



## The College Connection: Educational Solutions for Low-Income Parents

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### The Problem:

Budget cuts and policy changes have reduced the ability of low income parents to attend college. Parents are restricted in their capacity to support their families financially and to encourage their children's education when they lack a college education. *How can communities encourage and support educational solutions for low-income parents?*

### Research Evidence:

Researchers in economics, education and sociology have long documented the positive correlation between education level and income. Attaining a college degree not only increases parents' likelihood of achieving self-sufficiency but also has been shown to improve the well being of their children.

### Proposed Solutions:

- Reinstatement of education as an approved "work activity" for participants of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program.
- Exempt parents who are actively engaged in training or educational activities that will increase their likelihood of attaining long-term self-sufficiency from TANF's 5-year lifetime limit.
- Increase levels of student financial aid, particularly federal Pell Grant funding, both in terms of number of students served and amount of funds provided per student.
- Increase levels of funding for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Program.
- Provide incentives to colleges/universities to create facilities serving students' childcare needs.

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