

Next Step Training & Education

Demonstration Project



“Next Step” is an evidence based training and education project funded by the Prince George’s County Department of Social Services. The Department of Social Services has contracted with Prince George’s Community College prepare customers for self-directed career development and progression.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- ❖ Prince George’s County Department of Social Services customers currently receiving TCA (Temporary Cash Assistance)¹. A limited number of former TCA customers will be accepted on a case by case basis.
- ❖ Youth under the age of 21 who are the dependent child of an approved TCA recipient (as defined above).
- ❖ Youth ages 14 – 21 who are in foster care through the Prince George’s County Department of Social Services.

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS?

- ❖ Students must complete an individual development plan that outlines their academic and career goals.
- ❖ Students must enroll in a certificate, credit or non-credit programs or GED courses.
- ❖ Students must actively pursue employment related to their career goals.
- ❖ Students must work directly with staff members to identify strategies, resources, and skills that ensure their success in achieving their goals.

RESOURCES:

- ❖ Funding is provided on an annual basis through the Prince Georges County Department of Social Services.
- ❖ Full time director selected and financially supported (66.6%) by Prince George’s Community College.
- ❖ Full time academic office manager financially supported (100%) by Prince George’s Community College.
- ❖ U.S. Department of Education Federal Student Aid Program (Pell).
- ❖ Prince George’s Community College Office of Financial Aid (Scholarships).
- ❖ Prince George’s Community College Division of Workforce Development and Continuing Education.
- ❖ Prince George’s Community College Foundation (Support Services)
- ❖ Prince George’s Community College Division of Student Services including scholarships, career assessment, career placement, aptitude testing, and individual counseling.

GOALS:

- ❖ To connect TANF customers with support services to help them (a) identify and develop career goals, and (b) achieve academically.
- ❖ To assist customers in overcoming personal and professional barriers hindering career development and progression.
- ❖ To provide customers with strategies, tools, resources, and insights that lead to sustainable career development planning.
- ❖ To equip customers with skills, knowledge, training, support & education needed to actualize their professional goals.
- ❖ To integrate customer’s stated career goals with immediate employment needs (required by PGC DSS).
- ❖ To reduce individual and generational dependency on public assistance.
- ❖ To increase the number of TANF customers engaged in post-secondary programs at PGCC.

¹ Formerly known as welfare, TCA is the equivalent of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED TO PARTICIPANTS?



- ❖ Comprehensive career and academic assessments
- ❖ One-on-one professional career counseling, planning, and guidance
- ❖ Academic support services to include tutoring and skill building workshops
- ❖ Financial management and support to include budget development, credit repair, and financial barrier removal
- ❖ Life skills training with an emphasis on self-management and interpersonal communication skill development
- ❖ Personal development workshops that assist with issues such as domestic violence, managing disabilities, IEP support, self-advocacy, and building healthy relationships.
- ❖ Parenting skill courses that focus on accountability, stewardships, and leadership
- ❖ Networking and mentoring opportunities with professional men and women, both campus and community based
- ❖ Support services for dependent youth to include leadership opportunities, camp, tutoring, community service activities; and workshops that focus on cultural appreciation, positive self-image, decision making, a and money management
- ❖ Academic support services for dependent youth that focuses on science, reading, and math skills acquisition
- ❖ Financial assistance for childcare, transportation, tuition, books, supplies, fees, etc.
- ❖ Financial assistance to avert crisis with housing, health, utilities, and safety.

MEASUREMENTS:

BEHAVIOR	CONDITION	DEGREE	EVIDENCE
Develop asset-based career plans.	Under the direction and supervision of PGCC staff	85% of enrolled customers	Number of Individual career plans (IDP) developed.
Enroll in higher education programs	Voluntarily (without mandate from DSS)	85% of Next Step applicants	Number of TANF customers enrolled in post-secondary degree and certificate programs.
Utilize support services available through the college, the PGC DSS, and community based organizations	With prompting and/or assistance from PGCC and PGC DSS staff	Attends 90% of scheduled appointments	Percentage of customers attending scheduled meetings, workshops and referral services.
Complete tasks associated with the goals to identified in their IDP	With the assistance of PGCC staff	75% of tasks related to their short term goals are complete	Percentage of tasks toward goal attainment completed by enrolled students.
Seek employment / promotion related to their career development goals	With assistance from PGCC staff and DSS vendors	Within 9 months of plan development	Number of customers demonstrating evidence of successful job placement or promotion.
Review career options, barriers and strategies	Without prompting	75% of enrolled customers	Number of customers self-initiating appointments with beyond initial planning to review IDP.