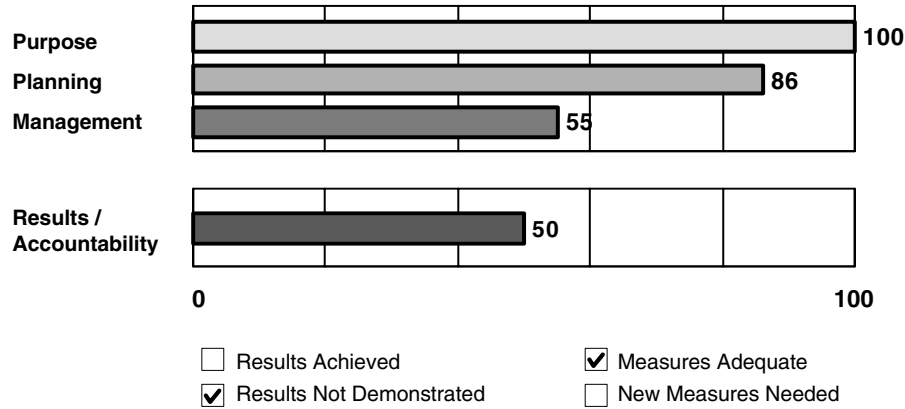


Program: TRIO Student Support Services

Agency: Department of Education

Bureau: Office of Postsecondary Education



Key Performance Measures

Year Target Actual

Long-term Measure: College completion rate of low-income first-generation college students who are program participants (Baseline is 29%)	2000	29%	29%
	2003	29.5%	
	2005	30.5%	
	2007	31%	
Long-term Measure: College Persistence rate, as measured by the extent students remain in the same college from year to year, of low-income, first-generation college students who are program participants	2000	67%	67%
	2003	68%	
	2005	69%	
	2007	70%	
Annual Measure: College Persistence rate of low-income, first-generation college students who are program participants (Baseline is 67%)	2000	67%	67%
	2001	67%	
	2002	67.5%	
	2003	68%	

Rating: Results Not Demonstrated

Program Type: Competitive Grants

Program Summary:

The purpose of TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) is to increase graduation and retention rates among low-income, first-generation college students by providing counseling and tutoring. ED provides grants to institutions of higher education to provide these services.

The PART assessment found:

1. A program evaluation demonstrated some positive results. It found a 9 percentage point positive effect on bachelor's degree completion rates for SSS students against a comparison group not receiving those services. The study also noted other less impressive but similarly positive effects for students continuing their college studies until graduation.
2. While evaluation findings are generally positive, the Department has only recently established specific goals and targets for this program. As a result, the program has only collected baseline data for the program and will not be able to measure progress on the SSS goals until next year. Therefore, program performance relative to these measures is not yet known.
3. The program has acquired useful performance information from grantees but is not yet using it to improve program-wide performance. This information is mainly used for project monitoring.
4. SSS does not attract a significant amount of first-time grantees due to statutory and regulatory constraints.

In response to these findings, the Department will:

1. Closely monitor new SSS annual program goals and make better use of project performance report data to improve the program.
2. Explore policies that would reduce statutory and regulatory barriers faced by qualified first-time grantees in order to encourage their participation in the program.
3. Collect and establish second-year data for performance measures.

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

<u>2002 Actual</u>	<u>2003 Estimate</u>	<u>2004 Estimate</u>
259	259	259