



SHEEO

STATE HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Implementing Promise Programs to Serve Adult Students and Meet State Attainment Goals

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SHEEO Higher Education Policy Conference
Minneapolis, MN
August 10, 2017



About the project

- Phase I – January through October 2016
 - Design Convening
 - Produced *design template* document for states looking to implement Adult Promise programs
 - Site visits to selected states
 - Produced a customized *program implementation plan* for each state
- Phase II - 2017 through 2019
 - Implementing programs in four states
 - Maine, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Washington

With generous support from Lumina Foundation

The disconnect

**Need to serve adult
students to reach
attainment goals**



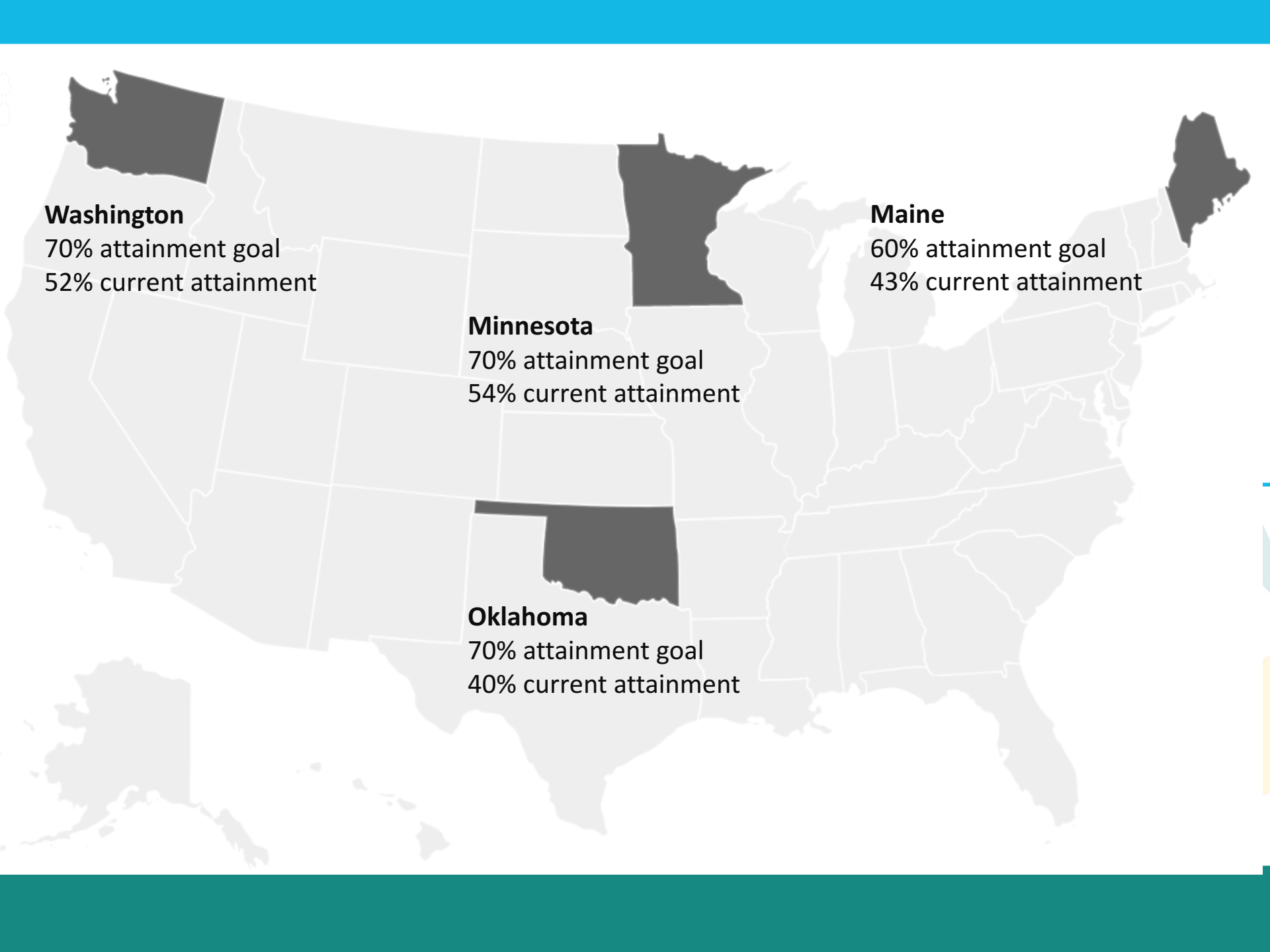
**Current and
proposed promise-
type programs**

Reasons for the focus on traditional students with current promise programs

- Exhausted aid eligibility / financial holds are a non-issue for students who have never attempted postsecondary education
 - Pell and state aid will cover the cost for many students, making promise programs for traditional students relatively inexpensive
- High school students are a captive audience during outreach and enrollment processes
- Misunderstanding about today's typical college student
 - 40% are actually 25 and older

Disconnect is going away

- Momentum building: This project, Arkansas, Indiana, and local efforts
- Tennessee Reconnect
- **LUMINA BIG GOAL DATA (60% by 2025)**
 - 16.4 million credentials to traditional-aged students
 - 6.1 million to returning adult students
 - 5.5 million to adults with no recognized postsecondary education experience



Outlining the challenges of creating an adult promise program

- Exhausted aid eligibility may drive up cost to provide last dollar scholarship
- State and institutional buy-in
- State financial aid policies and eligibility requirements
- Satisfactory Academic Progress 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*?

Preliminary state ideas to address these challenges

- Last dollar scholarship
- Working with institutions to waive small financial holds and debts to institutions
- Financial literacy training
- Coaches/navigators/mentorship
- Emergency aid programs
- Statewide marketing campaigns with targeted outreach and web portal
 - Similar to Indiana's You Can. Go Back program

Preliminary ideas continued

- Messaging matters
 - The main takeaway from Tennessee Promise to date
- Statewide marketing campaigns
- Targeted outreach
- Web portals

Preliminary parameters

- Income caps (e.g., up to \$75,000)
- Prior credit requirements (e.g., 50% of degree requirements)
- Age limits
- Stop outs

Current thinking in the pilot states is not to limit to certificates and/or community college credentials

State specific details

- Oklahoma
 - Degree programs on the 100 Critical Degree List
 - Expanding existing *Reach Higher* program for marketing and outreach
- Minnesota
 - Automated outreach for stop-outs
 - Intensive coaching

State details

- Washington
 - Emergency aid program
 - Web portal to guide students to an institution that fits their needs, connects them to an advisor at that institution
- Maine
 - Institutional debt forgiveness and financial counseling
 - Wrap-around student support services

Final thought

- *Many of the best ideas around serving adult students are best guesses at this point. States need to be flexible and adjust programs as they discover which interventions are or are not effective*
- *E.G., Tennessee*



Tennessee Reconnect: (Re)engaging adults with higher education

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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 reach 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)

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
 - Some institutions using institutional funds in Fall 2017 to start program early
- Next steps:
 - Trainings, community engagement
 - Plan for data collection and evaluation

**Questions?
Thank you!**

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