



SHEEO

STATE HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



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ADULT PROMISE COHORT TWO KICK-OFF CONVENING

November 7-8, 2018
Westminster, Colorado

With generous support from Lumina Foundation

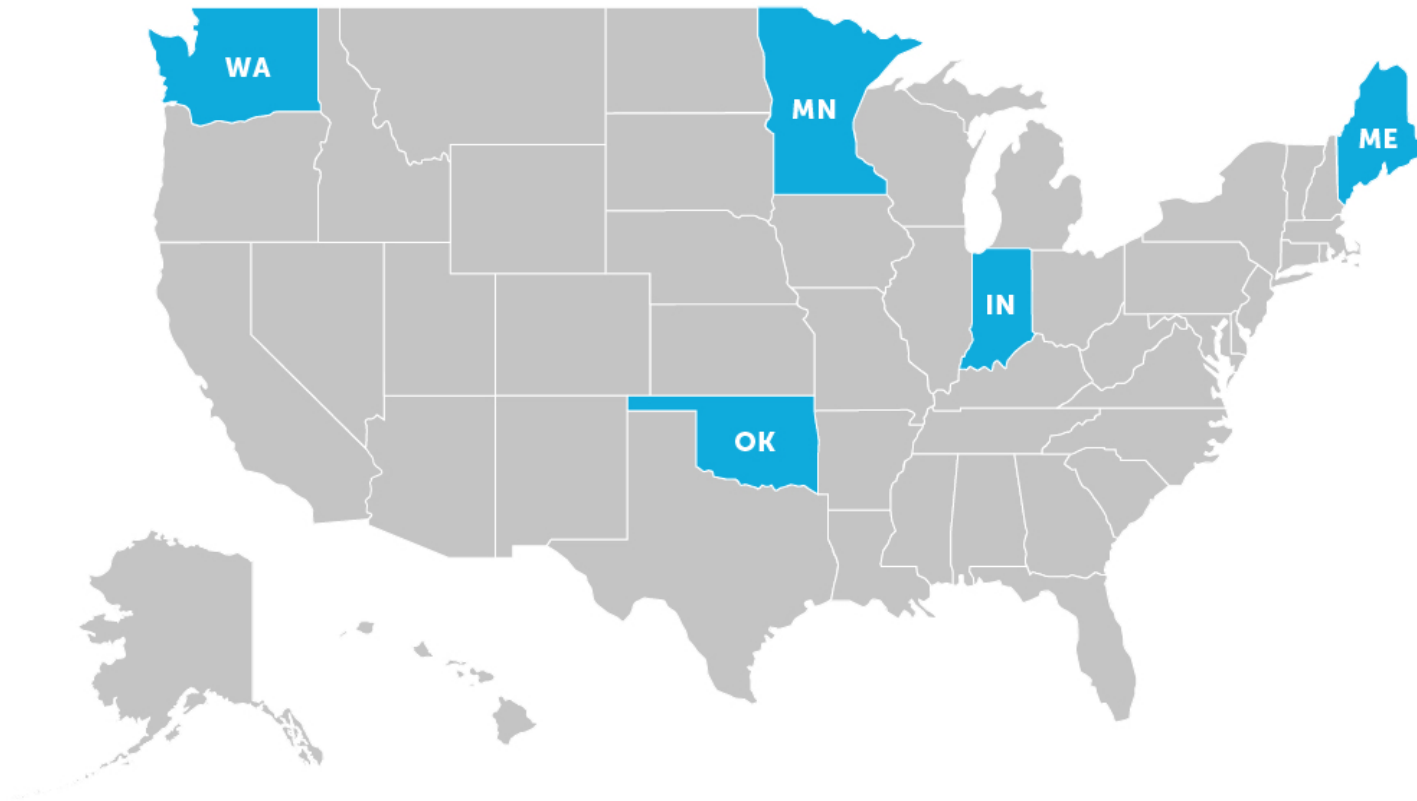


About the Project

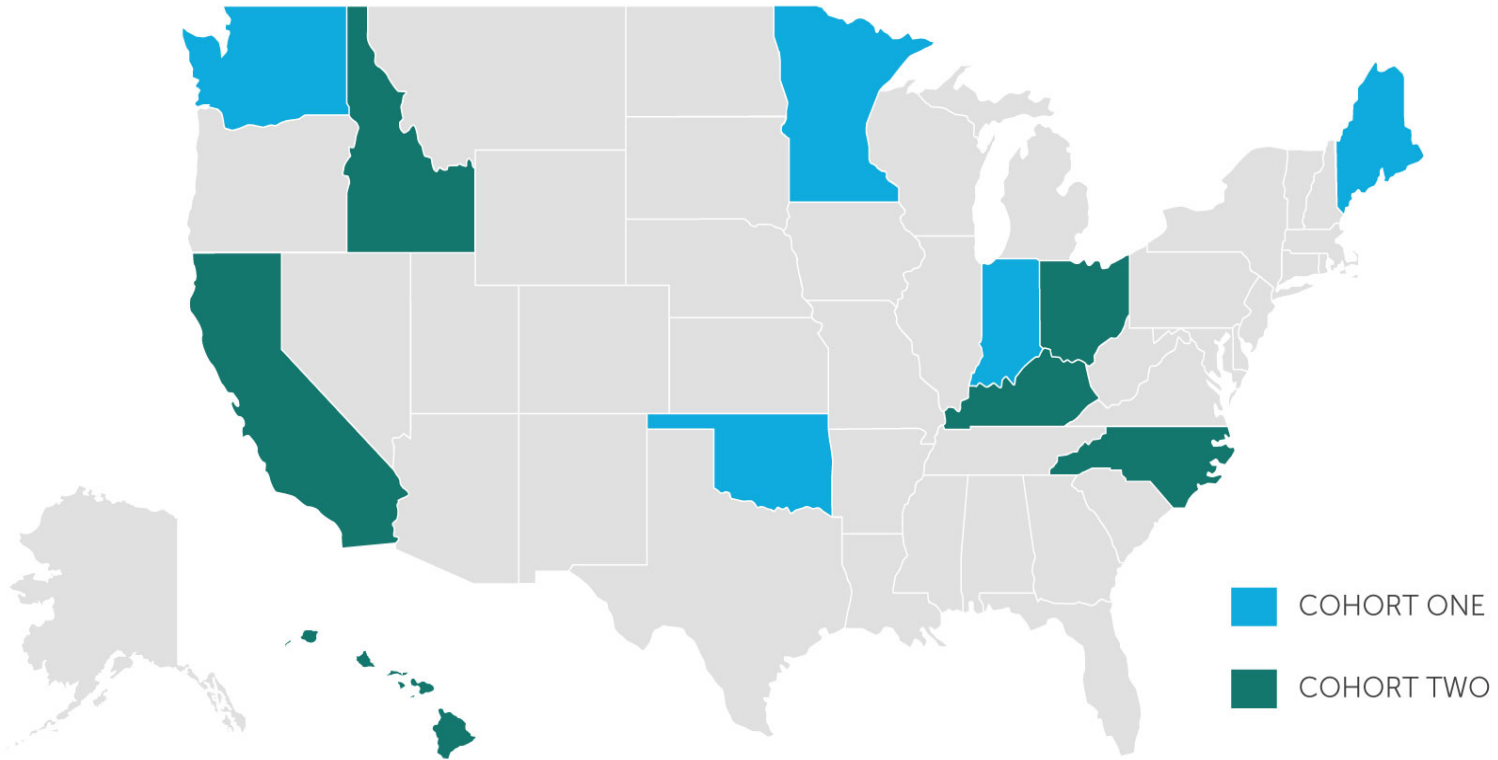
- Phase I – January through October 2016
 - Is a Promise Program for adult students feasible?
 - Are SHEEO members interested in the idea?
 - Produced *design template* document for states looking to implement Adult Promise programs
- Phase II – June 2017 through 2019 *and beyond*
 - Implementing pilot programs in five states
 - Indiana (statewide)
 - Maine (select institutions)
 - Minnesota (select community colleges)
 - Oklahoma (statewide)
 - Washington (statewide)
 - *Cohort Two states*

sheeo.org/adultpromise

Original Adult Promise States (Cohort One)



Adult Promise States



Adult Promise States

- Cohort One
 - Indiana, Maine, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Washington
- Cohort Two
 - California, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Ohio

Successful Promise Programs

- Provide more than a scholarship
- The message is key
- Support and services are critical
- Examples:
 - Tennessee Promise
 - Detroit Promise post-MDRC assistance
 - TN Promise local precursor in Knoxville

Defining an Adult Promise Program...



- Promotes a simple, transparent message that postsecondary education is affordable for adult learners.



- Makes a financial commitment to adult students through leveraging aid from all available sources. Commits to fill in the gaps where needed to cover tuition and fees.



- Establishes and supports programs and services that are tailored to the unique needs of adult students and will help them succeed in postsecondary education.

An Adult Promise Program must address unique adult learner challenges

- Exhausted aid eligibility may drive up cost to provide last dollar scholarship
- State and institutional buy-in (especially fear of over-promising)
- State financial aid policies and eligibility requirements
- Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) cannot be reset
- Outreach challenges
- Cost to tailor services to adult students or expand hours to meet adult student schedules

