

MHEC

Creating a state of achievement

COLLEGE PREPARATION INTERVENTION PROGRAM

FY2015 Annual Report

MSAR #515

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MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
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COLLEGE PREPARATION INTERVENTION PROGRAM (CPIP)

ANNUAL REPORT FY2015

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the State funded College Preparation Intervention Program (CPIP) is to raise the level of academic preparedness of economically and environmentally disadvantaged students to enable them to attend and succeed in college. Administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission's (MHEC) Office of Outreach and Grants Management (OGM), this competitive grant program solicits proposals from higher education institutions to collaboratively work with high need school districts to improve the academic preparation of these well deserving students, and imparts instrumental skills and knowledge necessary to enroll and succeed in college. CPIP funds, made available via annual appropriation of at least \$750,000 from the State's General Fund, are used to provide State matching funds for federal grants.

CPIP funded projects are aligned with Maryland's college access and completion goals as outlined in *Maryland Ready, the State's 2013-2017 State Plan for Postsecondary Education* and the *College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013*. Over the years, MHEC has leveraged CPIP funds to obtain and secure additional funding through federal grant programs such as the College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) and the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP).

This annual report, submitted pursuant to Education Article §11-704, summarizes the CPIP funding history and the status of CPIP for FY2015, including projects funded, partnerships, award amounts, and activities completed in preparation for the upcoming FY2016 funding cycle.

BACKGROUND

From 1989 through 1997, the College Preparation Intervention Program (CPIP) supported early intervention projects that prepared disadvantaged children for postsecondary education and careers. It was re-established by the 1999 Maryland General Assembly with passage of Senate Bill 862 and codified as §§11-701 through 11-705 of the *Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article*. In cooperation with the State's public and nonpublic institutions of postsecondary education, the Governor's P-20 Leadership Council of Maryland, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), and the local school systems, the Higher Education Commission (MHEC) was charged with establishing and administering a College Preparation Intervention Program (CPIP). (1999, ch. 515, § 1)

By statute, CPIP may include activities to:

- Improve diagnosis of basis skill deficiencies of middle and high school students to enhance the preparedness of the students for college;
- Establish a testing program, using presently administered tests to the extent possible, to evaluate achievement levels and assess the preparation of high school students who are potentially college bound;
- Compile a list of courses of study recommended for college preparation and distribute copies of the list to the high school students and their parents;
- Provide information regarding college preparation to high school students in a timely manner so the student can make course changes to be better prepared for college;
- Improve information to high schools and local school systems concerning the performance of their graduates at the college level in areas such as the rate of retention, program choices of students, and the adequacy of preparation of the students in basic skills on the students' entry into college; and
- Assist high schools and local school systems in the use of this information to improve student outcomes.

CPIP MISSION AND PROCESS

The state CPIP grant program supports best practices that promote college access and preparedness. The CPIP projects offer activities that are designed to enable high need, disadvantaged students to attend and succeed in college. To meet its statutory purpose of “raising the level of academic preparedness of economically and environmentally disadvantaged students to enable them to attend and succeed in college,” CPIP provides essential activities such as college planning, mentoring, and individualized academic support.

MHEC’s Office of Outreach and Grants Management (OGM) develops and distributes college outreach and financial aid awareness materials and provides technical assistance to help higher education institutions prepare grant applications. CPIP grants are awarded on a competitive basis. The OGM issues a Request for Proposals (RFP) and convenes a review panel to evaluate and score applications. The review panel recommendations are presented to the Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission for approval.

The following diagram provides a high level flow of the CPIP process:



CPIP Support to GEAR UP I and II FY2000 through FY2011

CPIP funds are used to provide State matching funds for Federal grants MHEC receives that align with the CPIP purpose, goals and objectives. In FY2000, the state CPIP appropriation, and funding from the former Retention Grant Program, was used as part of the match required for the Maryland Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) grant award (hereafter, GEAR UP I), from the U.S. Department of Education. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) was selected by the Governor to administer the six-year \$15.8 million in federal funds while MHEC oversaw the higher education components of the program, including the scholarship component. This scholarship funding ended in FY2014 totaling nearly \$3.9 million with individual awards ranging from \$250 - \$14,300 per academic year.

