

# Dash Emergency Grant

October 26, 2017



# Agenda

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- Review the goals and history of Great Lakes *Dash Emergency Grant*
- Discuss grantee reported results
- Share best practices learned from *Dash Emergency Grant* grantees

# Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates

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- A nonprofit group focused on a single objective: helping students nationwide prepare for and succeed in postsecondary education and student loan repayment
- Our group's earnings support one of the largest and most respected educational philanthropy programs in the country
  - Since 2006, we have committed over \$200 million in grant funding to promote higher education completion for students of color, low income students, and first-generation students

# Dash Emergency Grant Goals



# The Problem

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- Financial aid, grants and scholarships help low-income students overcome financial barriers and enroll in college
- But once enrolled, unexpected financial emergencies can force these students into making tough choices—leaving college is often seen as the only option

# The Solution

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- As part of their student success strategy, colleges provide grants to alleviate the emergency
- When colleges help low-income students overcome unforeseen financial emergencies, students stay in college at better rates and graduate in larger numbers

# Our Goals

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- Help more low-income students stay in college and graduate
- Help colleges implement and sustain emergency grants as part of their overall student success plan
- Learn if and how outcomes vary by college type and student demographics

# History

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## 2012-2015 Dash Emergency Grant

- \$1.5 million awarded to each of the 16 colleges of the Wisconsin Technical College System

## 2016-2018 Dash Emergency Grant

- \$1.5 million awarded to 31 two-year colleges in Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin

## 2017-2019 Dash Emergency Grant

- \$7.2 million awarded to 32 four-year colleges in six states



# Dash Emergency Grant Overview

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- An emergency grant program for low-income students
- Colleges ensure students are aware of the program and how to apply
- Colleges work with students, make award determinations, and make third-party payments
- Colleges contribute 10-15% of emergency grant funds

# Dash Emergency Grant Overview

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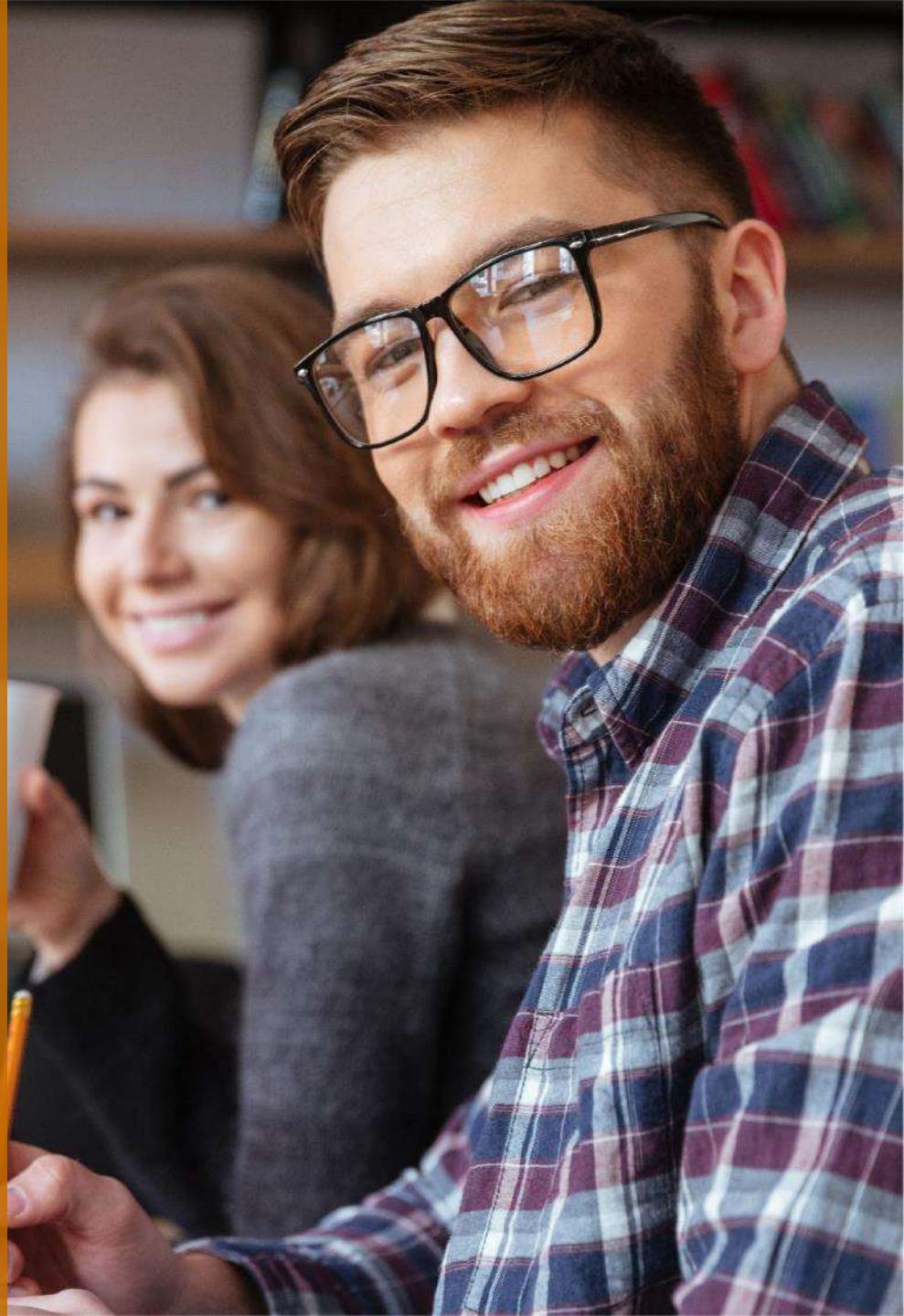
- How Great Lakes prepares grantees for success
  - Fund an implementation period for staff training
  - Provide a proven, turnkey online application and reporting system at no cost – including training
  - Provide ongoing support by our Program Managers
  - Fund administrative costs to help offset the cost of administering the program

