

1964
2024

CELEBRATING
60 YEARS OF TRIO

TRIO programs provide academic tutoring, personal counseling, mentoring, financial guidance, and other support necessary for educational access and retention.

TRIO AT A GLANCE

Federal TRIO Programs (**Talent Search, Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math-Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers, and the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program**) help students to overcome economic, social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education. Congress mandates that two-thirds of TRIO students must come from families with incomes no higher than 150% of federal poverty levels and in which neither parent graduated from college. More than **3,100 TRIO programs** currently serve nearly **870,000 low-income students** from sixth grade to adult education.

POPULATION SERVED



66%
Students of Color



870,000+
First-Generation/
Low-Income Students



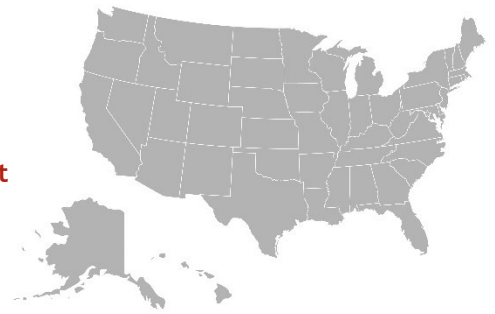
7,000
Students with Disabilities



6,000
U.S. Veterans

FOOTPRINT

TRIO programs operate in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., the Pacific Islands, and Puerto Rico. TRIO funds are distributed to institutions through competitive grants. **Every five years, TRIO programs at institutions must reapply for a federal grant to continue.** Collectively, these programs help nearly one million students enter and graduate from college each year.



TRIO PROGRAMS

- **Talent Search (TS)** – Promotes early college awareness and preparation. Talent Search students are **33% more likely** to enroll in college than students in the bottom income quartile nationally.
- **Upward Bound (UB)** – Provides intense college preparation and academic enrichment services. Upward Bound students are **more than 2X as likely** to earn a bachelor’s degree by age 24 than students in the lowest income quartile.
- **Upward Bound Math-Science (UBMS)** – Increases youth exposure to STEM fields. Upward Bound Math-Science students are **more than 2X as likely** to earn a bachelor’s degree by age 24 than students in the lowest income quartile.
- **Student Support Services (SSS)** – Boosts undergraduate student retention and graduation rates. Student Support Services students were **47% more likely** to complete a 2-year degree or transfer and **18% more likely** to complete a bachelor’s degree than a matched comparison group of nonparticipants, according to the Department of Education’s 2019 rigorous evaluation.
- **Veterans Upward Bound (VUB)** – Supports veteran postsecondary enrollment. Veterans Upward Bound students are **42% more likely** than other low-income veterans to earn a bachelor’s degree in six years.
- **Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC)** – Supports adult postsecondary enrollment. Educational Opportunity Center participants in 2011-12 found that 60.6% of “college-ready” students were enrolled in institutions of higher learning, and **71% of eligible EOC participants applied to college.**
- **Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program (McNair)** – Increases the STEM/Ph.D. pipeline. Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement students are **78% more likely** to enroll in graduate school than college graduates in the bottom income quartile.

TRIO STUDENTS ARE DIVERSE

ASIAN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISPANIC NATIVE AMERICAN OTHER WHITE



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IMPACT

MORE THAN 6 MILLION STUDENTS have graduated from college with the special assistance of TRIO programs. Giving a helping hand to low-income students is both the right thing to do and in our national self-interest. **HELPING THEM IS A SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT**; the United States needs students of every background who are academically prepared and motivated to achieve success to remain competitive with other nations.

Once enrolled, low-income students earn bachelor's degrees at a rate less than half of their high-income peers — **21% COMPARED WITH 45%**. America's highest and lowest-income students may have similar talents and potential, but there is a wide gap between the groups in college attendance.

Few low-income students achieve a college degree, no matter how talented they are. That is why **TRIO IS SO ESSENTIAL**. TRIO programs step in the gap for many individuals, but many more are not served as budget dollars are limited.



NOTABLE TRIO ALUMNI



Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Award-winning actress **Viola Davis** took her first acting class through the **Upward Bound** program at Rhode Island College. In 2018, Viola, her mother, and her sisters (who also participated in Upward Bound and Student Support Services) received the first TRIO Family Achievement Award.



Sarah Smarsh, an award-winning author and former journalism professor, chronicled her experience growing up as a fifth-generation Kansan in The New York Times bestseller *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth*. Smarsh is an alumna of the **Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate** Achievement program at the University of Kansas.



Former migrant farm worker **José Hernandez** did not learn to speak English until he was 12. With the help of both **Upward Bound** and the **Student Support Services** program at the University of the Pacific, Hernandez obtained an engineering degree and achieved his dream of becoming an astronaut. He served as a crew member of space shuttle mission STS-128.



Before becoming the first Black Democratic Senator from the South, **Reverend Raphael Warnock** was a student in the **Upward Bound** program at Savannah State University. With the program's help, he matriculated at Morehouse University. Eventually, he became Pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, which Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr once led.



John Quiñones, ABC News correspondent and host of "What Would You Do?" grew up in a migrant farm family in San Antonio, TX. He says the **Upward Bound** program at St. Mary's University "saved his life." He earned a bachelor's degree in speech communication from St. Mary's and a master's from the Columbia University School of Journalism.

To learn more about the Council for Opportunity in Education and TRIO Programs, please visit www.coenet.org.