

2026 National Survey of TRIO Grantees

Frequently Asked Questions

We sincerely appreciate your participation in this survey! Below are some frequently asked questions and responses to help you complete the survey. If your question is not answered here, please submit an inquiry to the project team here: [\[LINK\]](#)

Thank you in advance for your contribution to this important effort.

What is this survey about?

- This is a voluntary survey collecting information about TRIO grantees' services and costs during program year 2024-25.
- The survey includes questions about services offered, participation intensity and cost for each service, how grantees monitor program implementation and interim progress, and screening and selection of participants and capacity constraints. You will also be asked about TRIO grant-funded staff salaries and fringe benefits, other direct costs (including travel, supplies, contractual, and other costs), and indirect costs. It's okay to use your best estimates if this information isn't readily available.

How was my program selected to participate?

- All TRIO grantees from the programs listed below operating in program year 2024-25 are being asked to complete the National Survey of TRIO Grantees:
 - Talent Search
 - Upward Bound
 - Upward Bound Math-Science
 - Veteran's Upward Bound
 - Educational Opportunity Centers
 - Student Support Services
 - Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement
- Survey emails will come from [STUDY EMAIL ADDRESS]. Please add this email address to your approved senders list.

Why should I complete the survey?

- Participation by all grantees across all seven of the TRIO programs of interest will ensure that we collect comprehensive data on TRIO services offered, variation across grantees, participant engagement intensity, and costs for services.
- The results of this descriptive study will also provide you and other TRIO programs with insights about services and programming that are not currently captured by any other required reporting.

Who is conducting the survey?

- The survey is being conducted by Decision Information Resources, Inc (DIR), an independent research organization, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

- The survey has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget for distribution to all grantees that operated TRIO programs during the 2024-25 program year.

How long will the survey take?

- The survey will take approximately 70 minutes to complete. As a thank you for your time, you will receive a \$50 electronic gift card after you complete the survey.
- You may start, stop, and return to the survey at any time prior to submitting your responses.

What if I am unsure of how to answer some of the questions?

- You are welcome to share your unique survey link with colleagues, staff, and others to help you respond to questions. You may also need to reference financial and/or administrative records.
- If any information is not readily available to you, we encourage you to provide your best estimates.
- If you are unable to respond to a question, you may select the response "I don't know."

What will you do with the information collected from the survey?

- This survey is intended to document the variation in services provided across and within TRIO programs and the variation in the costs and intensity of these services. To date, these variations have not been systematically documented across all TRIO programs.
- The results will be used to assist IES and its partners to:
 - o Examine how TRIO programs operate across different contexts
 - o Analyze the costs associated with different types of services within and across programs
 - o Analyze the intensity of participation associated with different types of services within and across programs
- Over the coming years, the survey results will be used to produce technical reports and accompanying infographics, fact sheets, webinars, and/or other materials to disseminate the findings to a variety of stakeholders.
 - o All results are presented in aggregate. Individual grantee responses will not be shared or reviewed for compliance purposes.

When does the survey close?

- The survey must be completed by [CLOSE DATE].

Who do I contact if I have questions about or need help with the survey?

- If you have questions or need technical support completing the survey, please submit an inquiry to the project team here: [LINK]

What do I do if I didn't receive the survey link or didn't receive a link for every TRIO grant I oversee?

- Our distribution list is based on information provided by the TRIO Office. They may have provided someone else as the contact person for the grant.
- If you believe you are missing a survey link, submit an inquiry to the project team here: [LINK]

I received multiple survey links. Do I have to complete them all?

- Project directors responsible for operating more than one TRIO grant will receive multiple survey links.
- Please complete a separate survey for each grant.
- The name of the program and grant for each link is included in the email.

I'm in the process of filling out my survey. Can you remind me of the list of services in each category?

