

# **Tennessee Reconnect: (Re)engaging adults with higher education**

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SHEEO Adult Promise Convening

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# Drive to 55

- Governor Bill Haslam's attainment goal
  - By 2025, **55 percent** of working age adults in Tennessee will have a postsecondary credential.
  - Goal set based on findings of A Decade Behind report from CEW (Carnevale and Smith, 2012)
- Currently: **~39 percent** attainment
  - 33.8 percent have AA or higher (ACS)
  - ~4-5 percent (conservatively) have postsecondary certificates

# Cannot reach 55% without adults.

- Over next decade, Tennessee needs **871,000 degrees** to each Drive to 55.
- Only **645,000** new high school graduates projected during this time period.
- Difference of **~220,000** degrees:
  - Migration?
  - **ADULTS**

# Adults in Tennessee

- **3.4 million** working age adults in Tennessee (per US Census)
  - **2.1 million** adults in Tennessee **do not have** a postsecondary credential.
- **900,000** adults in Tennessee have **some college, no degree.**
  - “low hanging fruit?”

# Suite of Reconnect initiatives

- Reconnect and Complete
  - “Go back and finish”
- Reconnect Communities
  - Advising services
- TCAT Reconnect
  - Tuition and fee free at technical colleges
- Veteran Reconnect
- Community College Reconnect **PILOT**

# Lessons learned from pilot

- More broad access, not limited
  - Those with 30+ or 60+ credits toward AA/BA
- Half time requirement
  - Not full time, not “almost full time”
- Service or mentorship?
  - Maybe not.

# Tennessee Reconnect eligibility

- Adults who do not hold an AA/BA
  - Can have a Certificate
- Tennessee resident for one year
  - Consistent with other state aid programs
- Enroll half time (6+ credits); continuous enrollment
  - Cannot stop out or drop out
- CCs and eligible private institutions

# Tennessee Reconnect design

- Last dollar (just like Tennessee Promise)
  - Adults must file FAFSA
  - Issues re: default and aid eligibility
- Must meet with Reconnect Community Advisor
  - Make semester-by-semester plan
  - Mentoring aspect



# Tennessee Reconnect finances

- Last dollar
  - Average award **\$400-700**, depending on enrollment status
  - Higher for those adults not eligible for aid
- Approximately **\$11 million** per year
  - Funded with Lottery funds (as is Promise and merit aid program)

# How calculated?

- Data from THEC and TSAC student information systems.
  - Demographics, enrollment, financial aid
- Among adults currently enrolled in community colleges:
  - Enrolled at least 2 consecutive terms
  - Enrolled at least half time
  - Filed FAFSA

# How calculated?

- Based on current enrollment, assume **20,000 adults** (includes grandfathered students.)
- Assumes 70/30 split, part vs. full time enrollment.
- Assumes 50 percent retention; 30 percent graduation (beginning Year 3.)
- Program mature at **5 years.**

# How calculated?

	<b>CC students</b>	<b>4-yrs</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Y1</b>	21,536	1,077	\$9M
<b>Y2</b>	25,537	1,277	\$10.8M
<b>Y3</b>	24,752	1,238	\$11.3M
<b>Y4</b>	24,595	1,230	\$11.2M
<b>Y5</b>	24,564	1,228	\$11.2M

# Ineligible for (federal) aid?

- Loan default
  - TSAC provides counseling services to get out of default
  - TSAC + TRC can work with students
- Institutional aid/holds on accounts
  - Working with institutions to waive library fines, parking tickets, etc.
- Microgrants and emergency aid

# Tennessee Reconnect

- Passed in TN General Assembly in May
- Effective Fall 2018
  - Eligible students will receive aid in Fall 2017
- Next steps:
  - Trainings, community engagement
  - Plan for data collection and evaluation

**Questions?  
Thank you!**

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