

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

FY 2024 Senate TRIO Funding Letter

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education Appropriations
136 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education Appropriations
156 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Capito:

We write to thank you for your strong support of the Federal TRIO Programs (“TRIO”) and to request that you continue to prioritize these programs in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. The Subcommittee has provided significant support for the TRIO programs and the low-income, first-generation students they serve, which includes students with disabilities, homeless students, youth in and aging out of the foster care system as well as military veterans and other adult learners. As you prepare your FY 2024 appropriations bill, we ask that, once again, you prioritize the academic, financial, and social supports provided by TRIO so that even more students can benefit from these life-changing services.

We are proud that TRIO serves learners from as young as the sixth-grade all the way through college graduation through more than 3,000 projects in every state and several federated territories. TRIO’s individualized counseling, advising, and other supports are critical to the success of low-income, first-generation students attaining a higher education. Continuing to prioritize TRIO funding in FY 2024 would allow more students to prepare for, persist in, and graduate from college. This, in turn, would yield greater gains for our economy as research demonstrates that college graduates have lower rates of unemployment, pay more in federal taxes, and earn a million dollars more over the course of their working lives than non-college graduates. (College Board, 2019)

Since their inception, TRIO programs have produced more than six million college graduates. Talent Search provides college outreach services to low-income middle and high school students. Upward Bound provides high school students with tutoring, mentoring and college preparatory counseling during the school year and a six-week residential college experience in the summer, all with the aim of improving college enrollment and attainment. Upward Bound Math-Science uses a similar model, with the goal of encouraging participants to pursue postsecondary degrees and careers in STEM fields. As the only national undergraduate retention and completion effort, Student Support Services improves outcomes for low-income, first-generation college-goers by providing wrap-around services to support their academic, financial, social, and cultural needs on college campuses. The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program provides undergraduates with opportunities for research, internships, seminars, and academic advising, with the goal of enabling students from underrepresented backgrounds to earn doctoral degrees. Veterans Upward Bound provides academic tutoring and counseling to allow military veterans to leverage their earned educational benefits and pursue postsecondary education. Finally, Educational Opportunities Centers assist unemployed and low-income adults in re-entering the education pipeline.

We appreciate the Subcommittee’s continued commitment to TRIO. Given the programs’ proven success and impact on our nation’s economy, we respectfully request your support of robust funding for TRIO in FY 2024.

Sincerely,

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Bill Cassidy
United States Senator

To sign: Veronica_Chase@tester.senate.gov (Senator Tester) or Ron_Anderson@cassidy.senate.gov (Senator Cassidy)