

PROMISE SUCCESS INITIATIVE

MOVING COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAMS FROM ACCESS TO SUCCESS

AGENDA

1. MDRC: Who We Are
2. Overview: MDRC's Promise Success Initiative
3. Success Story: Detroit Promise Path
4. Technical Assistance & Request for Proposals

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1. MDRC: Who We Are

- Dedicated to **learning what works** to improve higher education programs and social policies
- Best known for conducting large-scale, **rigorous evaluations** of efforts to improve outcomes for college students across the country
- 40+ year history of **strengthening** real-world programs and policies through demonstrations and evaluations
- Providing **technical assistance** to schools, programs, and organizations across the county



MDRC's Center for Applied Behavioral Science (CABS) uses **behavioral science** to make programs **more effective**



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2. Overview: MDRC's Promise Success Initiative

MDRC'S PROMISE SUCCESS INITIATIVE

In the fall of 2017, MDRC will launch the *Promise Success Initiative*, which will provide College Promise and Free College programs across the country with technical assistance and continuous improvement research support to *enhance and strengthen* programs *at no cost*.

MDRC'S PROMISE SUCCESS INITIATIVE

WEBINAR SERIES

- Open to everyone
- Join as many or as few as interest you
- Learn about strategies to strengthen your program, make better use of your data, and more!

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- For programs seeking more hands-on assistance
- 18 month project to develop and implement new/enhanced components
- Programs selected through RFP process

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROGRAMS

Programs will receive hands-on, research-based technical assistance from MDRC **free of charge** in areas such as:

- **Diagnosis** to assess current practices and needs of the program's students
- **In-depth technical assistance** to design and implement new support components
- **Behavioral science training** to improve program take-up and compliance
- **Personalized data coaching** to improve data collection, management, and monitoring
- **Formative feedback** including student survey
- **Participation in a cohort of like-minded programs** to learn from each other's best practices

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3. Success Story: Detroit Promise Path

Detroit Promise Path

SCHOLARSHIP



Covers tuition and fees
after financial aid is applied and assists students with summer tuition



NEW SERVICES AND BENEFITS



Offers campus coaching
and requires students to meet with a coach twice a month



Offers \$50 each month for expenses
not covered by financial aid, like bus passes or books, to students who meet with coaches



Engages students in the summer
by encouraging summer enrollment or connecting them to local summer jobs

