Building Connections. Advancing Equity. Promoting Success.

College Access Network Survey

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the College Access network survey. This survey will help to understand better the structure and outcome of your college access and success network. Your network may not have all of the features or characteristics listed in the survey, but please try to answer all of the questions as best as you can. You can complete this survey at several points in times to assess change in network functions and outcomes over time.

Please complete the survey by *DATE*. Answer all questions as candidly as possible. The survey should take approximately 15 - 20 minutes to complete.

Your responses will be kept confidential. The only reason that we ask for you to name your organization or agency is so that you do not receive reminders to complete the survey. The name of your organization or agency will not be associated with your responses in any report without your written permission. You may choose not to complete the survey in whole or in part without penalty.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact *INFORMATION*. Thank you in advance for taking the time to provide important information about college access and success networks.

[Directions for online version] You do not need to complete the survey in one sitting. When you click "*next*" at the bottom of the page, your data will be saved and you can return to the survey as long as you use the same computer that you are using now. When you click "*done*" at the end of the survey, your answers will be recorded and you will not be able to make further changes.

Information about your Organization

1. Which of the following categories best describes your organization or agency?

○ College access organization (e.g., Gear UP)
○ Community based organization (e.g., youth serving, faith based)
○ Advocacy organization
○ Government (e.g., state, city, or local agency, public library)
○ Education - school district, or elementary, middle or high school
○ Education - community college
○ Education - four-year college or university

○ Communications/Media
○ Private sector (e.g., business, chamber of commerce)
○ Grantmaking foundation
○ Local Education Fund
○ Other

2. Please indicate whether your organization or agency serves each population and how well your organization or agency meets the needs of each population that it serves.

	Organization serves this population		How well population's needs are met	
Middle school students	○	Yes	○	Not at all
	○	No	○	Slightly effectively
			○	Moderately effectively
			○	Very effectively
High school students	○	Yes	○	Not at all
	○	No	○	Slightly effectively
			○	Moderately effectively
			○	Very effectively
Undergraduate college students	○	Yes	○	Not at all
	○	No	○	Slightly effectively
			○	Moderately effectively
			○	Very effectively
Adult learners	○	Yes	○	Not at all
	○	No	○	Slightly effectively
			○	Moderately effectively
			○	Very effectively
Low income students	○	Yes	○	Not at all
	○	No	○	Slightly effectively
			○	Moderately effectively
			○	Very effectively
First generation college students	○	Yes	○	Not at all
	○	No	○	Slightly effectively
			○	Moderately effectively
			○	Very effectively
Racial/ethnic minorities	○	Yes	○	Not at all
	○	No	○	Slightly effectively
			○	Moderately effectively
			○	Very effectively
Parents/guardians	○	Yes	○	Not at all
	○	No	○	Slightly effectively
			○	Moderately effectively
			○	Very effectively
Other (please specify) _____	○	Yes	○	Not at all
	○	No	○	Slightly effectively
			○	Moderately effectively
			○	Very effectively

3. Are there groups in the geographic area served by your network that are underserved when it comes to college access and success services? If so, which groups are these?

_____

_____

4. What is the name of the college access network with which you most often or most consistently engage? This may be a statewide, regional, or local network. If the network does not have a formal name, how do members refer to the network?

_____

Please answer the remaining questions of the survey with regards to the network that you named in question 4.

5. In which geographic region does your network focus its work?

❍   Statewide
❍   Regionally (multicounty)
❍   Locally (county, city, school district[s])
If local or regional network, please identify the area served (e.g., cities, counties, school districts, etc.)
_____

6. Are you a member of the network steering committee or advisory committee, or do you hold a leadership role in the network?

❍   Yes   ❍   No

7. Please estimate how many times you met as a network in 2011, either face-to-face or through other means (e.g., conference calls, webinars, committee meetings, etc.).

_____

8. In what month and year did your organization or agency join the network?

_____

Network Features

Networks differ from each other in terms of their shared purpose, member organization composition, level of complexity, structure, and management. Networks change over time due to internal or external factors. We would like to learn more about the features that characterize your network.

9. Does your network have the following features?

	Yes	No	Do not know
Agreement that members sign to commit their organization to the network (e.g., Memorandum of	❍	❍	❍
Understanding (MOU), charter, other unifying document).	❍	❍	❍
Written policy or document describing the process members agree will be used to make decisions.	❍	❍	❍
Written policy or document describing how disagreement or conflict will be handled among members.	❍	❍	❍
Subcommittees or work groups that engage in agreed upon tasks and activities and report back to the full network.	❍	❍	❍
A fundraising/development plan.	❍	❍	❍
An advocacy plan that describes, objectives, resources, tools and tactics.	❍	❍	❍
The right mix of organizations to strengthen or expand college access and success services.	❍	❍	❍
The right mix of organizations and influence to monitor, address, or influence state, regional, or local policy change.	❍	❍	❍

