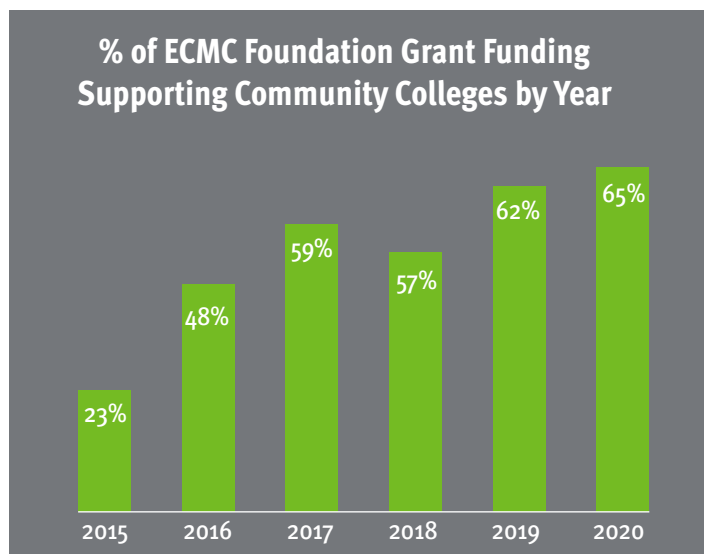


Reflecting on Six Years of Grantmaking to Support Community Colleges

As of spring 2021, community colleges enrolled more than [4.5 million students](#), many of whom are students of color and from underserved backgrounds. For too many of these students and their families, economic mobility has been out of reach. Given that community colleges serve larger proportions of [low-income](#) and historically [minoritized students](#), these institutions have been a focus for ECMC Foundation. An internal evaluation conducted in early 2021 explored the Foundation's community college grant making. The following overview contains several highlights from the evaluation. ECMC Foundation has made 152 grants focused on community colleges totaling \$63,555,733. This represents over half (57%) of our core grants awarded between May 2015 and January 2021 from our College Success and Career Readiness focus areas.

Trends Over Time

The percentage of grants that support community colleges has grown over time. In 2015, 23% of core grantmaking dollars went to community colleges. This has grown steadily to 65% in 2020.



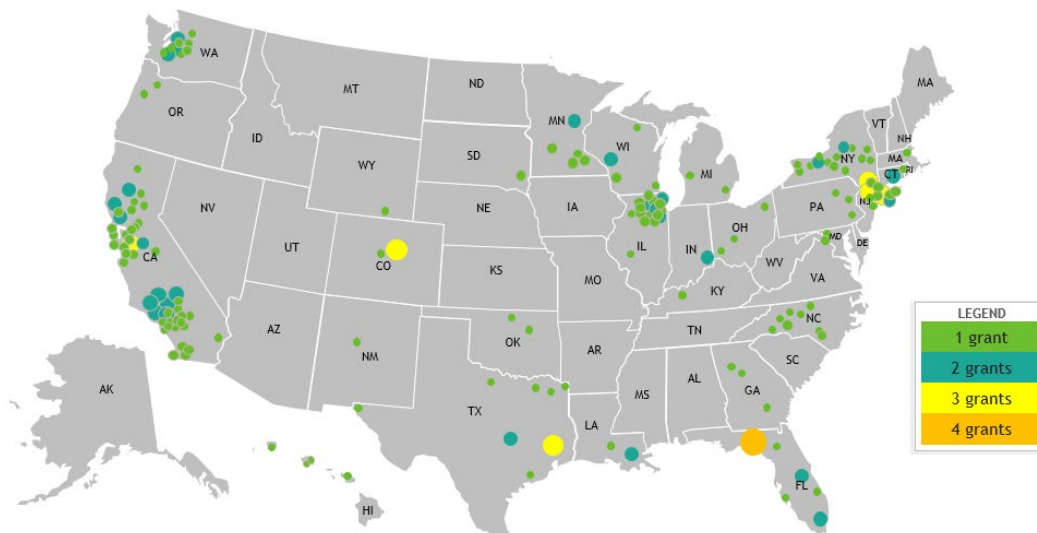
Fueling Innovation

Fifty-seven percent of grant funding that supported community colleges went towards piloting new programs.



Nationwide Reach

Over \$20 million supported national projects. The rest of the funding went to projects in 46 states and the District of Columbia.



Reflecting on Six Years of Grantmaking to Support Community Colleges

Critical Focus Areas

The funded projects have addressed a variety of issues in post-secondary education.