During GEAR UP I, CPIP, through the support of higher education partners, provided services to GEAR UP I students and schools in nine¹ GEAR UP sites throughout the state of Maryland. Several higher education partners also contributed additional in-kind match resources to the GEAR UP I grant project by waiving college application fees to cohort students.

In FY 2006, Maryland was awarded a six-year GEAR UP grant (hereafter referred to as GEAR UP II) for \$10.4 million to serve six counties². CPIP funds were again part of the required match. MSDE selected the sites to be served and followed a cohort approach. MHEC engaged higher education institutions in the college preparation and awareness work of the grant. In June 2011, the GEAR UP II cohort graduated from high school. However, GEAR UP II did not include a scholarship component.

CPIP Support to College Access Challenge Grant FY2011 through FY2014

After GEAR UP II ended, Maryland did not receive a GEAR UP grant for several years (FY2011 – FY2014). During this timeframe, CPIP provided matching funds for the Maryland College Access Challenge grant (CACG), which is also administered by MHEC's Office of Outreach and Grants Management. Eight million dollars (\$8 million) in CACG federal funds were obtained to support Maryland's college readiness, college outreach, and college retention initiatives for low income and other underrepresented students. The mission of CPIP dovetails well with CACG, which is designed to foster partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and philanthropic organizations to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

This is achieved by providing information to students and families regarding postsecondary education and career preparation, promoting financial literacy, conducting outreach and other activities to encourage both college access and success,

¹ ACE GEAR UP (Academic Champions of Excellence based at Morgan State University), Baltimore County, First Generation College Bound, Garrett County, Prince George's County, Somerset County, Southern Maryland, and Western Maryland.

² Allegany, Baltimore, Garrett, Prince George's, Somerset, and Wicomico counties.

and assisting students in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Low-income and underrepresented student populations are targeted for services.

COORDINATING COLLEGE PARTNERSHIPS

Once awarded, MHEC provides project oversight to the higher education institutions. The CPIP Coordinator, a member of MHEC's OGM (currently a contractual position funded by Maryland's GEAR UP III grant award), provides technical assistance to CPIP grant recipients. Serving as a resource for CPIP project directors throughout program implementation, the CPIP Coordinator helps coordinate project efforts between college partners and middle and high school coordinators, along with making on-site visits. Activities include, but are not limited to:

- providing oversight to grant recipients;
- offering project advising through phone, email, and on-site compliance visits;
- assisting grantees to modify current initiatives, if necessary, to ensure expected outcomes are achieved; and
- facilitating the coordination and sharing of information about activities and outcomes across multiple projects.

During program implementation, project directors often seek advice from the CPIP Coordinator for suggestions on how to modify their academic programming or how to increase student participation. To ensure accountability and sound fiscal management, the OGM requires grantees to submit an interim report and a final report outlining grant activities and outcomes. The interim report is submitted approximately six months after the start of the grant cycle and provides preliminary information about the project activities. Grant recipients provide specifics related to the first phase of their evaluation of the project and report on whether the activities are progressing as planned or if adjustments are necessary to achieve the expected outcomes. MHEC releases the awardees' second and final payment after the interim report has been received and approved by the CPIP Coordinator.

Final reports address items on the interim report but for the full term of the grant. This report also includes the evaluation of the grant project, which follows the evaluation plan components described in the final accepted application. The evaluation details how the project outcomes compare to the targets noted in the application and the evaluation instrument(s) used. Final reports also include a participation chart for the full term of the grant, and a budget form that shows the proposed budget as compared to the funds actually expended. All reports are reviewed and, if necessary, followed up with grantees for additional information.

CPIP FY2015 GRANT ACTIVITIES

CPIP Support to GEAR UP III

Maryland was successful in obtaining its third federal GEAR UP grant (hereafter known as GEAR UP III) in September 2014 (FY2015). MSDE, and MHEC as a partner, was awarded \$13 million over a six year period to support Maryland GEAR UP students. As with GEAR UP I, MSDE was selected by the Governor to administer the grant and MHEC to oversee the higher education components of the program, including the scholarship component. CPIP funds were included as part of the required match for this competitive federal grant.