# Definition of Financial Emergency

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- An unforeseen expense that, if not resolved quickly, could lead to the student's departure from the college and loss of momentum toward completion
- Categories include
  - Utilities
  - Housing/rent
  - Food
  - Medical/dental
  - Transportation
  - Child care

# Grantee Reported Results



# 2012-2015 Dash Emergency Grant

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## Grantee Reported Data

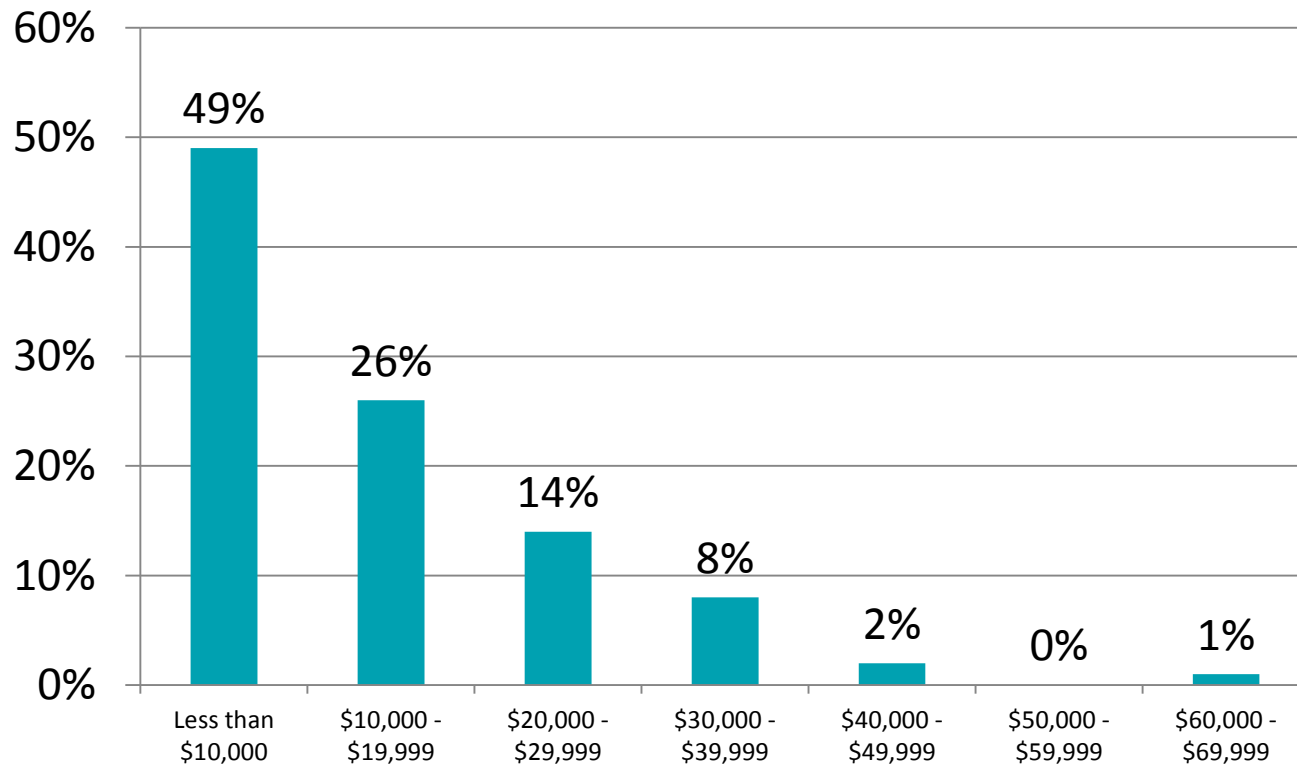
- 73% of Pell-eligible emergency grant recipients graduated or remained enrolled the semester immediately after receiving the emergency grant

