



6 TAKEAWAYS

THE COLLEGE TRANSFER PATHWAY

Funded by the Teagle Foundation, our Afterschool's Role in Supporting the Transfer Pathway to the Baccalaureate project (2020 - 2021) included three Reflections on Practice and a Forum. Below find 6 key takeaways from the events. Visit our [project recap](#) [URL] to access resources, and forum video recordings available on-demand via registration.



Adapting to meet need

Community-based organizations, with or without dedicated funding, are expanding college access work and caseloads to include college transfer and success.



Leverage relationships

CBO staff build trusting relationships with students and often maintain them past high school graduation. CBO staff can serve as trusted advisors as students contemplate transferring.



Start early

Transfer pathways can be a strategic part of attaining a four year degree, but because the landscape is so foreign to many students, it requires a greater investment in education, advising, and support; and this work needs to start early!



Leveling up

CBO access staff are continually building and searching for vital college transfer knowledge to inform their advisement. More opportunities to network and receive professional development can systemize these organic efforts.



Partnering for success

While there are examples of successful collaborations, many opportunities exist for CBOs and colleges to form closer informal and formal partnerships to support the college transfer pathway.



Sustainable funding

To sustainably support the pathway to the baccalaureate, CBOs require funding investments that extend beyond the first year of college.



HIGHLIGHTS

A CONVERSATION WITH DR. LOGUE

Our March 2021 forum, opened with a conversation with Dr. Alexandra W. Logue, a research professor at the Center for Advanced Study in Education, The Graduate Center, CUNY. Dr. Logue discussed the barriers to successful college transfer, shared recommendations for better advisement, and highlighted research that debunks some myths about the college transfer pathway. Visit our [project recap](#) [URL] to access a recording of the conversation.



Plot out the whole transfer process

Even if plans change or students change their minds, a successful transfer begins at the very start of college with a long-term plan that plots out the whole transfer process, including credit transfer.



Effective pipelines for success

An effective transfer pipeline requires both the sending institution and the receiving one to develop strong, student-centered protocols.



Multi-pronged approaches

Transfer-friendly institutions evaluate credits more efficiently, have identified dedicated staff to provide transfer advisement, and lower barriers to transfer (for example, through dual-enrollment programs)



Data-driven decisions

Conventional wisdom around transfer may be inaccurate. There are many misconceptions around transferring credits and what makes a transfer student more likely to be accepted. It is important for college students and advisors to base decisions on data. Tools like [Transfer Explorer](#) can help democratize access to information.



Making transfer the focus of conversation

The transfer conversation is moving from the margins to the center. Increasing attention to this in dedicated blogs, reports, and research. A majority of states have passed legislation to help transfer students and organizations are starting to identify and address the issue.



5 QUESTIONS

WHAT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD CONSIDER

CBOs support college access and increasingly, focus on college success. For many students, college transfer is a key pathway to that success. For CBOs who are considering adding transfer conversations and support to their existing college success work, here are 5 questions to begin assessing systems, capacity, and expertise.

1

Is there staffing capacity?

College transfer work requires dedicated staff who can build organizational expertise on college transfer processes and timelines and capacity to provide individualized transfer student advisement.

2

Is there dedicated funding?

While much of the work of supporting transfer students is taken on without funding, investment in staffing and infrastructure is needed to ensure effectiveness.

3

Is there ongoing professional development?

To stay abreast of the college transfer ecosystem and best practices, CBOs should consider how they will keep current. This includes joining and participating in organizations that support staff development related to college transfer.

4

Are you building collaborations?

Effective transfer advisement benefits from strong partnerships with higher education institutions, professional associations, and other CBOs.

5

Are you tracking for outcomes?

Having systems in place to collect and analyze college transfer outcomes data, maintain information on transfer-friendly colleges, and other key partnerships can help make the case for funding and build your organization's expertise.



THANK YOU

We gratefully acknowledge the 50 individuals who participated in this initiative, sharing their organizational expertise around the college transfer process, and representing youth-serving nonprofits, K-12 schools, higher education, and philanthropy. Below is a list of the organizations they represent.

Bridge to Enter Advanced Mathematics (BEAM)
Brooklyn College, CUNY
BUILD NYC
CARA
Charles Hayden Foundation
City University of New York
CUNY Office of K-16 Initiatives
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation
DREAM
East Harlem Tutorial Program
Figure Skating in Harlem
Graduate Center, CUNY
GraduateNYC
Hunter College, CUNY
Ithaca S+R
Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House
New Settlement Apartments
New Victory Theater
New York University

New York Urban League
Opening Act, Inc.
Phipps Neighborhoods
Police Athletic League
Publicolor Inc
Queens College, CUNY
Queens Community House
Roads to Success
Row New York
Rutgers University - New Brunswick
South Asian Youth Action, Inc.
StreetSquash
Student Leadership Network
Teagle Foundation
The Boys' Club of New York
The Fresh Air Fund
The Pinkerton Foundation
Zone 126

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