- Services by category for each program are listed below:

Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math-Science

- TUTORING
 - o Academic tutoring
- ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION
 - o High school courses for credit
 - o Courses for college credit
 - o Non-credit courses
- ACADEMIC ADVISING
 - o Academic advising (e.g. course selection advice and assistance)
 - o Advising and support in achieving a high school diploma or equivalent
- POSTSECONDARY EXPOSURE
 - o College information sessions (not on a college campus)
 - o College campus tours or visits
 - o On-campus residential program
 - o Workshops or other activities with college students and faculty
 - o **[UBMS only]** Math and science research opportunity with faculty or graduate students
 - o Social or cultural activities at a college campus
- POSTSECONDARY APPLICATION AND FINANCIAL AID SUPPORT
 - o College entrance exam preparation classes or support
 - o Assistance with completing college entrance exam registration
 - o Assistance with college applications
 - o College application fee waivers or fee payments
 - o Information on financial aid and scholarship opportunities and assistance completing necessary applications (such as FAFSA)
- FINANCIAL LITERACY AND PLANNING
 - o Financial and economic literacy counseling, workshops, or courses
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT
 - o Workshops, seminars, panels, and fairs related to career options and job skills
 - o Career counseling and planning services
- OTHER PROGRAMING OR SERVICES
 - o Cultural activities not on a college campus (e.g., visits to museums, etc.)
 - o Community service opportunities
 - o Personal counseling
 - o Leadership skills training
- MENTORING

- o Mentoring from high school or college students to program participants (peer mentoring)
- FINANCIAL SUPPORT
 - o Program participation stipends
 - o Work-study
- OTHER
 - o Any services not described above

Veteran's Upward Bound

- TUTORING
 - o Academic tutoring
- ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION
 - o High school courses for credit
 - o Courses for college credit
 - o College remedial courses
 - o Other non-credit courses (e.g. academic skills courses)
- ACADEMIC ADVISING
 - o Academic advising (e.g. course selection advice and assistance)
 - o Advising and support in achieving a high school diploma or equivalent
- POSTSECONDARY EXPOSURE
 - o College information sessions (not on a college campus)
 - o College campus tours/visits
 - o Workshops or other activities with college students and faculty
 - o Social, cultural, or enrichment activities at a college campus
- POSTSECONDARY APPLICATION AND FINANCIAL AID SUPPORT
 - o College entrance exam preparation classes or support
 - o Assistance with completing college entrance exam registration
 - o Assistance with college applications
 - o College application fee waivers or fee payments
 - o Information on financial aid and scholarship opportunities and assistance completing necessary applications (such as FAFSA)
- FINANCIAL LITERACY AND PLANNING
 - o Financial and economic literacy counseling, workshops, or courses
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT
 - o Workshops, seminars, panels, and fairs related to career options and job skills
 - o Career counseling and planning services
- OTHER PROGRAMING OR SERVICES
 - o Cultural activities not on a college campus (e.g., visits to museums, etc.)
 - o Community service
 - o Personal counseling
- MENTORING
 - o Mentoring from college students to program participants (peer mentoring)
- SUPPORT ACCESSING OTHER VETERAN SERVICES OR SOCIAL SERVICES
 - o Assistance accessing veterans support services

- o Assistance accessing other social services, such as services for people with disabilities
- FINANCIAL SUPPORT
 - o Program participation stipends
- OTHER
 - o Any services not described above

Talent Search

- TUTORING
 - o Academic tutoring
- ACADEMIC ADVISING
 - o Academic advising (e.g. course selection advice and assistance)
 - o Advising and support in achieving a high school diploma or equivalent
 - o Referrals to other services (such as tutoring)
- POSTSECONDARY EXPOSURE
 - o College information sessions (not on a college campus)
 - o College campus tours/visits
 - o Social or cultural activities at a college campus
- POSTSECONDARY APPLICATION AND FINANCIAL AID SUPPORT
 - o College entrance exam preparation classes or support
 - o Assistance with completing college entrance exam registration
 - o Assistance with college applications
 - o College application fee waivers or fee payments
 - o Information on financial aid and scholarship opportunities and assistance completing necessary forms or applications (such as FAFSA)
- FINANCIAL LITERACY AND PLANNING
 - o Financial and economic literacy counseling, workshops, or courses (for students or families)
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT
 - o Workshops, seminars, panels, and fairs related to career options and job skills
 - o Career counseling and planning services
- OTHER PROGRAMMING OR SERVICES
 - o Cultural activities not on a college campus (e.g., visits to museums, etc.)
 - o Community service opportunities
 - o Workshops and counseling for families of participants served (not financial and economic literacy)
 - o Personal counseling
 - o Leadership skills training
- MENTORING
 - o Mentoring from high school or college students to program participants (peer mentoring)
- FINANCIAL SUPPORT
 - o Tuition support
- OTHER
 - o Any services not described above