Is the “some college, no degree” student really a *low hanging fruit*?

Supports and services that resonate with pilot states

- Targeted outreach and messaging
- More intensive coaching over mentoring
- Micro grants/debt forgiveness
- Emergency aid programs
- Financial literacy programming
- Maximize benefits from all public resources
- Connections to workforce and economic needs

Takeaways and lessons learned from the original pilot states

- Program implementation is slow going
 - Coalition building and nurturing
 - Connect to statewide attainment effort (Maine)
 - Connect to workforce and economic needs (Oklahoma)
- Lack of data on adult learners
 - Outdated contact information and lack of nuanced data about potential adult students
 - Rely on student-level financial aid data (Washington)
 - Collect detailed data through application process (Tennessee*)
 - Set up program evaluation protocols (Minnesota)

**Not a grantee state*

Takeaways and lessons learned (continued)

- Returning students may face barriers due to past attempts at higher education
 - SAP cannot be reset
 - States and institutions are looking for creative ways to address challenges
 - Policy audit and reform (Indiana)
 - Institutional holds and debt
 - Micro grant program (Washington)
 - Warrior Way Back program (Wayne State Univ.*)

**Not a grantee institution*

Takeaways and lessons learned (continued)

- Adult learners need intensive coaching
 - Length of time since last educational experience
 - Fear of failure (or failing again)
 - Setting up Navigators to work with students throughout program (ME, MN, OK, WA)
- Fear of over-promising/concerns about cost of last dollar scholarship
 - Impending economic downturn
 - Unknown financial status of potential students
 - Lack of strong state financial aid program
 - Strong coalition building and connecting to business community encourages multiple partners to help fund (Oklahoma)

Technical Assistance

- Annual conferences
- Webinars
- Conference calls
- Site visits
- Benefits access work
- Peer-to-peer learning
- Broad adult learner network

Adult Learner-focused Organizations

Center for American Progress



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Questions?

Andy Carlson

acarlson@sheeo.org

 @andymcarlson

