



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



EARLY FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION AN INNOVATIVE PATHWAYS STUDY

Low- and moderate-income students and families need to be provided with essential financial aid information early enough to help them plan for college. This study identifies key financial aid information and promising practices of college access programs that provide low- and moderate-income students with accurate and timely financial aid information. The goal is to present this information to students and families in such a way that will positively impact student enrollment and persistence.

Through this study, the Advisory Committee will collaborate with the National College Advising Corps, comprised of recent college graduates, who will serve as full-time college advisors in public secondary schools in an effort to help raise the college-going rate. The National College Advising Corps, modeled after the University of Virginia's College Guides Program, is supported by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and the National College Access Network (NCAN). Through a national summer training institute, the Advisory Committee will provide a specific framework of financial aid information for the National College Advising Corps, which it will use to educate students and families.

The framework used to train the Corps is being developed through an extensive literature review and in-depth interviews with college access providers from programs sponsored by the federal government, state governments, institutions, school districts, guaranty agencies, and other non-profit organizations. In addition, a workgroup of expert practitioners from these programs will advise the Committee on the appropriate timing and delivery of early financial aid information. It will also provide recommendations to the National College Advising Corps for implementation of the early information framework and delivery strategies.

The final report will provide the necessary framework of information for practitioners and resources for programs to use. It will also present the National College Advising Corps as an effective model for providing early financial aid information.

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