10. To what extent does your network have the following features?

	Has not yet happened	Occurs to small extent	Occurs to moderate extent	Occurs to great extent	Do not know
Membership					
Understanding among members of the shared purpose that binds organizations in the network.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Agreement about tasks & activities members will conduct to achieve shared purpose.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Active work among members to achieve the mutually understood network purpose.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Organizations with relevant goals encouraged to join.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Network Management, Facilitation, Process, and Structure					
Effective network leaders, coordinators, and/or facilitators.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Sense of equal partnership among members.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Opportunities for regular interaction and open discussion of issues among members.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍

	Has not yet happened	Occurs to small extent	Occurs to moderate extent	Occurs to great extent	Do not know
Positive relationships among members (marked by mutual respect, trust, understanding).	○	○	○	○	○
Meaningful input of members into the work of the network.	○	○	○	○	○
Routine review and reassessment of network priorities and network's progress in achieving objectives.	○	○	○	○	○
Resources and Sustainability					
Adequate financial resources, staff, and/or volunteers to support network operations.	○	○	○	○	○
Members contribute resources to support network tasks and activities.	○	○	○	○	○
Network effectively finds and taps assets (e.g., funding, relationships, talent).	○	○	○	○	○

11. Do any of the organizations or agencies in your network exert outsized influence over network priorities, tasks, or activities such that the influence distorts or creates imbalances in members' relationships?

○   Yes   ○   No   ○   Do not know

Please describe. You do not have to name organizations or agencies but please give specific examples of how the network was affected.

_____

_____

Impact of Network on Members

The next set of questions asks how your organization or agency has benefited from participating in the network.

12. During the past 12 months, as a result of participating in the network, my organization/agency…

	Not at all	To a small extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Do not know
Communication and Working with Other Organizations					
improved communication methods or materials for our target population.	○	○	○	○	○
worked strategically with other organizations to fill gaps or reduce duplication of services.	○	○	○	○	○

	Not at all	To a small extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Do not know
worked cooperatively with organizations with whom previously we had rarely or never worked.	○	○	○	○	○
worked cooperatively with local schools or school districts .	○	○	○	○	○
worked cooperatively with other organizations to obtain funding.	○	○	○	○	○
entered into formal service cooperation or coordination agreements with other organizations or institutions.	○	○	○	○	○
Access and Success Services					
learned about the college access services provided by other organizations.	○	○	○	○	○
offered a broader array of services.	○	○	○	○	○
improved the quality of services.	○	○	○	○	○
unified messages around college access and success.	○	○	○	○	○
increased the awareness of low income students in grades 8-10 about steps to college.	○	○	○	○	○
increased the awareness of adults to help students prepare for college.	○	○	○	○	○
strengthened the college-going culture in our school/community	○	○	○	○	○

13. Overall, how beneficial is it for your organization/agency to be a member of the network?

○　　　Not at all beneficial
○　　　Slightly beneficial
○　　　Moderately beneficial
○　　　Greatly beneficial

Please describe, using specific examples.

_____

_____

14. Was there any negative impact on your organization/agency from participating in the network? Please explain.

_____

_____

Network Accomplishments

15. During the past 12 months, our network…

	Not at all	To a small extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Do not know
General Network Accomplishments					
combined resources of network members to conduct joint events, activities, or programs.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
shared research-based best practices with members.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
helped members access funding.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
helped strengthen member organizations' capacity (e.g., planning, data, skills, forging partnerships).	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
partnered with a variety of organizations (e.g., schools, colleges/universities, business, media).	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
improved services and the system of support around college access for students.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
made progress in achieving our shared purpose.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
used data to target our services.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
captured and communicated evidence of the network's progress, improvement, and success.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
was considered by media representatives & leaders as trusted source of information about college access.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
increased general public awareness about college access and success issues.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Accomplishments Related to Policy and Advocacy					
discussed government or institutional policy barriers to college access and success.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
conducted activities to build public will in support of college access and success for low income students.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
addressed government or institutional barriers to college access and success.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
worked to promote policy change in financial aid.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
worked to promote policy change in alignment of K12 and higher education standards.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
used data to advocate for policy change.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
was engaged and influential in meetings of advocates, elected officials, and policy groups working to improve college access and success for low income students.	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍

16. How satisfied are you with the accomplishments of your network during the past 12 months?

❍ Very unsatisfied
❍ Somewhat unsatisfied
❍ Somewhat satisfied
❍ Very satisfied

17. Please describe specific examples of accomplishments that were achieved through cooperation, coordination, or collaboration that may not have been achieved by member organizations working alone.

_____

_____

18. Please describe any challenges related to your organization's work with the network or challenges that the network itself faced.

_____

_____

19. What is the name of your organization?

_____

20. Do you have additional comments or questions? If you have a question, please include your email address so that we can respond.

_____

_____

Thank you very much for your help with this survey. We appreciate your time and hope that the information that we share with your state about network functioning, achievements, and suggestions for improvement are beneficial for you and your work.