Affordability



Apprenticeships



Basic Needs



Competency-Based Education



Co-requisite Education



Cross Sector Collaboration



Dual Enrollment



Mentoring and Coaching



Transfer

Impact

Data from 52 community college grants found that millions of students have been served by institutions supported by the grants.

Grantees leveraged our funding to build partnerships with other funders, resulting in a 1.6 fold increase in funding.

\$24,588,556



\$64,950,448



Reflecting on Six Years of Grantmaking to Support Community Colleges

Snapshots

Given the large number and diversity of grants included in the evaluation, this section provides a closer look at some of the grants focused on co-requisite education, transfer and cross-sector collaboration.



CO-REQUISITE EDUCATION

10 GRANTS TOTALING \$4,125,000

Students placed in developmental courses are less likely to graduate. These grants supported reform efforts re-examining how students are assessed and placed into developmental courses as well as replacing traditional developmental courses with co-requisites where underprepared students are placed directly into college-level courses with additional supports. The three grants described below focused on co-requisite education.

Jobs for the Future, Accelerating CTE

72% of participating students earned **one credential**, a 3% increase from the baseline period, and **14%** of students in accelerated CTE **earned two or more credentials**, a 12% increase from the baseline.

Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), Co-requisite Education Study

PPIC found that students in **co-requisites** are about **30% more likely to complete a gateway course in one term** than students who start in remedial education are to complete the course in one year.

West Ed, Carnegie Math Pathways

The program has served over **60,000 students** with an average success rate of **71%**, more than **tripling** the success rate of students in **half the time**.



TRANSFER

20 GRANTS TOTALING \$9,610,776



80% of entering **community college students** aim to earn a **bachelor's degree**, but only **14%** do so within **six years**.

These grants support students who transfer from community colleges to four-year institutions.

The College Crusade of Rhode Island (CCRI), Postsecondary Success Initiative

The program served **921 students**, increasing the percentage of first-year students who are on track to transfer to a four-year college. The **vast majority of CCRI participants are Hispanic/Latinx (64%) or Black (18%)**.

The Campaign for College Opportunity, Student Pathways and Fellowship Program

ECMC Foundation made two grants for the organization to support the implementation of transfer reform efforts in California. In 2019, **23,295 students enrolled at a California State University campus with an associate degree for transfer (ADT) in hand**. The ADT is a degree

conferred after taking 60 semester/90 quarter units of general education courses and courses in an academic major that guarantees junior standing at a CSU campus. The ADT was developed as a result of the 2010 Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act.

Aspen Institute, Tackling Transfer

This program is a **three-year initiative** that aims to improve outcomes for baccalaureate-seeking community college students in **Minnesota, Texas and Virginia**. The work has included support for system and state policy improvements as well as improved institutional partnerships. The team is also elevating the national conversation about transfer.

Reflecting on Six Years of Grantmaking to Support Community Colleges



CROSS SECTOR COLLABORATIONS

14 GRANTS TOTALING \$5,544,849

These grants include collaborations between employers, postsecondary institutions and community-based organizations aimed at developing education and employment pathways.

Skills for Chicagoland's Future, Pivot to Success

The program placed **147 young adults into jobs with career pathways during the grant period**. Virtually all participants are **people of color** (81% Black and 15% Latinx) and most are **female** (69%). During the grant period, Pivot to Success exceeded its initial goal of 4 – 6 employer partners by formalizing agreements with seven employers.



Career Pathways Projects

Three community-based organizations and two community colleges served **718 students** with a combination of education and work experiences during their grant period. These grants also supported program and infrastructure development that will continue to serve students beyond the grant term.

- [Future Focused Education, X3 GRADS](#)
- [Ilisagvik College, Building Maintenance and Weatherization Education](#)
- [Mi Casa Resource Center, Financial Services Pathway](#)
- [Northern New Mexico College Foundation, Plumbers and Pipefitters Center of Excellence](#)
- [Northland Workforce Training Center, Earn While You Learn, Apprenticeship to Degree Program in Mechanical Engineering Technology](#)

Moving Forward

There is a big gap between community college students' educational aspirations and their achievements. To address this gap, ECMC Foundation has directed an increasing portion of our core grants towards community colleges to promote policies and practices that support our mission. As a learning organization, the Foundation continues to measure the impact of our grant making and assess promising innovation in the field to inform our strategy moving forward.