



Compton College Impact Evaluation Frequently Asked Questions

Who are the students in this evaluation? What are their characteristics?

Compton College is a majority-minority community college, 85% Black and Latinx, and 90% of students qualify for financial aid. Students in this evaluation reflect that institutional diversity. We also know that 39% of applicants have children.

What needs did these students face?

The biggest challenge was housing — 81% dealt with housing insecurity, and among those 20% were experiencing homelessness. Seventy percent were having trouble affording food, 65% had difficulty affording transportation, 64% had learning expenses they could not afford, 26% were challenged by health costs, and 21% struggled to pay for childcare.

How did students apply for help?

Compton College worked closely with Edquity to drive communication to students through a number of channels, including email. After learning about the program, students either downloaded the Edquity app or went to our website to apply. No one had to write an essay, perform their poverty, or relive trauma to get help.

How was need assessed?

Our goal is simple: we want to ensure that students with objective, significant need, and who are at risk of dropping out, receive aid when they need it. As such, we take a holistic approach to gauging students' financial issues and examine their challenges across a variety of basic needs categories — including housing, food, health, transportation, childcare, safety, and learning resources. We are explicitly anti-racist in how we assess need. Our decisioning framework uses lessons from [cutting-edge research](#) to implicitly advantage minoritized students without asking them to identify their race. Rather than only serving those most-likely to retain, we maximize equity by targeting funds to those who will receive the biggest boost (value-add) from the support.

How long did students wait for support?

It took students an average of 7 minutes to complete the application and they typically received funds in less than 18 hours. This is assessed on a 24/7 clock, not standard business hours.



Students often need more than just emergency aid. How do they get it?

Edquity supports the security of students' basic needs by ensuring that college leaders and staff have real-time access to information on their emergency aid applications, and by offering in-app referrals to community resources.

What did this support cost?

Compton distributed \$250 per student. That is on the low end for emergency aid; it's possible that with more dollars per student, the grants would have helped even more.

The administrative costs are assessed relative to the amount of money distributed. We handle everything — application, decisioning, distribution, reporting, and compliance. In addition to this program, Edquity has been processing emergency aid applications from Compton College for the last year. During that time we have handled more than 800 applications, saving Compton College over 4,500 hours in staff time. We estimate that the costs for a college to do this same work on its own would be at least 10-15 times as much.

What other colleges does Edquity currently support?

Edquity supports over 30 partners with students in all 50 states and collective enrollment of over one million students. Partners include Dallas College, Western Governors University, San Diego Mesa College, Amarillo College, and five community colleges in the Seattle area by way of a partnership with United Way of King County, among many others.

Can Edquity distribute HEERF II funds? What experience does Edquity have distributing those funds?

Edquity has already helped partners distribute federal money and is ready to support partners around the distribution of HEERF II funds — as well as any federal emergency aid that is likely to come under an imminent third stimulus. Edquity helped Dallas College distribute HEERF I funding, and existing partners have already expressed an interest in moving tens of millions of their HEERF II emergency aid with Edquity in the coming months.

How can a college partner with Edquity? How long does it take to get started?

Edquity is actively accepting new partners, and interested institutions can reach out at inquiries@edquity.co. We've worked hard to ensure that technical set-up time takes only 2-4 weeks to get a partnership live. With the realities of college procurement and contract execution, however, it typically takes closer to 4-8 weeks. That said, once the infrastructure is in place, all the heavy lifting has been done, and Edquity handles all things emergency aid, end-to-end, for existing dollars and any new dollars that should come in.