For the FY2015 funding cycle, MHEC's CPIP supports the following Maryland GEAR UP goals and objectives:

- 1) Improve GEAR UP students' performance in mathematics and English/language arts to facilitate high school graduation and college matriculation outcomes;
- 2) Improve the teaching of mathematics and English/language arts in GEAR UP schools to enhance academic achievement of students;
- 3) Students will demonstrate a greater awareness of college admissions requirements and opportunities as measured through annual surveys or pre- and post-assessments;
- 4) Parents/guardians will be able to demonstrate knowledge of requirements for high school graduation, postsecondary options, and acquiring financial aid for their student through annual surveys;
- 5) Students will demonstrate greater understanding of the opportunities available for financial assistance for college attendance by annual surveys or pre- and post-assessments; and
- 6) Students will demonstrate an increase in their academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education through pre- and post-assessments.

Through a competitive grant process, CPIP funded seven (7) higher education institutions' initiatives to support goals common to both CPIP and GEAR UP III (See Appendix B). Local Education Agencies in the State were required to meet *all* of the following eligibility criteria for the FY2015 funding cycle (See Appendix A):

- a) Middle schools have $\geq 44.4\%$ or higher Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) students;
 - b) Two (2) or more categories of the FARM students' Maryland School Assessment (MSA) scores \leq Maryland's MSA averages;
 - c) College remediation rates of high school graduates by place of resident $\geq 50\%$;
- AND

- d) Percent of high school graduation and bachelor's rates are $\leq 30\%$ (Persons age 25 or older).

FY2015 CPIP Awards

The FY2015 grant projects offer services to Maryland students and their parents in five school districts (Baltimore City, Dorchester County, Kent County, Prince George's County, and Wicomico County). Each CPIP grant funded project is different and tailored to the needs of the eligible school district(s) and students supported. All grant projects provide a mix of activities to help more students be prepared for, enroll in, and graduate from college.

The funded projects provide the following types of programs and services:

- Direct instruction, both for enrichment and remediation;
- Tutoring in-school and on-campus;
- Professional development activities for teachers;
- Workshops to augment students' and families' knowledge of college admissions, financial aid/scholarship availability, and financial literacy;
- College tours;
- Summer enrichment Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) camps;
- Statewide conference on transitioning from middle to high school and beyond;
- Career awareness and exploration activities and course/career information; and
- Other campus-based experiences to help familiarize students with the benefits of a college education.

CPIP Interim reports were submitted December 11, 2015. Final reports, including the certified expenditure report, are due September 5, 2016. The CPIP Coordinator reviewed the interim reports submitted, recommended project amendments as warranted, and issued the final payments to the FY2015 grant recipients to continue their efforts. Grant projects end June 30, 2016.

FISCAL YEAR 2016

MHEC's OGM issued the RFP for the FY2016 CPIP funding cycle in November 2015. Two technical assistance workshops were conducted for potential applicants; one in Baltimore, MD and the other in Cambridge, MD. Project Directors that received FY2015 CPIP grants attended in order to receive guidance. In addition, representatives from other Maryland colleges and universities attended and expressed an interest in collaborating with local education agencies to submit proposals. Proposals are due January 22, 2016, with project implementation expected to begin May 16, 2016.

APPENDIX A

Maryland Local Education Agencies' Assessment Data and CPIP FY2015 Eligibility Requirements

(Excerpt from FY2015 Request for Proposals)

