

Benefits Access/Project Go

Project GO!: Breaking Down Financial Barriers to College Completion



Benefits Access for College Completion

A national demonstration to develop and institutionalize scalable and sustainable policies and practices that help a diverse population of eligible students gain access to an array of public benefits. Accessing benefits and financial aid will better address students' financial and support needs, and thereby improve academic performance and completion.

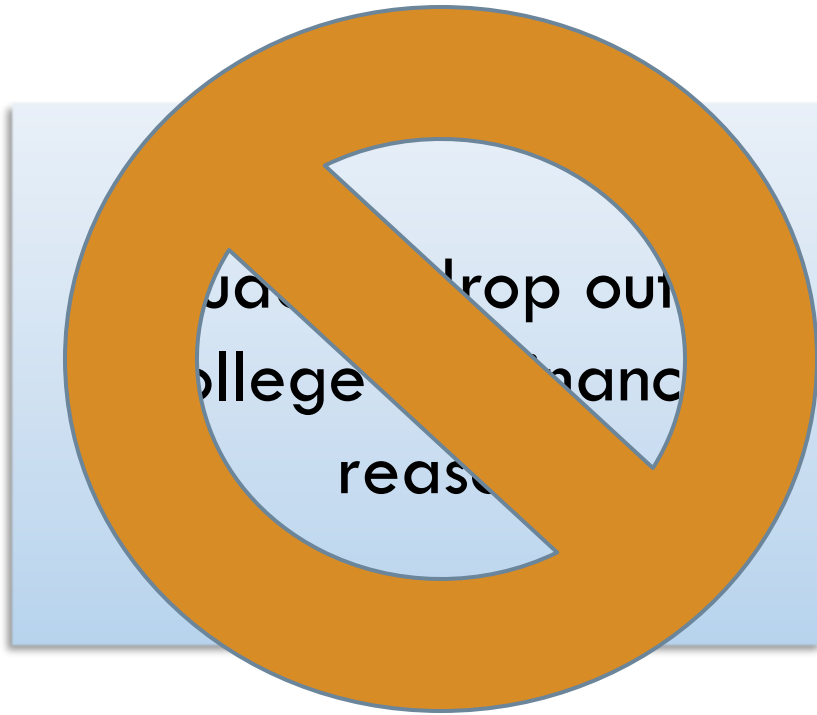
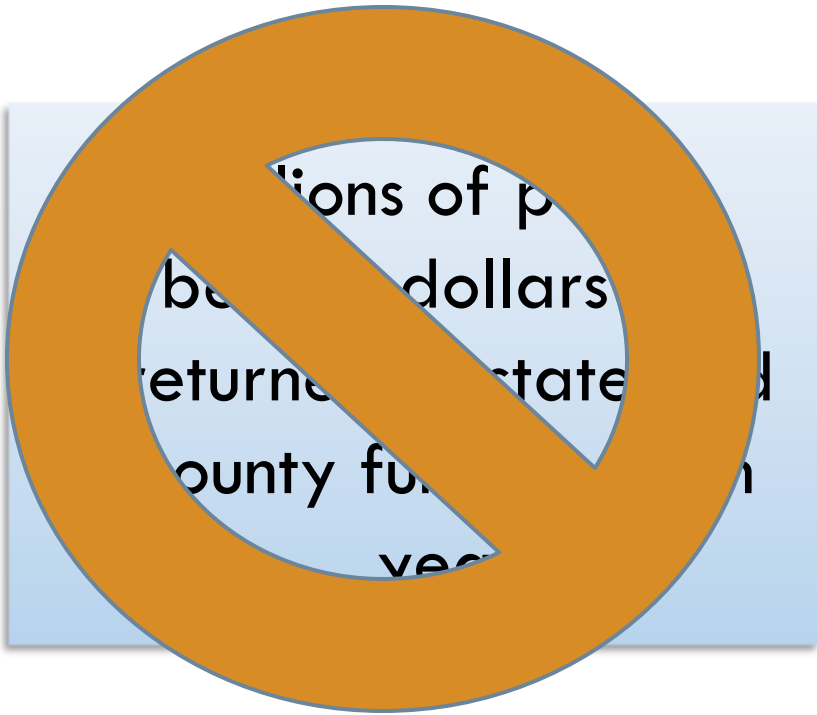


Aimed at solving two problems

□ Billions of unused public benefit dollars are returned to state and county funders each year



□ Students drop out of college for financial reasons





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Cuyahoga Community College Mission

To provide high quality, **accessible** and **affordable** educational **opportunities** and **services** - including university transfer, technical and lifelong learning programs - that promote individual development and improve the overall quality of life in a multicultural community.



