public Library and in Wellington. In 2018 College Now received an additional four grants to serve students at City Life, Clearview, Lorain (Longfellow Middle School) and Boys and Girls Club. impact! is an eight-week after school program that helps students improve math and reading skills, ACT scores, and increase students' college and career readiness. Upon completion of the program, students receive a \$200 stipend and have an opportunity for an internship.

AmeriCorps

College Now is the fiscal agent for a \$1.1 million statewide AmeriCorps program that deploys 85 members at nine host sites across Ohio. College Now also directly manages 31 AmeriCorps College Guides and 10 Coaches in Northeast Ohio. The Guides serve 6th-12th graders with college and career advising and financial aid counseling and serve high school graduates with support to achieve their higher education goals. Since its inception in 2009, 536 College Guides have served 911,200 hours and helped 250,737 Ohio students and adults (primarily first-generation college-goers and students from low-income backgrounds) through the college and career going process. The Coaches deliver curriculum on career and college pathways to all Cleveland Metropolitan middle school students and 5 career academy high schools. Since its inception in 2016, Coaches have served 903 9th graders with career exploration services and have supported over 2,000 middle school students in the True2U mentoring program.

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Students served by College Now must patch together federal, state, local and institutional grants and loans to pay for college. This graphic shows how these funds are (on average) awarded and the gap that remains toward that student's total cost of a degree.

Total Average College Cost
\$34,255

