

2015 Go Alliance Swap Meet

The LOSFA (Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance): Program and Funding Capacity Beyond the CACG (Sustainability Efforts)



LOUISIANA

Overview

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) recently lost federal College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) and Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) to fund college access initiatives and services to underrepresented populations across Louisiana. State general funds were obtained to fund the Field Outreach Services Division of the agency, targeting seniors through tiered levels of college access services to increase the number of low-income students who are aware of and prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

Target Audience

Districts and schools across Louisiana (Intensive and Concentrated Service Schools)

Intensive Services Schools (ISS)

Characteristics of an intensive service school may include:

- low graduation rates
- low standardized test scores
- high rate of low ACT/SAT composite and/or sub-scores
- low rate of students qualifying for TOPS (state scholarship program)
- low rate of students performing on grade level
- high rate of graduates whose TOPS scholarships are cancelled
- lack of parental support
- high percentage of over-age students; high rate of economically disadvantaged students (poverty); low FAFSA completion rates.

Concentrated Services Schools (CSS)

Characteristics of a concentrated service school may include:

- decline in graduation rates
- decline in standardized test scores
- decline in ACT/SAT composite and/or sub-scores
- decline in students qualifying for TOPS scholarships
- decline in students performing on grade level,
- high rate of graduates whose TOPS scholarships are cancelled
- low/decline in FAFSA completion rates

Partners

Louisiana Department of Education, University Systems/Institutions of Higher Education, Districts, Schools, Business and Industry

Annual Timeline

Event	Action	Strategy	Month Delivered
Budget Hearings (Legislative and Higher Education Board)	Gather performance and budgetary data according to agency mission and strategic plan	Present stakeholders with budgetary impact of program and program outcomes	September/October (year prior); Legislative Session (February/March-June)
Budget Allocation	Executive Director meets with CFO and fiscal to determine budget spread.	Provide operation budget to Field Outreach Services Division	June
District/School Selection and Planning	Meet with Superintendents and Schools to determine participation in	Determine District/School Buy-in	June-July

	program after identifying school performance data.		
Issue Contract	LOSFA Issues Contract to District	All parties understand the goals, objectives, roles and responsibilities of the program	August
Implement Program	School Staff and District Staff are Trained on Program Requirements	LOSFA Program Coordinators Implement Program	August-May
Ongoing Evaluation	School staff provide quarterly reports; program staff provide event and activity feedback	LOSFA Evaluation Team review reporting documents and implement program modification/enhancement	August-May

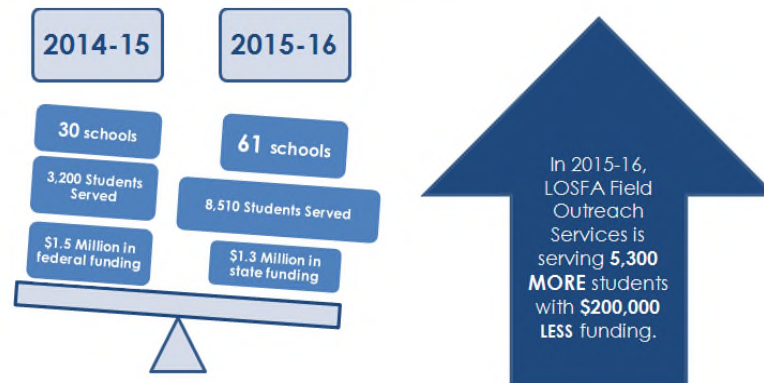
Data Collection/Evaluation/Outcomes

Activity	How was it measured?	Outcome
Work with 61 high schools in 34 districts, implementing a menu of college access services.	Each college access initiative has a required deliverable to measure outcome.	100% School/District Participation in Data/Outcome Reporting

Resources and Sustainability

As indicated below, LOSFA Field Outreach Services operates with a \$1.3 million dollar budget from State General Funds. There are currently 8 FTEs working in the division to carry-out program goals and objectives. LOSFA is requesting an increase in funding to provide services to additional schools.

2014-15 and 2015-16 Program Design Comparison



Staff Contact and Resources

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