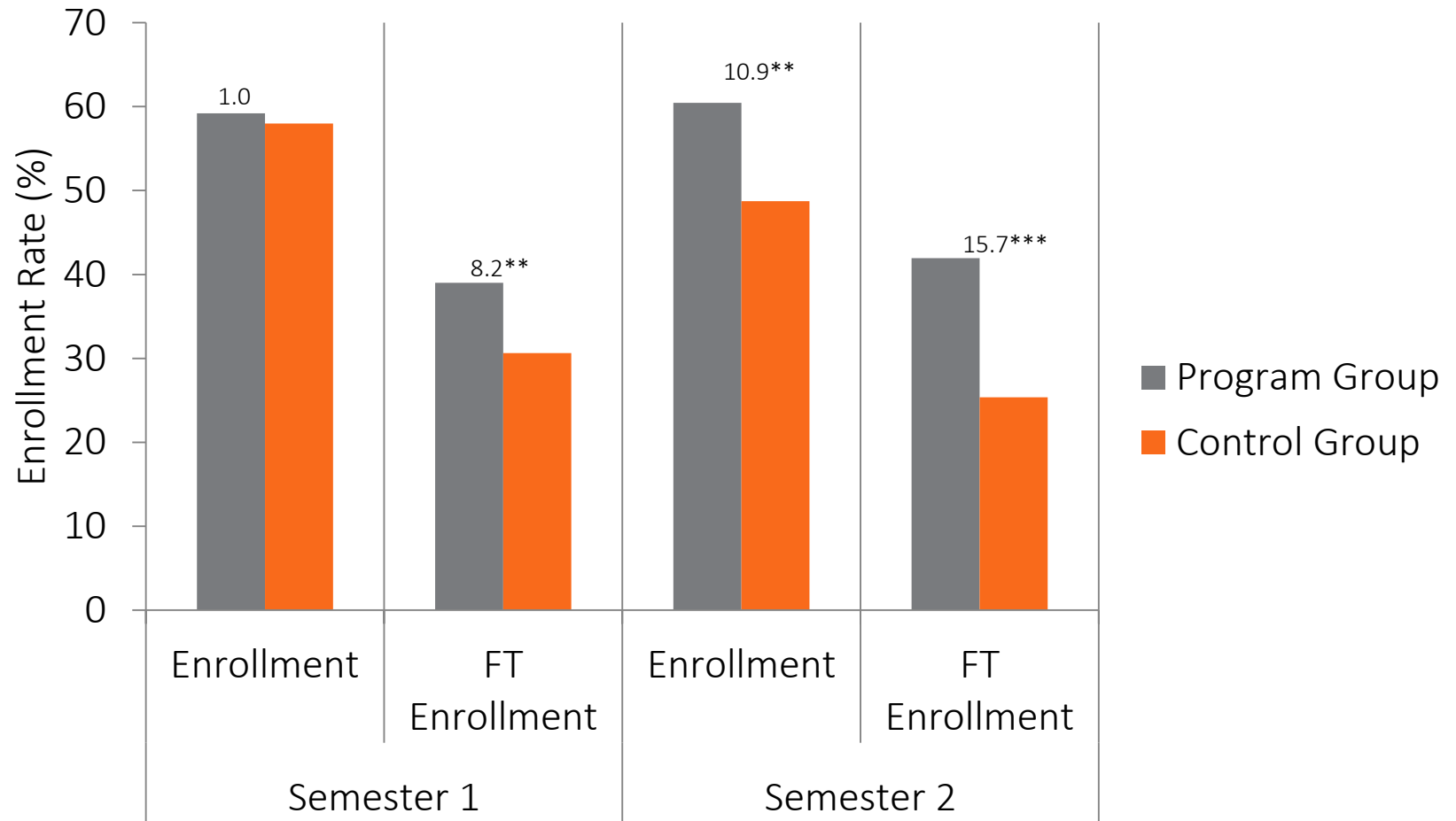


Uses a data integration and technology tool that tracks participation, uses messages informed by behavioral science, and automates monitoring

MDRC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DETROIT PROMISE PATH

- **Diagnosis:** Understand student needs and current academic outcomes
- **Technical assistance:** Collaborated with the Chamber to apply research to needs of this student population
- **Behavioral science:** Trained staff on effective student communication using behavioral science concepts
- **Data coaching:** Developed and maintained a Management Information System to track student participation; collected and reviewed data on student outcomes
- **Formative feedback:** Implementation research and student survey

DETROIT PROMISE PATH BOOSTS ENROLLMENT



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PROMISE SUCCESS INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

- MDRC will work with colleges to strengthen new or existing programs at no cost
- Short RFP process to select programs for in-depth work
- All programs will be able to join webinars and access resources

PROPOSAL TIMELINE



*Contingent on funding

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

A diverse group of programs will be selected with a goal of including programs at various stages, from newly developed to established, that serve varying student populations, from recent high school graduates to nontraditional populations.

Selection Criteria:

- Broad Support for the Program
- Financial Stability
- Program and Evidence
- Student Population
- Commitment to the Promise Success Initiative

BROAD SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM

Assesses a program's support from multiple levels within the organization, from leadership to administrators to program staff, as well as with partner organizations (e.g., college and community partners).

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Assesses a program's finances for running and sustaining their Promise program. Does the program have the support of local funders to operate the program and to consider the implementation of college success components (beyond the scholarship) long-term?

PROGRAM AND EVIDENCE

Assesses a program's current or proposed model and intention to use evidence-based best practices; commitment to use data to improve performance; and commitment and capacity to build on its current evidence base.

STUDENT POPULATION

Assesses to what extent a program serves low-income students in communities with great need throughout the United States, and the total number of students who could be served.

COMMITMENT TO THE PROMISE SUCCESS INITIATIVE

Assesses a program's motivation for the project; interest in goal of adding new evidence-based supports; designation of a strong project team; participation/commitment from all partners; and willingness to work with MDRC on technical assistance activities through 2019.

NEXT STEPS

- RFP and slides posted here:
<http://www.mdrc.org/news/announcement/mdrc-invites-proposals-college-promise-free-college-programs>
- **September 25, 2017** : Interested programs will have a second chance to hear about the RFP and ask additional questions to the MDRC team during our second webinar
- **October 6, 2017**: Proposals are due to MDRC by 3:00 pm EST

CONTACT US

If you have any questions about the **Promise Success Initiative** or the **Request For Proposals**, please contact:

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Promise Success Initiative

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QUESTIONS?

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