

Evaluation Report Brief

Green Light Fund: Single Stop Program

What is the community challenge?

Located in one of the poorest cities in the country, the great majority of Community College of Philadelphia students are economically disadvantaged. Approximately half of the students do not receive any financial contribution from their families and 70 percent of all students receive some type of financial aid.

What is the promising solution?

Single Stop's mission is to build pathways out of poverty by leveraging partnerships and technology to connect people to existing resources, all through a unique one-stop shop. Single Stop provides its participants with screening for and access to a wide range of resources, including government benefits and free legal, financial, and tax preparation services, all in one location.

Program At-a-Glance

CNCS Program: Social Innovation Fund

Intervention: Single Stop Program

Subgrantee: Single Stop USA

Intermediary: GreenLight Fund

Focus Area: Youth Development

Focus Population: Economically Disadvantaged Students

Community Served: Philadelphia, PA

What was the purpose of evaluation?

The evaluation of the Single Stop program by Metis Associates, and funded by GreenLight Fund, began in 2014 and finished reporting in 2018. The impact evaluation sought to determine whether the Single Stop program, which aims to fight poverty and generate benefits for students, would have impact on community college participants' academic outcomes. The implementation study sought to provide context for the quantitative findings and to offer best implementation practices and recommendations for program changes. The impact evaluation had three main research questions, including (1) Do First Time In College (FTIC) students served by Single Stop's College Initiative at CCP have higher consecutive semester-to-semester persistence rates than the comparison group of students?; (2) Do FTIC students served by Single Stop's College Initiative at the CCP have a higher average ratio of completed to attempted degree bearing credits than the comparison group of students?; and (3) Do FTIC students served by Single Stop's College Initiative at the CCP have higher grade point average (GPA) than the comparison group of students? An exploratory analysis also sought to answer these same questions for non-FTIC students. The implementation study utilized semi-structured interviews and surveys with open-ended questions. The impact study utilized a quasi-experimental approach using propensity score matching to determine program impacts.

What did the evaluation find?

As a grantee/subgrantee of the Social Innovation Fund, Single Stop USA engaged an independent evaluator, Metis Associates, to evaluate the Single Stop Program at the Community College of Philadelphia. The impact study found that across all three phases: (1) The FTIC and non-FTIC students participating in Single Stop who were enrolled at CCP in fall 2014 were significantly more likely to persist in college consecutively than their corresponding matched comparison group and (2) Both the FTIC and non-FTIC Single Stop students had significantly higher ratios of completed to attempted degree bearing credits than the similar comparison

group. In phases 1 and 3 the study found that FTIC and non-FTIC Single Stop students, on average, had a significantly higher weighted GPA than the similarly situated non-participants. The implementation study found that the Single Stop program was well integrated on the CCP campus and the level of integration increased over time.

How is the Community College of Philadelphia Single Stop Program using the evaluation findings to improve?

The Community College of Philadelphia has used the evaluation to make important changes to the Single Stop program. Most notably, Single Stop staff learned through the evaluation that outreach efforts were not as successful at recruiting non-traditional students and students from the regional center. Program staff revised their recruitment materials to target this population and added regional center liaisons to focus on recruitment at the regional centers.

Evaluation At-a-Glance

Evaluation Design: Quasi Experimental Propensity Score Matching (PSM) Impact Evaluation

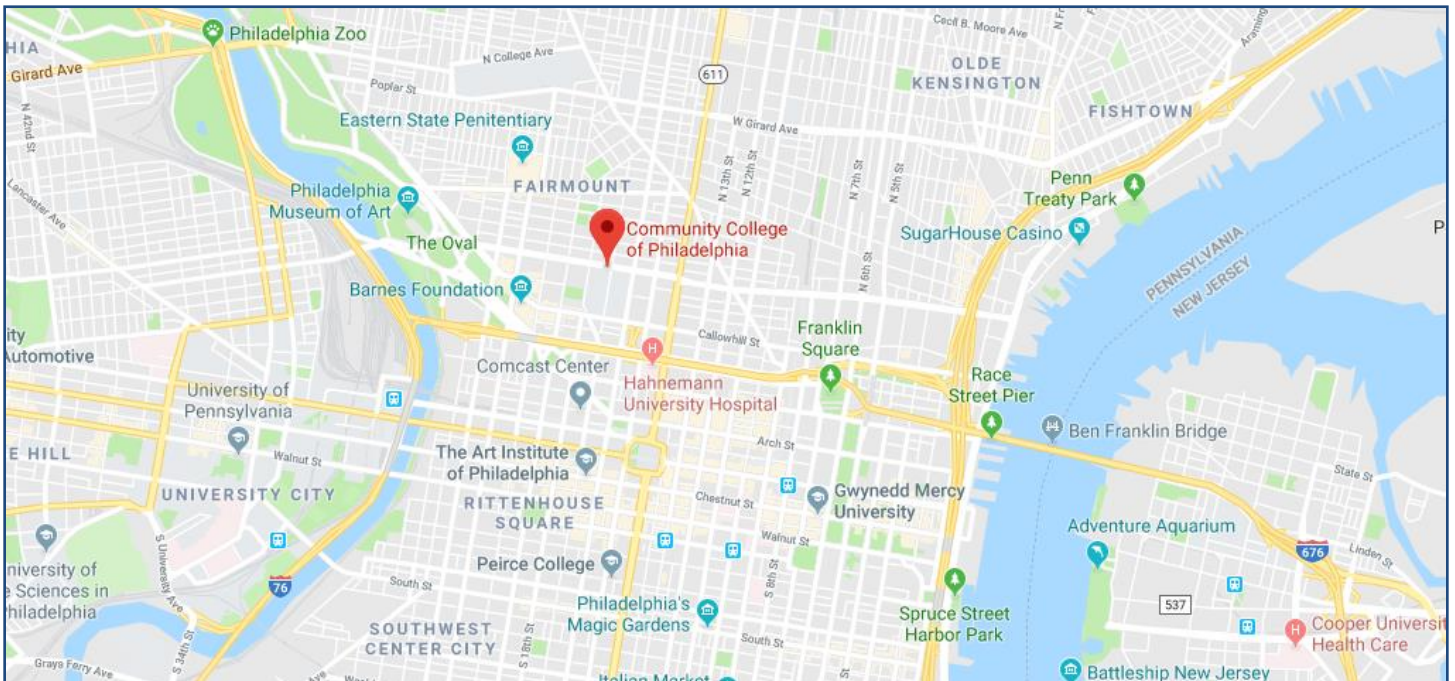
Study Population: Students Enrolled at CCP

Independent Evaluator: Metis Associates

This Evaluation's Level of Evidence*: Moderate

*SIF and AmeriCorps currently use different definitions of levels of evidence.

Study Location



The content of this brief was drawn from the full evaluation report submitted to CNCS by the grantee/subgrantee. The section of the brief that discusses evaluation use includes contribution of the grantee/subgrantee. All original content from the report is attributable to its authors.

To access the full evaluation report and learn more about CNCS, please visit <http://www.nationalservice.gov/research>.

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF), a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), combines public and private resources to grow the impact of innovative, community-based solutions that have compelling evidence of improving the lives of people in low-income communities throughout the U.S. The SIF invests in three priority areas: economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development.