Maryland Local Education Agencies' (LEA) Assessment Data FY2015 Funding Cycle

School District	% of FARM students in middle schools 2014 ≥44.4%	% of FARM students proficient in 8 th gr. Mathematics MSA 2014 ≤38.9%	% of FARM students proficient in 8 th gr. Reading MSA 2014 ≤63.4%	% of FARM students proficient in 8 th gr. Science MSA 2014 ≤50.4%	% College Remediation Rates of Recent High School Graduates by Place of residence 2010-11 ≥54.4%	% Bachelor's degree or higher, (Persons age 25+ 2009-2013) ≤30%
<i>Maryland</i>	44.4	38.9	63.4	50.4	54.4	36.8
<i>Allegany</i>	55.8	54.9	62.4	52.1	56.5	16.8
<i>Anne Arundel</i>	32.5	37.0	61.0	61.2	52.7	37.1
<i>Baltimore City</i>	88.3	25.2	52.0	32.7	76.1	26.8
GEAR UP SCHOOL DISTRICT						
<i>Baltimore County</i>	50.1	40.4	68.0	57.1	58.7	35.7
<i>Calvert</i>	23.2	64.3	74.4	72.0	34.5	30.0
<i>Caroline</i>	57.3	50.0	69.0	66.4	63.3	15.0
<i>Carroll</i>	17.5	51.4	72.4	67.2	60.6	32.7
<i>Cecil</i>	42.3	40.3	60.0	54.2	62.4	22.2
<i>Charles</i>	34.8	48.9	64.3	50.5	50.8	26.7
<i>Dorchester</i>	65.1	29.9	58.4	47.7	67.3	18.0
GEAR UP SCHOOL DISTRICT						
<i>Frederick</i>	25.1	37.8	68.1	57.6	44.4	38.2
<i>Garrett</i>	47.8	56.5	77.5	68.3	72.6	18.3
<i>Harford</i>	31.0	51.2	67.5	61.6	49.8	32.7
<i>Howard</i>	19.4	36.8	67.4	53.6	37.2	32.7
<i>*Kent</i>	51.5	38.8	57.5	63.6	65.4	29.6
<i>Montgomery</i>	33.4	44.1	69.2	54.9	44.2	57.1
<i>*Prince George's</i>	64.0	35.4	62.5	44.6	66.7	29.8
<i>Queen Anne's</i>	25.1	34.8	69.3	65.5	46.5	33.2
<i>St. Mary's</i>	30.8	43.3	62.1	59.4	36.1	29.5
<i>Somerset</i>	74.6	42.4	69.6	70.3	62.8	14.2
<i>Talbot</i>	40.6	28.6	65.5	48.3	60.8	33.3
<i>Washington</i>	47.9	59.4	71.6	58.5	70.3	19.5
<i>Wicomico</i>	60.4	41.4	58.1	48.1	66.1	26.3
GEAR UP SCHOOL DISTRICT						
<i>Worcester</i>	45.0	76.5	76.9	63.6	60.4	27.6

* Non-GEAR UP School Districts

Notes

High Need LEAs meet all four (4) eligibility criteria:

1. ≥44.4% or higher FARM in feeder middle schools
2. 2 or more FARM students' MSA scores ≤ Maryland's MSA average
3. College remediation rates of high school graduates by place of residence ≥50%
4. Percent of high school graduation and bachelor's rates (Persons age 25+ 2010-2011) are ≤30%

Source: 2009-13 Census Data, MDReportCard.org (2015) and 2014 Data Book MHEC

Eligibility for College Preparation and Intervention Program State Grant Program – FY2015 Funding Cycle

School District	% of FARM students in middle schools 2014 ≥44.4%	% of FARM students proficient in 8 th gr. Mathematics MSA 2014 ≤38.9%	% of FARM students proficient in 8 th gr. Reading MSA 2014 ≤63.4%	% of FARM students proficient in 8 th gr. Science MSA 2012 ≤50.4%	% College Remediation Rates of Recent High School Graduates by Place of residence 2010-11 ≥54.4%	% Bachelor's degree or higher, (Persons age 25+ 2009-2013) ≤30%
Allegany	X		X		X	X
Anne Arundel		X	X			
Baltimore City	X	X	X	X	X	X
Baltimore County	X				X	
Calvert						
Caroline	X				X	X
Carroll					X	
Cecil			X		X	X
Charles						X
Dorchester	X	X	X	X	X	X
Frederick		X				
Garrett	X				X	X
Harford						
Howard		X				
*Kent	X	X	X		X	X
Montgomery						
*Prince George's	X	X	X	X	X	X
Queen Anne's		X				
St. Mary's			X			X
Somerset	X				X	X
Talbot		X		X	X	
Washington					X	X
Wicomico	X		X	X	X	X
Worcester					X	X

* Non-GEAR UP School Districts

GEAR UP School Districts

Note: As referenced on page 5 (see Background), CPIP was established in cooperation with the State's public and nonpublic institutions of postsecondary education, the Council of Maryland's K-16 Partnership, the Maryland State Department of Education, and the local school systems. Although Baltimore City, Dorchester and Wicomico counties are GEAR UP school districts, Prince George's and Kent County school districts also meet CPIP's LEA selection criteria. Therefore, funding is also made available, on a competitive basis, to eligible non-GEAR UP school districts.

