



THE CHICAGO
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Transfer Innovation Impact Model: Eliminating Barriers to Education and Career Success



Chicago faces an urgent challenge to address the barriers that prevent people from underinvested communities from achieving their education and career goals. The disparities in wealth and well-being across our city will persist if we do not develop, test and scale solutions that create opportunities for more Chicagoans to reach their potential.

A bachelor's degree remains the strongest pathway to economic mobility, particularly when students pursue majors in high-demand fields. The Transfer Innovation Impact Model (TIIM) is an exciting new program that focuses on supporting Chicago-area community college students in bachelor's degree completion.

**When our neighbors do
better, we all do better.**



A Life-Changing Opportunity

Nearly 80 percent of students who start at community colleges intend to transfer to bachelor's degree programs. Many have their plans derailed by a confusing system with unexpected costs and complex administrative burdens.

TIIM creates a funding opportunity for institutions to partner with a community college and a wraparound support organization to create innovative new models and strategies to make transferring more accessible to students. TIIM is led and supported in part by Bridges to Brighter Futures, a collaboration between the Kinship Foundation and The Chicago Community Trust funded by the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust.

Please contact the Trust's Chief Philanthropy Officer Sheila Cawley at scawley@cct.org or 312-565-4172 for more information.

Goals & Funding

The goal of the TIIM initiative is to identify and promote strategies that improve bachelor's degree completion within two to three years of transfer from community college programs for students who traditionally have had lower rates of completion.

Grant partners will receive a one-year planning grant to develop and advance a transfer model that dramatically improves the bachelor's degree completion of Chicago-area community college students. Grant recipients will also be invited to submit an application for three-year implementation grants that follow the one-year planning grant period.

This four-year initiative has a goal of raising \$10 million by the end of 2025, with more than half already secured. Initial grant recipients are:

- **Chicago State University** partnering with Olive Harvey College and One Million Degrees on a project that includes a holistic focus on the student, while also diving deeply into STEM careers and relationships with employer partners.
- **National Louis University** partnering with Truman College and Braven on a project using identified student need to strengthen and expand existing relationships to better serve transfer students into a degree and a career.
- **DePaul University** partnering with Harold Washington College and OneGoal on a project that identifies clear gaps in transfer outcomes and commits a wide range of departments across the University to co-develop innovative solutions to specific student need.
- **Illinois Tech** partnering with Daley College and One Million Degrees on a project to develop stronger curriculum and certifications across manufacturing and engineering pathways.
- **Governors State University** partnering with Kennedy King College and One Million Degrees on a project to develop student experiences that increase interest and access to bachelor's degree programs.



Please Join Us!

We invite you to partner with us by becoming a financial supporter of this important work.

Together, we can create a new model to make college completion dreams a reality. We know that when our neighbors do better, we all do better. This will be a major moment for the Chicago region and a benefit for all.

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