

**Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Pilot Program  
MD HEOCAP State Grant Awards**

**FY 2017 Awards**

**CASA de Maryland, Inc.**

**Project Title:** Baltimore Latino College Access Program

**Project Director:** Elizabeth Alex

**Award:** \$50,000

**Project Abstract:** CASA's Baltimore Latino College Access Initiative is a part of CASA's broader "Mi Espacio" after-school program. The initiative strives to build the next generation of Latino youth leaders by preparing low-income immigrant and Latino youth to attend college. The program achieves this goal by combining academic and college readiness supports with life skills including workforce development, financial literacy, health education, leadership development, and community service. The program promotes high school graduation and post-secondary enrollment including wraparound case management for the student and their parents. Through this program, CASA also works directly with regional schools to increase their sensitivity to the specific needs of these youth, training counselors, administrators, and teachers on issues of college access and financial aid for immigrant students.

## The CollegeBound Foundation

**Project Title:** Expanded College Access and Completion for Baltimore City Schools' Students

**Project Director:** Jimmy Tadlock

**Award:** \$50,000

**Project Abstract:** CollegeBound works exclusively with public school students in Baltimore City, 85% of who are low-income (FARM-eligible). Founded in 1988, CollegeBound is the largest college access program in Baltimore City, with the mission of helping City Schools' students get to and through college. CollegeBound currently achieves its mission in three primary ways: (1) by providing full-time college advisors in 14 (of 40 total) Baltimore City public high schools; (2) by administering an annual need-based scholarship and grant portfolio, valued at over \$1.5 million; and (3) by offering city-wide college access seminars open to all City Schools' students and families.

If selected for the MHEC Outreach and College Access Pilot Program, CollegeBound would be able to expand its scope in two significant ways: (1) broaden its advising efforts to more Baltimore City Schools' high schools and students; and (2) continue advising a cohort of Baltimore City Schools' graduates during college, in a strategic effort to help students' complete college.

Specifically, CollegeBound will hire a "roving college advisor" to advise Baltimore City Schools' high school students in schools that do not have a CollegeBound advisor. Further, CollegeBound seeks to create a college success program (often called a college "retention" program) by hiring an advisor to continue advising a cohort of City Schools' graduates as they progress to and through college. The MHEC Pilot Program grant would help CollegeBound achieve both parts of the first overarching goal of the Pilot Program: to "encourage low-income Maryland high school students to attend and complete college."

## Collegiate Directions, Inc.

**Project Title:** CDI Scholars Program

**Project Director:** Ana Hilton

**Award:** \$50,000

**Project Abstract:** CDI's mission is to identify low-income, first generation-to-college students and help them access and succeed in selective, best-fit, four-year colleges. In the process, we build leaders and scholars through individualized coaching and mentoring.

All CDI Scholars come from low-income families and more than 95% will be the first in their family to attend or graduate from college. In addition to our specific college access and success curriculum that helps our Scholars earn admission to best-fit colleges offering generous financial aid, our program also provides financial literacy and career readiness workshops, professional SAT and ACT prep, cultural and community service events, and year-round activities for families and students. As Scholars enroll in college, our trained staff continue their relationships through frequent, consistent support, ensuring our Scholars are on track to succeed in college and graduate ready for meaningful careers.

## First Generation College Bound

**Project Title:** College Access

**Project Director:** Raymond Harrod

**Award:** \$50,000

**Project Abstract:** The College Access program recruits first generation juniors and seniors from low to moderate income families. Ultimately, the leads to providing a full complement of college access services. Case Managers work with students at each of the five college access sites and follow them from the time of enrollment through postsecondary matriculation.

Case Managers review students' report cards and arrange meaningful weekly and monthly one-on-one sessions, in school and out of school, for students and their families. Case Managers address any issues through social work skills and ensure youth and their families are connected to appropriate non-academic services, while at the same time encourage school success, monitoring academic progress and make college recommendations. Case Managers also ensure high levels of participation by youth in workshops, admissions exam, and college tours.

Monthly evening workshops are held on topics such as the college admissions process, the financial aid process and available student support services at colleges. The workshops are held in partnership with colleges, universities, and other higher education agencies. In addition to the workshops, help sessions and individualized support are provided throughout the year for such supports as SAT registration and FAFSA completion.

If funding allows, students are also taken on college visits. Finally, the program provides matriculation support after students receive college acceptance. FGCB works with families one-on-one to ensure all necessary forms are sent in and all financial requirements are met for the chosen college. All students are recognized at our annual celebration.

## Montgomery College Foundation

**Project Title:** ACES Parent Engagement Groups

**Project Director:** Kimberly Bloch-Rincan

**Award:** \$45,183

**Project Abstract:** Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) is a groundbreaking collaboration among Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Universities at Shady Grove that creates a seamless pathway of support to students from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure their successful transition to college and completion of associate's and bachelor's degrees. The program serves more than 1,000 high school students annually. In spite of its growing visibility, achievements, and the positive impact in the life of students so far, the parent component of the program has yet to meet the holistic vision of ACES.

The ACES Parent Engagement Groups seek to increase parental involvement, thereby leading to a greater awareness of post-secondary opportunities, college admission processes, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and financial aid options for students and parents. The program will offer a year-long series of four workshops designed to empower attendees with the information and tools necessary to support their children's journey to a college education.

Workshops will be presented sequentially and will cover topics like "Parental involvement and Academic Success", "The Meanings of College and Career Readiness", "Paying for College", and "Productive Summer Planning". Towards the end of each workshop, the groups will explore questions they can discuss with their child that will help them stay focused on their preparations for college. To accommodate as many schedules as possible, workshop dates will alternate between Saturday mornings and weeknight evenings, and these events will be held in different areas of the county, on a rotating basis.