APPENDIX B

CPIP FY2015 Partnerships, Funded Amounts and Award Abstracts

Figure 1: FY 2015 CPIP/GEAR UP Partnerships

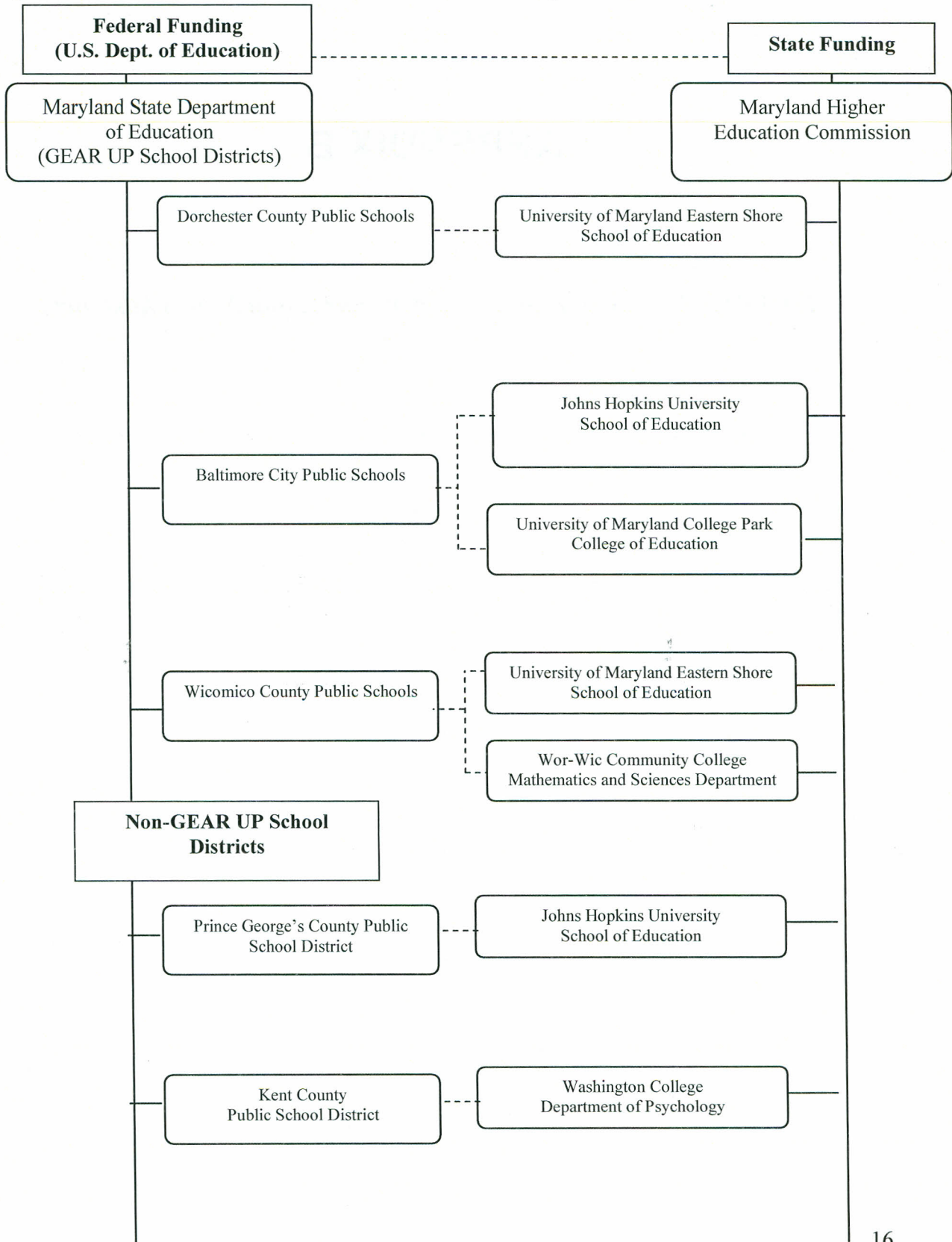


Table 1: FY2015 CPIP Grant Awards

Institution	Project Name	School Site Served	Award
Johns Hopkins University	College Attainment Preparation in Middle School (CAlPIMS) Baltimore City Schools	Baltimore City (Middle Schools: Calverton, Commodore John Rodgers)	\$108,023.28
University of Maryland College Park	College and Career Academy (CCA): A Partnership with Baltimore City	Baltimore City (Middle Schools: Calverton, Commodore John Rodgers)	\$116,869.00
Johns Hopkins University	College Attainment Preparation in Middle School (CAlPIMS) Prince George's County Schools	Prince George's County (Nicholas Orem Middle School)	\$112,387.28
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	University of Maryland Eastern Shore – College Access Program (UMES – CAP)	Dorchester County (Middle School: Mace's Lane) Wicomico County (Middle Schools: Bennett, Salisbury and Wicomico)	\$113,195.00
Washington College	Helping Our Youth Achieve Success College Preparation Program (H.O.Y.A.S. CPIP)	Kent County (Kent Middle School)	\$133,836.00
University of Maryland College Park	Statewide High School Transition Conference	Baltimore City (Middle Schools: Calverton, Commodore John Rodgers) Prince George's County (Nicholas Orem Middle School)	\$149,244.00
Wor-Wic Community College	College and Career Awareness Project (CCAP)	Wicomico County (Middle Schools: Bennett, Salisbury and Wicomico)	\$16,445.44
TOTAL			\$750,000.00

CPIP Grant Project Summaries

FY 2015 Awards

Johns Hopkins University

Project Title: College Attainment Preparation in Middle School (CAlPiMS)
Baltimore City Schools

Project Director: Ileana Gonzalez, Ph.D

Award: \$108,023.28

Project Abstract: The CAlPiMS project proposes to increase Baltimore City's GEAR UP schools Commodore John Rodgers and Calverton students' and parents' knowledge about the college admission process, financial literacy, and career choices. This initiative, targeted for all 7th graders at both schools, seeks to provide interventions aimed at increasing students' (a) academic skills, (b) goal setting strategies, (c) knowledge about high school graduation requirements, (d) post-secondary educational readiness, and (e) knowledge and exposure to college and career experiences. The following five components will be implemented at both schools:

