



Associated Students, Incorporated – Project Rebound Gap Funding Support Proposal

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Funding Term: *2023-2024 Academic Year*

Program: Project Rebound
Division: Center for Engagement, Service, and The Public Good



**PROJECT
REBOUND**

Mission

The mission of Project Rebound Cal State LA is to support the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated student (FIS) through the mentorship and living example of other formerly incarcerated students, graduates, faculty, and staff. Project Rebound constructs a life-affirming alternative to the revolving door policies of mass incarceration by making higher education more accessible and supportive of FIS so they can acquire the knowledge and skills of a university education, enhance their capacity for civic engagement and community leadership, secure meaningful and gratifying employment, empower themselves and their families, and ultimately make stronger, educated, and safer communities.

History

Established in 1967 by John Irwin Ph.D., Project rebound was created in the wake of the rising percentage of recidivism rates in the state of California. Current data proves that recidivism rates (recidivism rates are rates at which individuals go back to jail), are at 70%, this number is decreased to 32 % with an AA/AS degree, furthermore, this rate drops to 10 % when students earn a BA/BS degree, and the recidivism rate drops to zero when the student earns a Post Baccalaureate degree and beyond. Supporting the FIS does not only decrease recidivism rates but it also creates better citizens of the world.

Current research and data reveal that Project Rebound Scholars outperform the traditional college student by having a 3.6 overall GPA whereas the traditional students 3.2 overall GPA. It is imperative to continue the support for FIS and to ensure their academic success.



Programs, Services, & Descriptions

Admission Assistance

Project Rebound coaches prospective students on the admission process, prerequisites, and available degree programs, evaluates their academic records prior to transfer and provides detailed guidance on admission strategies.

Financial Aid

Project Rebound provides one on one financial aid and FAFSA assistance working closely with the Cal State LA financial aid department, as well as direct student support including books, meals, computers, transportation, and a housing initiative for Project Rebound Scholars.

Community

Project Rebound welcomes scholars into a circle of support and provides a bridge into the wider community on-and-off campus. In doing so, Project Rebound ensures the successful re-integration of FIS into our communities.

Mentorship, Advocacy & Advising

Project Rebound provides individualized support, connecting students with tutors tailored to the subjects of their curricula and ensuring they feel a sense of belonging that allows for a meaningful college experience.

Counseling & Wellness Services

Project Rebound connects students to counseling, psychological, and wellness services both on campus and in the community to help students improve coping skills, strengthen personal relationships, navigate the college transition, recover from traumatic experiences, and engage in self-explorations that foster student success.

Employment & Career Services

Project Rebound helps students secure employment and internships on and off campus and connects them to Cal State LA's first-rate Career Center.

Objectives

To identify, matriculate, support, and graduate persons affected by the justice system. The population we serve faces multiple challenges that are often barriers to access and success. These individual factors occur in part or whole across the broad spectrum of



the students we serve and include being first-generation college students, being single parents of minor children, experiencing housing and/or food insecurity...As such, we have a large caseload with diverse demographics.

Marketing & Outreach Plan

Project Rebound performs ongoing outreach at local community colleges and performs on campus in-reach to identify students with a carceral past. We maintain presence at national and state professional conferences and have plans to prepare a promotional video that will circulate at state carceral facilities. Over the past year, Project Rebound has nearly doubled in membership. Finally, Project Rebound as a part of the Center for Engagement Service and the Public Good has an ongoing relationship with the Lancaster Prison CA initiative and will be working to begin in reach at local carceral facilities via workshops on college readiness.

Financial Plan & Expense Detail

Funding Request

ASI Funding will support 100 formerly incarcerated Cal State LA students.

\$100.00 x 100\$10,000

TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST..... \$10,000

Currently supplemental financial support is needed to ensure that FIS continue their education. Due to the residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, FIS have seen the financial barriers increase. Membership is projected to grow from 76 - 100 students for the Fall. This support received will fill the gap for the upcoming 2022-2023 academic year. The plan is to provide students that meet certain criteria with a stipend to support their educational needs. The are seeking a match from the Center for Engagement Service and the Public Good for a total of \$20,000 and raising the award per student to approximately \$200 for the year.

This funding will be used to purchase items that ensure successful completion of academic goals including food, transportation, housing, school supplies etc. Each student will be required to meet the following criteria found in their Canvas portal; Participation in 2 workshops per semester, visiting an academic advisor, providing a mid-semester progress report, signing their agreement, and submitting both an educational plan and proof of filing their FAFSA.



CAL STATE LA

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Project Rebound at Cal State LA
Center for Engagement, Service, & the Public Good

Program Evaluation & Quality Control Mechanism

Plans to ensure support is successfully achieved include mid semester check-in with students via phone call and a short satisfaction survey to be administered in November 2022 and in April 2023.