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Project GO! Partners

Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
(ODJFS)



Ohio Board of Regents



Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB)



Cleveland Foodbank

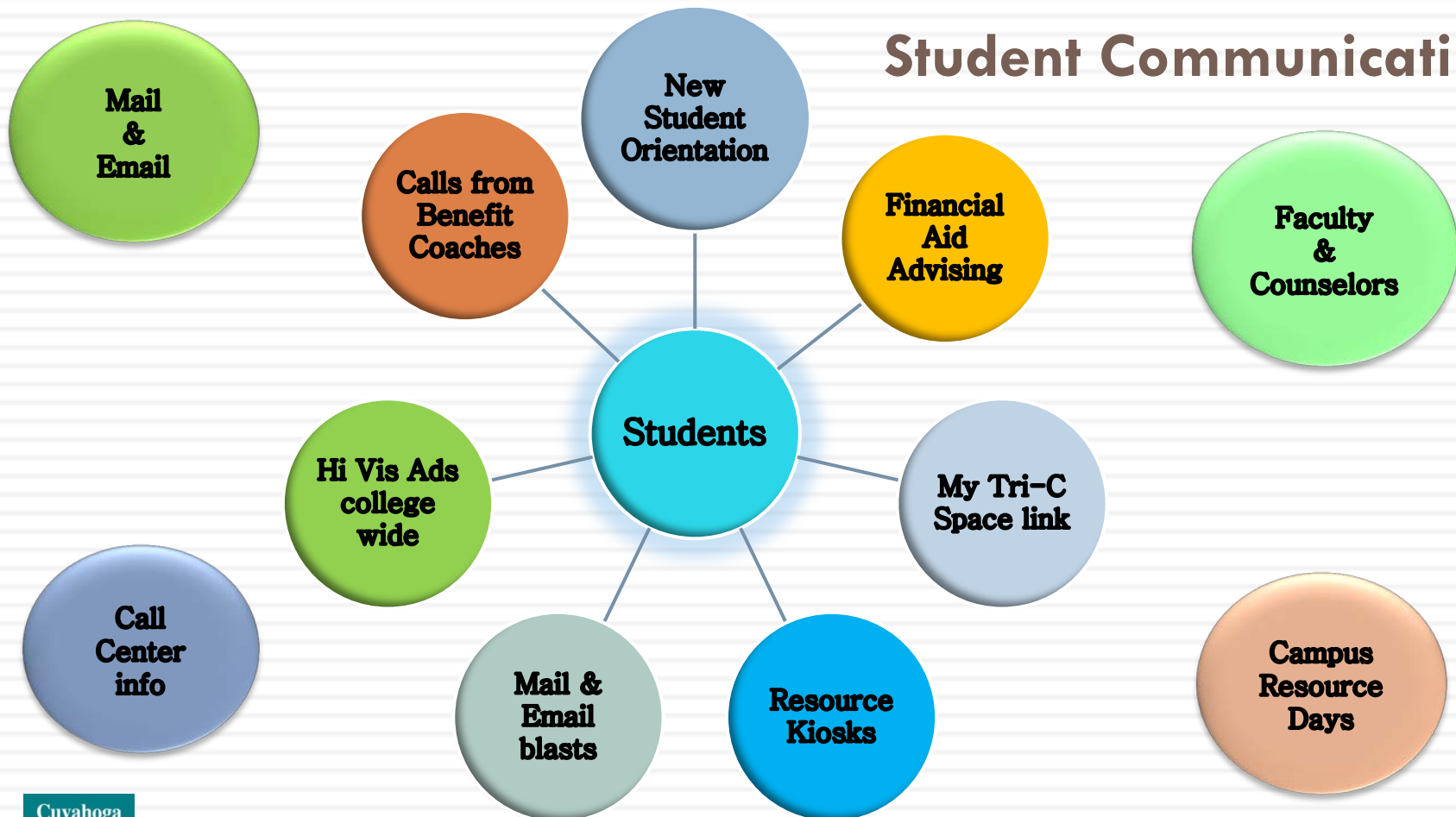


United Way 211



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Student Communications





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Student Engagement

Tier One:

Faculty, counselors, Call Center, student ambassadors and other Tri-C staff will have brochures and flyers with information to refer students to Project GO!'s personnel, locations, webpage, and student portal

Tier Two:

Division office, Enrollment Center, Financial Aid personnel provide general information to our students of kiosk locations, distribute program brochures and explain how to contact a Project GO! staff member.

Tier Three:

Financial Aid Advisors, Student Support Specialist, Career Center personnel, BACC interns, Peer Financial Coaches, and Benefit Coach Coordinator work with students one on one during an appointment or as a walk-in to assist with navigating the site, and understanding and completing the Ohio Benefit Bank application process.



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Project GO! Student Data

849 students responded to the Project GO! intake survey

182 students have received benefits

234 benefits have been accessed by students

49 students are receiving multiple benefits

132 students have completed the “common” application

*Information gathered from CJFS as of December, 2013.



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- Focus for integration is to support student's financial needs through an inherent process in the Office of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships
- Expanded the integration within financial aid processes in December 2013
- Resulted in increase of pre-screened applicants by
 - 61.8 % (2013-2014)*
 - 180 % increased (2014-2015)**

*Fall 2013 to Fall 2013 comparison

**Fall 2014 - Feb. 2013 compared to Sept. 2014 o Feb. 2015

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Peer financial coaches, funded by federal work-study funds, will sustain peer-to-peer workforce

Maintain relationship with county and state partners to ensure continuous training and program changes

Determine opportunities to expand memorandum of understanding with county agencies to measure impact



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Project Go! Testimonial



Breaking Down Financial Barriers to College Completion



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