## National Data

- 59% retention rate for all students at public two-year institutions\*

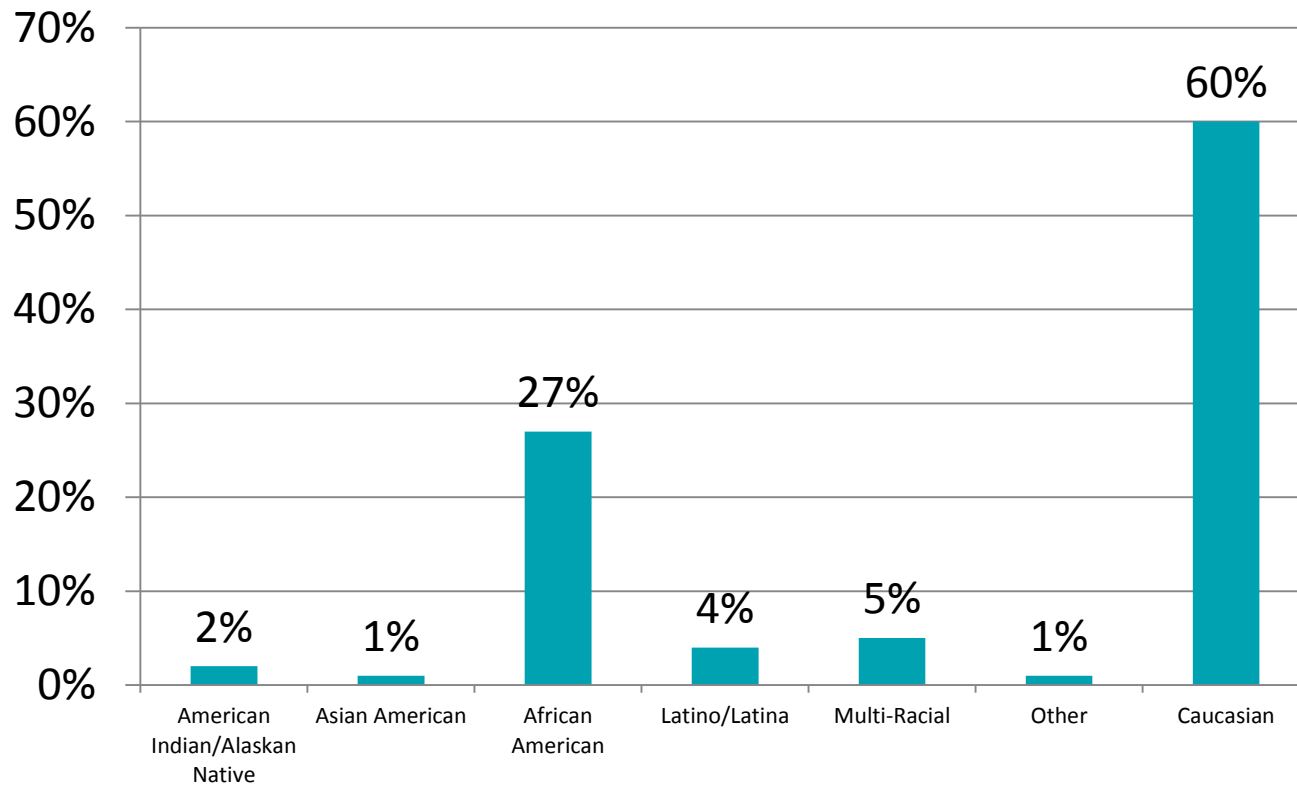
# 2016-2018 Dash Emergency Grant

## Self-Reported Recipient Family Income



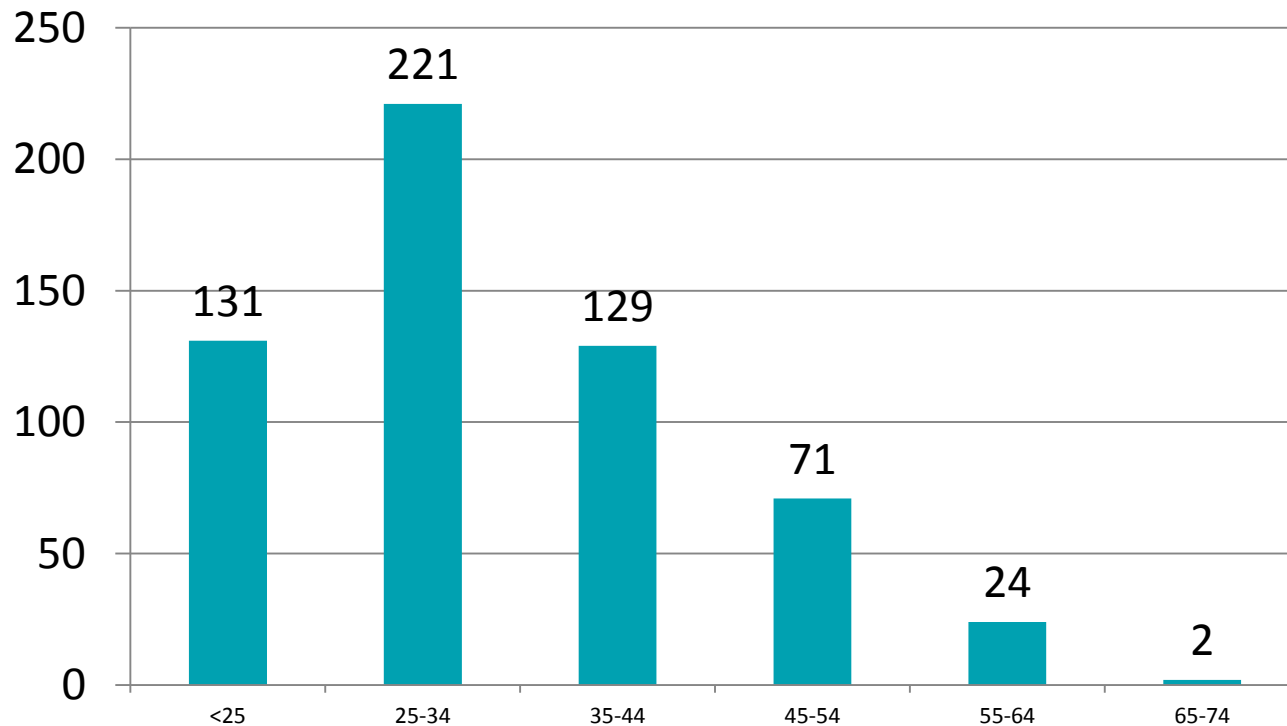
# 2016-2018 Dash Emergency Grant

## Self Reported Student Demographics



# 2016-2018 Dash Emergency Grant

## Self Reported Recipient Age





# 2016-2018 Dash Emergency Grant

Category	Average Request	Average Award	% of all awards
Child Care	\$333	\$309	2%
Food	\$195	\$172	5%
Gas	\$135	\$142	4%
Housing	\$531	\$441	36%
Medical	\$407	\$323	4%
Other	\$323	\$283	4%
Transit	\$120	\$99	1%
Utilities	\$363	\$347	19%
Vehicle	\$494	\$414	26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$659</b>	<b>\$445</b>	

# Grantee Reported Best Practices



# What We Learned from the 2012-2015 Dash Emergency Grant

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- The need is real
- The results are encouraging
- What makes a successful emergency grant program

# The Need is Real

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- The grants averaged around \$500
- Top three causes of the financial emergency:
  - Housing
  - Utilities
  - Transportation

# The Results are Encouraging

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## Grantee Reported Data

- 73% of Pell-eligible emergency grant recipients graduated or remained enrolled the semester immediately after receiving the emergency grant

## National Data

- 59% retention rate for all students at public two-year institutions\*

# Characteristics of Successful Emergency Grant Programs


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- Actively promote the availability of emergency grants
- Train faculty on the program and its benefits
- Promote an affirming message to students
- Agree on a definition of “financial emergency”
- Identify the root cause of a financial emergency
- Coordinate seamless collaboration between student services, financial aid and business offices

# Characteristics of Successful Emergency Grant Programs

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- Make the in-take process timely
- Streamline administrative functions for responsiveness
- Address chronic financial emergencies
- Develop detailed training documentation
- Fundraise actively to assure program sustainability
- Connect with other colleges offering emergency grant programs



Congratulations and thank you for your participation in the Project Success. Together you undoubtedly will have a large impact on your institutions' graduation and retention goals!



# Questions?

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Thank You