Educational Opportunity Centers

- ACADEMIC ADVISING AND SUPPORT
 - Academic advising (e.g. course selection advice and assistance)
 - Group sessions (workshops, small groups) on academic skills
 - Referral to other services (such as tutoring)
- SUPPORT COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAM
 - Advising to support achieving a high school diploma or equivalent (including re-entry into high school, alternative education programs for dropouts, etc.)
 - Fee waivers for high school equivalency or alternative education exams
- POSTSECONDARY EXPOSURE
 - Information on opportunities for postsecondary education and training (includes workshops, seminars, information campaigns)
 - College campus tours/visits
- POSTSECONDARY APPLICATION AND FINANCIAL AID SUPPORT
 - College entrance exam preparation classes or support
 - Assistance with completing college entrance exam registration
 - Assistance with college applications
 - College application fee waivers or fee payments
 - Information on financial aid and scholarship opportunities and assistance completing necessary forms or applications (such as FAFSA)
- FINANCIAL LITERACY AND PLANNING
 - Financial and economic literacy counseling, workshops, or courses
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT
 - Workshops, seminars, panels, and fairs related to career options and job skills
 - Career counseling and planning services
- OTHER PROGRAMMING OR SERVICES
 - Personal counseling
- TUTORING
 - Academic tutoring
- MENTORING
 - Mentoring from teachers, faculty, or students
- OTHER
 - Any services not described above

Student Support Services

- TUTORING
 - o Academic tutoring
- ACADEMIC ADVISING
 - o Academic advising (e.g. course selection advice and assistance)
 - o Study space and printing services
- FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE
 - o Information on financial aid opportunities and assistance in completing financial aid applications (e.g. FAFSA and scholarship applications)
- FINANCIAL LITERACY AND PLANNING
 - o Financial and economic literacy counseling, workshops, or courses
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT
 - o Workshops, seminars, panels, and fairs related to career options and job skills
 - o Career counseling and planning services
- OTHER PROGRAMMING OR SERVICES
 - o Social or cultural activities
 - o Leadership skills training
- MENTORING
 - o Mentoring from peers (college students)
- FINANCIAL SUPPORT
 - o Grant or scholarship aid
 - o Short-term housing support
- FOUR-YEAR OR GRADUATE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT SUPPORT
 - o Information sessions on four-year colleges or graduate schools
 - o Campus visits or tours
 - o Assistance with college entrance exams
 - o Assistance with college applications
 - o Information on financial aid opportunities and assistance in completing financial aid applications for graduate school (for those in 4-year institutions) or four-year programs (for those in two-year institutions)
- OTHER
 - o Any services not described above

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- RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES AND MENTORING
 - o Research project/internship and faculty mentoring
 - o Opportunities to attend and present research at symposia and workshops on campus
 - o Opportunities to present research at conferences (including funding support)
- TUTORING
 - o Academic tutoring
- ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION (Only courses offered by your program)
 - o Research design courses
 - o Other courses
- ACADEMIC ADVISING AND RESOURCES
 - o Academic advising and counseling
 - o Study space, computer lab, or printing services
- GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS AND AID SUPPORT
 - o Workshops or seminars on graduate school application process and planning
 - o Direct support (counseling or coaching) for applying to graduate school
 - o Support preparing for graduate school exams
 - o Financial assistance on graduate school applications and exams (for example, fee waivers)
 - o Support in securing funding for graduate school (for example, fellowships and grants)
 - o Graduate school visits or tours
- CULTURAL ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES
 - o Cultural events and enrichment activities
- OTHER
 - o Any services not described above

[INSERT OMB INFORMATION]