

COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAM (CSA)

THE NEED

Children from low-income communities graduate from college at much lower rates than their more affluent peers. Students whose families are in the lowest quartile of income earners have an 8.3% college graduation rate, compared with 82.4% for students in the top quartile. Financial barriers present both a real and a perceived obstacle to college admission and completion.

THE OPPORTUNITY – ONE PIECE OF THE SOLUTION

We have learned important lessons from the 18,000 children (“Dreamers”) we have supported since our founding. First, getting our Dreamers to college is critical but not enough. Second, while our program has had a profound impact on the lives of thousands of children, we are not reaching thousands more who need our services. We must broaden our impact to ensure that more low-income students have these opportunities.

Building on these insights, we have developed an innovative College Savings Account (CSA) program to reach more students and to ensure that they are equipped to get to and through college. Our CSA program is designed to inspire and celebrate Dreamers as they climb the mountain to college graduation, by:

1. Fostering a culture of college amongst parents and students at an early age;
2. Providing students, families and important stakeholders in our Dreamers’ lives with a roadmap for how to get to and through college;
3. Reducing some of the financial barriers to higher education by making deposits into CSAs, providing financial literacy to families, and encouraging families to save on their own.

The program is unique in that we stage the deposits we make into student accounts to align with important milestones in the Dreamers’ educational trajectory that best prepares them to succeed in college and beyond.

Research conducted at The University of Kansas found that low and moderate income children with college savings between \$1–\$499 are **3x more likely to attend college** and **4x more likely to graduate college**.¹



YOUR IMPACT

“I Have A Dream” Foundation is looking to significantly expand the number of CSAs we open for low-income students. We are seeking contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations to fund student CSA accounts.

¹Elliott, W. (2012). *Small dollar accounts and children's outcomes. Small Dollar Children Accounts (Report I). Assets and Education Initiative University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare, Lawrence, KS*

If you're interested in learning more about our CSA program,
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