- CAlPiMS Orientation Kick-Off
- 7th Grade College and Career Exploration Preparation,
- Parent Education Workshops,
- College Field Trips, and
- Embedded Professional Development Training for school personnel, Site Project Coordinator, as well as practicum and internship students.

As a result of the project, 1) students and parents will receive information on how participation in student and family college and career preparation services have positive impacts on academic performance, college/career knowledge, financial literacy, and student leadership and resiliency; 2) students' knowledge about high school graduation requirements, post-secondary educational readiness will be increased; 3) parents will learn advocacy skills and strategies to support their children and increase their knowledge about college attainment and financial aid literacy; 4) college field trips will be conducted to expose the students to college and career experiences; and 5) school counselors, interns, and faculty will increase their knowledge of career pathways in order to better serve the needs of their students.

CPIP FY2015 Grant Project

University of Maryland College Park

Project Title: College and Career Academy: a Partnership with Baltimore City

Project Director: Stephanie Timmons Brown, Ph.D.

Award: \$116,869.00

Project Abstract: The Maryland Institute for Minority Achievement and Urban Education (MIMAUE) in partnership with the College Bound Foundation will implement the College and Career Academy (CCA) program with Baltimore City's GEAR UP Schools Commodore John Rodgers and Calverton Middle Schools. CCA will provide services for approximately 200 students and their parents. The services are intended to teach students and parents strategies to successfully navigate the high school application process, learn high school graduation requirements, increase their knowledge of postsecondary education options and requirements, and make the connection between high school, college, and careers. Industry professionals will be invited to both schools to speak with students about their career interests and discuss career options to assist with academic planning.

