



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF LEGISLATION AND CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

Reference Grant Award Number: #P044A160284
MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, INC. has been selected to receive funding under the TALENT SEARCH PROGRAM (84.044A). This grant will be in the amount of \$372,960.00 for the first budget period (09/01/2016 through 08/31/2017). It is anticipated that the grant will be for a total of 5 year(s). Please see the attached abstract for a brief description of the activities that will be funded under this grant.

The contact at the MASSACHUSETTS EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, INC. is:

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Purpose of the Program TALENT SEARCH

The Talent Search program identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete their postsecondary education. The program publicizes the availability of financial aid and assist participant with the postsecondary application process. Talent Search also encourages persons who have not completed education programs at the secondary or postsecondary level to enter or reenter and complete postsecondary education. The goal of Talent Search is to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in and complete their postsecondary education.

ABSTRACT

MassEdCO proposes to continue its Educational Talent Search program, serving 777 at-risk youth in three of Massachusetts' highest-need cities, including Worcester, Southbridge and New Bedford. The ETS mission is to identify high-risk but high-potential youth who, with sufficient support, will graduate from high school and enroll in and successfully complete a postsecondary program. A well-planned array of services and an effective delivery model will ensure that these youth and their families are aware of the importance of a postsecondary education, how to academically prepare for it, how to pay for it, and how to succeed, once enrolled. Emphasis is placed on ensuring that ETS participants enroll and succeed in rigorous academic programs in secondary school so as to be better prepared for postsecondary success. Significant collaboration with similar programs is included in the service plan in order to maximize effectiveness and efficiency given the large number of ETS participants to be served. MassEdCO partners with a community-based nonprofit organization, Seven Hills Behavioral, to help deliver services in one of the three target cities. This is a collaborative model that has a long and successful track record of effectively serving an educationally disadvantaged population.

Barriers to educational success have been identified and are addressed in the ETS operational plan. Program objectives are ambitious, given the high-need target population, yet attainable, given the extensive array of services to be offered. A minimum of 92% of ETS participants will progress to the next grade level. A minimum of 80% of program participants will graduate from high school in four years, 50 % having completed a rigorous program of study. A minimum of 85% will enroll in postsecondary programs and at least 35 % will successfully complete their college programs within six years. These objectives will be met by utilizing a variety of strategies, individualized for each participant. Included are postsecondary program information, including admissions and financial aid information and application assistance, connections to high quality tutoring, access to academically rigorous programs of studies, and the supports necessary for success in those programs. Follow up to ensure success for former program participants enrolled in college is provided. Financial literacy is offered to all participants to provide a basis for future economic well-being for both students and their families.

The anticipated cost per participant is \$480.00.

Competitive Preference Priorities number 1 and number 2 are addressed.

Competitive Preference Priorities number 1 *Game Plan* based on the following:

Tutoring: Intelligent Tutoring for Structure Strategy

WWC review: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/singlestudyreview.aspx?sid=10053>

Article: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/257682582_Large-scale_randomized_controlled_trial_with_4th_graders_using_intelligent_tutoring_of_the_structure_strategy_to_improve_nonfiction_reading_comprehension

Tutoring: Twelve Together

WWC review: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/interventionreport.aspx?sid=527>

Article: <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/~media/publications/PDFs/dod-fr.pdf>

Competitive Preference Priorities number 2 *Summer Success* based on the following:

Mentoring: Forgotten Summer

WWC review: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/singlestudyreview.aspx?sid=20125>

Article: http://curry.virginia.edu/uploads/resourceLibrary/15_Castleman-Forgotten_Summer.pdf