



COUNCIL *for* OPPORTUNITY *in* EDUCATION

What the PROSPER Act Means for TRIO Programs on Your Campus

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Council for Opportunity in Education

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Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform (PROSPER) Act

**Virginia Foxx (R-NC-6), Full
Committee Chair**



**Brett Guthrie (R-KY-2),
Subcommittee Chair**



Welcome Improvements

- Maintains all TRIO programs, including EOC and McNair
- Rebranding of “Prior Experience” to “Accountability for Outcomes”
- Documentation demonstrating Pell Grant eligibility as acceptable evidence of low-income status
- Prohibition on absolute, competitive, and other priorities

Troublesome Issue #1

Broad authority for the Secretary to set aside funds for new applicants and evaluation grants

- “[T]he Secretary shall reserve not less than 10 percent of...available amount[s] to award grants or contracts to applicants who have not previously received a grant or contract under this chapter.” (Page 153, Line 10 through Page 154, Line 13)
- Funding of newly-created IMPACT Grants from TRIO Appropriation: “From the amounts appropriated under 402A(g), the Secretary shall reserve not less than 10 percent of such funds to carry out this section.” (Page 180, Lines 22-24)

Why Is This a Problem?

- Invalidates the points awarded to current grantees for prior success

Current grantees will be disadvantaged when applying for future TRIO grants!

- Wrests authority from the appropriators and defers total power to the Secretary of Education with respect to TRIO funding
- Undermines the principle of continuity in student services
- Disrupts the development of expertise and institutional culture
- Attempts to address a perceived lack of turnover in TRIO grant awards, BUT...

New TRIO applicants already have a high rate of success.

FY15 SSS Competition

- Total # of Applicants: 1,487
- Number of NEW Projects: 158
(15% of funded applicants)

FY16 EOC Competition

- Total # of Applicants: 382
- Number of NEW Projects: 32
(22% of funded applicants)

FY16 TS Competition

- Total # of Applicants: 890
- Number of NEW Projects: 74
(16% of funded applicants)

FY17 UB Competition

- Total # of Applicants: 1,222
- Number of NEW Projects: 146
(15% of funded applicants)

FY17 UBMS Competition

- Total # of Applicants: 638
- Number of NEW Projects: 49
(26% of funded applicants)

FY17 VUB Competition

- Total # of Applicants: 208
- Number of NEW Projects: 15
(26% of funded applicants)

FY17 McNair Competition

- Total # of Applicants: 309
- Number of NEW Projects: 35
(19% of funded applicants)

Between FY15
and FY17, on
average, **20%** of
TRIO grants were
awarded to new
recipients.

Troublesome Issue #2

Creating a 20% matching requirement for all applicants

- *“...The Secretary shall not approve an application submitted...unless such application provides that the eligible entity will provide, from State, local, institutional, or private funds, not less than 20 percent of the cost of the program....”*
(Page 157, Line 9 – Page 159, Line 8)

Troublesome Issue #3

Limiting an applicant's eligibility if they host or sponsor other college access and success programs

- *“[The Secretary shall not limit an entity’s eligibility to receive funds under this division because such entity sponsors a program similar to the program to be assisted under this division, regardless of the funding source of such program] as long as the program is the serving a different population or a different campus.”* (Page 155, Lines 1-4)

Why Is This a Problem?

This provision would allow the Secretary to limit your institution's eligibility for TRIO programs if:

- Your institution funds its own educational opportunity programming.
- Your institution receives funding from other sources (private grant, state government, federal government, etc.) to support educational opportunity programming.

Troublesome Issue #4

Deletion of language ensuring future evaluations within TRIO refrain from causing undue harm to program participants and meet the need of institutional review boards.

(3) SPECIAL RULE RELATED TO EVALUATION PARTICIPATION.—

The Secretary shall not require an eligible entity, as a condition for receiving, or that receives, assistance under any program or project under this chapter to participate in an evaluation under this section that—

(A) requires the eligible entity to recruit additional students beyond those the program or project would normally recruit; or

(B) results in the denial of services for an eligible student under the program or project.

(4) CONSIDERATION.—When designing an evaluation under this subsection, the Secretary shall continue to consider—

(A) the burden placed on the program participants or the eligible entity; and

(B) whether the evaluation meets generally accepted standards of institutional review boards.

Other Troubling Proposals

- *Loss of all “prior experience” points for failure to meet two or more objectives*
 - *Talent Search and McNair grantees already lose one point in each grant cycle.*
- *Adding GED enrollment as an objective for Upward Bound*
- *Increased reporting requirements for Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Centers*

Set-Asides within TRIO Appropriation
+
20% Matching Requirement
+
Limited Eligibility if Similar Program on
Campus
=
LESS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE
STUDENTS THROUGH TRIO

What Steps Has COE Taken?

1. Letter by the TRIO Caucus Co-Chairs, Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) & Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) to Chairwoman Foxx.
2. Meeting with every Member of the Committee on Education & the Workforce with TRIO educators.
3. Possible amendment on the floor of the House of Representatives.

How Can Your Institution Help?

1. Institutional sign-on letter to Chairwoman Foxx will circulate soon!
2. Include TRIO concerns in your advocacy efforts around the PROSPER Act and HEA reauthorization generally.
3. Attend COE's 38th Annual Policy Seminar in Washington, DC from March 13-14.

COE Policy Seminar

March 13-14, 2018

Brochure and Registration Details Available at
http://www.coenet.org/policy_seminar.shtml

Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill

400 New Jersey Avenue NW
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Phone (202) 737-1234
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Half-Price Registration for Institutional Government Relations Representatives!

Registration for this offer must be submitted by fax — *there is no online registration.*

- Before January 26 - \$200
- After January 26 - \$225



QUESTIONS?

*Please press *6 to unmute your phone to ask a question OR type your question into the chat box.*



Stay Connected with COE!

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