



MN Reconnect

Application for Institutions

November 2017

MN Reconnect webpage



<https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=2253>

Background

- We've seen the recent rise of Promise programs for high school students
- SHEEO initiative – design a promise program for adult learners
 - State team attended a design workshop, developed a plan
- States invited to apply for funding
- Minnesota selected to receive funding
- Funding from Lumina Foundation; Technical assistance from SHEEO



MN
Reconnect
A Pilot Program

Overview

MN Reconnect

Encouraging students who have some college credits but no degree to return to college

Four components:

1. Targeted outreach and re-enrollment of former Minnesota State students
2. Navigation and support in the re-enrollment process
3. Targeted financial assistance for students, including emergency grants, and
4. Program evaluation

Eligible Institutions

- Minnesota State Colleges (two-year public institutions)
 - Up to four institutions, representing both Greater MN and Twin Cities
 - Beginning January 1, 2018 (student enrollment commencing fall 2018)
- Participating institutions will receive: Financial support, Technical assistance, Student support/staff, and Program evaluation.
- An estimated 500 students will receive:
 - Funds to assist them in completing a certificate, diploma or associate's degree,
 - Campus-level staff support, and
 - Other assistance in overcoming barriers to completion.
- Each participating student will receive an annual grant of up to \$2,000 beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year in addition to all other grant assistance received by the student including federal Pell Grant and Minnesota State Grants.

Expectations of Participating Pilot Institutions

- Coordinate with system office to identify students aged 25-44 who have completed 15 college credits,
- Conduct targeted outreach and re-enrollment of identified former students,
- Provide intensive navigation for re-enrollment, degree selection and program planning, credit for prior learning (CPL), and support for completion,
- Offer targeted financial assistance from the grant program and offer access to any needed community resources,
- Assist the research staff of Minnesota State Central and the Office of Higher Education in evaluation of the program, and
- Develop recommendations to support Minnesota's colleges and universities in serving adult students.

Institutional Application Timeline

- Proposal release date: Nov 6, 2017
- Minnesota State CSAO/CAO Webinar for prospective institutions: November 9, 2017
- Proposal due date: December 4, 2017
- Final institutions announced: December 20, 2017

Materials can be found at:

<http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=2253>



Institutional Application Components

1. Describe your institution and its adult learners; How would your student benefit?
2. Who are the students at your institution who would benefit from this program?
3. What support do you currently provide returning adult learners?
4. Describe options for awarding credit for prior learning on your institution that are appropriate for adult learners.
5. Describe your institution's approach to predictable or structured scheduling.

Institutional Application Components

6. Describe how you manage your student advising currently. What tools do you utilize?
7. Describe current supports for students' non-academic needs, e.g. childcare, transportation, SNAP, MFIP and housing
8. Does your institution offer emergency assistance grants (funds to cover unexpected financial emergencies) to students?
9. What measures of success would you use to evaluate this program?

Evaluation of Applications

- Expressed understanding of pilot objectives
- Able to successfully identify adult learners, recognize barriers they face and willingness to address re-enrollment barriers
- Able or willing to support the academic needs of adult learners by enacting best practice programs and policies
- Able or willing to address students' non-academic needs by leveraging partnerships and programs maximizing student well-being

2018 Timeline

- January / February 2018 -- Identify former student population
- March 2018 -- Prepare outreach/student engagement and communications plan
- April 2018 -- Launch outreach
- Fall 2018--Student enrollment

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