Services (for both schools) will include two workshop series (high school preparation and college awareness). The in-school workshop series will run throughout the academic year and will be facilitated by a success coach who will work in each school once per week. The success coach will meet with students in groups of 25-30 through a rotation of class periods. Students will use Naviance (Baltimore City School's college access management software).

In addition to the workshops, the program will host four parent events and four college tours. Parents will receive resources throughout the school year, including insight into enrichment resources available to their students. Each college tour will include a visit to a minimum of two colleges in the state of Maryland. All students will complete a high school application and a college and career plan with a success coach. Upon meeting all of the program requirements, all participants will receive a certificate of completion. An awards ceremony will be held at each school to provide an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of the students (and parents).

CPIP FY2015 Grant Project

Johns Hopkins University

Project Title: College Attainment Preparation in Middle School (CAlMS)
Prince Georges County Schools

Project Director: Anita Young, Ph.D.

Award: \$112,387.28

Project Abstract: The CAlMS project proposes to increase the Nicholas Orem Middle School students' and parents' knowledge about the college admission process, financial literacy, and career choices. This initiative, targeted for all 7th graders at the school, seeks to provide interventions aimed at increasing students' (a) academic skills, (b) goal setting strategies, (c) knowledge about high school graduation requirements, (d) post-secondary educational readiness, and (e) students' knowledge and exposure to college and career experiences.

The following five components will be implemented:

- CAlMS Orientation Kick-Off
- 7th Grade College and Career Exploration Preparation,
- Parent Education Workshops,
- College Field Trips, STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts & Math) Enrichment Tours, and
- Embedded Professional Development Training for school personnel, Site Project Coordinator, as well as practicum and internship students.

As a result of the project, 1) students and parents will receive information on how participation in student and family college and career preparation services have positive impacts on academic performance, college/career knowledge, financial literacy, and student leadership and resiliency; 2) students' knowledge about high school graduation requirements, post-secondary educational readiness will be increased; 3) parents will learn advocacy skills and strategies to support their children and increase their knowledge about college attainment and financial aid literacy; 4) college field trips will be conducted to expose the students to college and career experiences; and 5) school counselors, interns, and faculty will increase their knowledge of career pathways in order to better serve the needs of their students.

CPIP FY2015 Grant Project

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Project Title: UMES College Access Program (UMES-CAP)

Project Directors: Michael Nugent, Ph.D. and R. J. Davis, Ph.D.

Award: \$113,195.00

Project Abstract: The University of Maryland College Access Program (UMES-CAP) supports the GEAR UP cohort in Dorchester County Public Schools (DCPS) and Wicomico County Public Schools (WCPS). The overarching goal of the project is to increase the number of disadvantaged students who intend to pursue post-secondary education. The ultimate destination for these students will be dual enrollment, post-secondary education upon graduation, knowledge of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion and college/career development.

UMES-CAP expects to achieve the following:

- a) Enhance academic achievement of students in Math and English/Language Arts to facilitate high school graduation and college matriculation;
- b) A greater awareness of college admission requirements and opportunities as measured through annual surveys and pre/post assessments; and
- c) An increase in their academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education through pre/post assessments.

To achieve the anticipated goals and objectives, the project will offer after school programs for students in WCPS and provide a week long on-campus summer enrichment Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) camps (three camps each for DCPS and WCPS) for students to increase their academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education. Students can choose between one of three camps, 1) Rockets and Aviation; 2) Science and the Mind; or 3) Environmental Studies and the Chesapeake. To help improve the teaching of mathematics and English Language arts in GEAR UP schools, Summer Professional Development workshops will be offered to Teachers, Administrators and School Counselors as they prepare students for college.

CPIP FY2015 Grant Project

Washington College

Project Title: Helping Our Youth Achieve Success College Preparation Intervention Program (H.O.Y.A.S. CPIP)

Project Director: Amanda Sommerfeld, Ph.D.

