



**CPSI** ■ **mdrc**  
COLLEGE PROMISE SUCCESS INITIATIVE

MDRC’s **College Promise Success Initiative** provides technical assistance to College Promise and Free College programs interested in implementing evidence-based student support practices. MDRC will disseminate best practices and usable tools to the over 200 College Promise and Free College programs across the country. MDRC will also provide hands-on, evidence-based technical assistance to a number of programs in 2018 and 2019.

**Our Partners**  
*The College Promise Campaign and the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association*

**Who We Work With**  
The Detroit Promise  
The Los Angeles Community College District  
The Community College of Rhode Island  
The Flint Promise  
The Richmond, CA, Promise  
Portland Community College

**Technical Assistance — MDRC Will Provide:**

**Diagnosis**  
Partner with the program to assess its current needs and students’ biggest barriers to success.

**Design**  
Use research studies and insights from behavioral science to create potential solutions in collaboration with the program.

**Development**  
Help program staff members implement the new components.

**Continual Improvement**  
Use qualitative and quantitative research to assess student participation and early outcomes with the goal of continually improving the program.

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## College Promise and Free College

programs provide free tuition to help low-income students gain access to postsecondary education. Yet tuition is just one piece of the puzzle. Most low-income students face many obstacles to success once they enroll in college, and as a result too many drop out.

Beginning in the spring of 2018, MDRC will run a series of open-access webinars covering topics based on its nearly two decades of research in postsecondary education. Programs can learn from MDRC and its partners to strengthen their current operations, help their specific populations of students succeed, and implement best practices in areas like behavioral science and student services.

The goal is for this initiative to help all College Promise and Free College programs not only support students' access to college, but also promote their success through college.

### *Webinars and Tools*

#### **2018: Webinar Series**

Learn about behavioral science, research-based best practices, sustainable funding structures, and more. Webinars will be announced on MDRC's website in the spring.

#### **2018: Open-Access Tools**

The tools and guides created over the course of this project will be made freely available on the MDRC website.

#### **2019: Published Reports and Best Practices**

All publications will be freely available on the MDRC website and presented to national and regional College Promise networks.



#### **What We Know From Detroit**

The Detroit Promise Path adds student success components to the existing Promise scholarship. MDRC's evaluation found that the program had a sizable impact on enrollment in the second semester and on full-time enrollment in the first and second semesters. Detroit's experience makes clear that strengthening Promise programs can help students stay in college. More information about the program's design and the study's findings is available on [MDRC's website](#).



To learn more about MDRC's College Promise Success Initiative, call Alyssa Ratledge, project manager, at 212-340-8861 or email [alyssa.ratledge@mdrc.org](mailto:alyssa.ratledge@mdrc.org).