Award: \$133,836.00

Project Abstract: The H.O.Y.A.S. CPIP is a ten-month, cohort-based intervention program designed to meet four objectives: (a) improve student preparation in math and English/Language Arts; (b) increase student college- and career-readiness regarding aspirations to attend college, understanding of college admissions, and knowledge of available financial aid; (c) build student leadership skills in support of fostering socio-emotional competencies necessary for post-secondary educational success; and (d) improve caregiver capacity to support student educational outcomes by increasing the educational expectations caregivers hold for their students, building understanding of college admissions, and improving knowledge about post-secondary financial aid. To achieve the project's objectives, the H.O.Y.A.S. CPIP will serve sixty (60) middle school students from Kent Middle school in Kent County, Maryland (thirty rising sixth graders and thirty rising seventh graders). Students will participate in weekly academic tutoring from Washington College students as well as bi-monthly weekend programming from faculty and staff of Washington College, members of the local school district, and community members. Caregivers will additionally participate in six separate activities designed to improve their ability to support their children's education.

At the conclusion of the program, students will participate in a two-week summer camp designed to provide students with intensive exposure to academic preparation from certified teachers, experientially-based instruction about college and career readiness, and opportunities to continue learning and to practice leadership skills.

CPIP FY2015 Grant Project

University of Maryland College Park

Project Title: Statewide High School Transition Conference

Project Director: Stephanie Timmons Brown, Ph.D.

Award: \$149,244.00

Project Abstract: The Maryland Institute for Minority Achievement and Urban Education (MIMAUE) will implement, in collaboration with Baltimore City, Prince George's, Wicomico, Dorchester, and Kent counties a statewide student conference for GEAR UP students and parents. The purpose of the Statewide GEAR UP Student Conference is to improve and better prepare students to transition from middle school to high school. The conference will focus on three specific areas: (1) Goal Planning, (2) Navigating High School Courses, and (3) Preparing for College.

The program consists of three one day summits in the spring of 2016 and will be designed to emulate that of a professional conference. Students will participate in a minimum of four workshops and will network with college students and college staff. Student workshops will include (but not be limited to) goal setting, course selection, time management and preparing for college.

In addition to attending workshops, students will tour the University of Maryland campus and engage with dynamic speakers and facilitators. The conference will be offered to 750 students (approximately 250 from Baltimore and Prince George's schools and approximately 500 from the Eastern Shore schools). As a follow-up to the conference, students will participate in a monthly blog and network with other GEAR UP students from across the state. The blog will also provide students with resources that they can use to prepare for high school. Through this collaborative effort, students will make academic, professional, and personal connections that will assist them as they transition to high school and beyond.

CPIP FY2015 Grant Project

Wor-Wic Community College

Project Title: College and Career Awareness Project (CCAP)

Project Director: Stacy Wilson, Ph.D.

Award: \$16,445.44

Project Abstract: Wor-Wic Community College's CCAP will serve Wicomico County's GEAR UP cohort. The CCAP aims to introduce GEAR UP students and parents to a range of career options, to improve their understanding of the academic requirements/pathways associated with various careers, and to introduce students and parents to the college atmosphere, processes (i.e., financial aid, admissions) and support services.

The CCAP will enable GEAR UP students in Wicomico, Salisbury, and Bennett Middle Schools to interact with college faculty through Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) Saturday sessions in a variety of fields, including biology and computer programming. The project is designed to encourage early engagement and discovery in STEM through hands-on learning activities in a familiar atmosphere (i.e., Wicomico County middle schools), as well as to expose students to STEM laboratories, academic programs and careers on a community college campus.

Students will have the opportunity to visit Wor-Wic's campus to participate in career exploration activities in various departments, such as culinary arts, criminal justice, and science, and to learn about the role of mathematics and science in each field of study. While at Wor-Wic, they will tour the campus and learn about the college admissions and financial aid processes. Gifted and talented GEAR UP students will also be encouraged to enroll in the college's Summer Scholars enrichment program and financial assistance will be provided on a limited basis. Lastly, parents will be invited to participate in a workshop series covering college readiness, financial aid/scholarship availability, financial literacy, and other topics.