

Evaluation Report Brief

KIPP DC: KIPP Through College (KTC) Program

What is the community challenge?

Low-income teenagers often need support to navigate the transitions from middle school to high school and high school to college. Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) and KIPP Through College (KTC) address what is known as “the opportunity gap,” in which low-income students typically have access to fewer economic, social, and educational resources, which, in turn, can negatively impact life outcomes such as income and health.

Program At-a-Glance

CNCS Program: Social Innovation Fund

Intervention: KIPP Through College (KTC)

Subgrantee: KIPP DC

Focus Area: Youth Development

Focus Population: KIPP DC alumni in high school and college

Community Served: Washington, DC

What is the promising solution?

KTC provides KIPP alumni with a multi-year pipeline of support beginning in middle school and continuing through attainment of a college degree. The program offers alumni support services that include financial aid counseling, academic advising, life skills training, one-on-one counseling, and guidance on college selection.

What was the purpose of evaluation?

The evaluation of KIPP DC’s KTC program by Westat began in 2012 and finished reporting in 2107. The non-experimental evaluation sought to answer questions related to both the implementation of the program and outcomes related to its effect on participants’ high school and college enrollment, persistence, achievement, participation, and graduation. The implementation evaluation utilized data from interviews with KTC staff and alumni focus groups as well as data from a longitudinal alumni survey with a sample size of 72. The outcome study utilized the survey data as well as data from a larger sample of 805 KTC students and alumni and secondary data from the Washington DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE).

What did the evaluation find?

As a subgrantee of the Social Innovation Fund, KIPP DC engaged an independent evaluator to evaluate KIPP DC’s KTC program.

- The report includes promising findings suggesting that the graduation rate for KTC students was 81 percent, statistically significantly higher than the rate for non-KTC students (64 percent).
- Researchers found that 34 percent of KTC students were listed as having enrolled in college compared to 29 percent of non-KTC students in Washington DC, and KTC students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch (FRPL) had a statistically higher enrollment rate than eligible non-KTC students (36 percent compared to 24 percent).
- Using internal KTC data, researchers found that of the 364 non-high school graduate alumni, most (81 percent) were deemed “on track to graduate” at the time. This rate was higher for female students than male students (87 percent compared to 73 percent) and for non-FRPL students compared to FRPL students (93 percent compared to 72 percent).



Notes on the evaluation

Due to the small sample size, evaluators urge caution in terms of generalizability of the results for both focus group, survey data, and secondary data analysis. These findings are limited to the 72 participants who responded to the College Attenders survey in both years. This sample is disproportionately female, not eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, and members of the 2013 KIPP alumni cohort. The evaluation used secondary data on more than 14,000 non-KTC participants in DC and 122 KTC participants derived from the Office of the State School Superintendent of Education (OSSE). Additionally, the report suggests, due to the nature of focus group data collection, findings may be subject to self-selection bias. For example, alumni less involved in the KTC program may have been more difficult to reach during focus group recruitment or less likely to agree to participate.

How is KIPP DC using the evaluation findings to improve?

The evaluation found that the intervention itself would benefit from more program structure and codified guidelines. Though the flexibility of the program and program staff facilitates relationship building, the lack of structure can also be a barrier for both staff and alumni. The program has already begun creating a more structured framework. The findings of the outcome study show that while KTC students are graduating and attending college at higher rates, they still have lower rates of school consistency than non-KTC students in Washington DC.

Evaluation At-a-Glance

Evaluation Design: Non-experimental single group design

Study Population: KIPP DC alumni

Independent Evaluator: Westat

This Evaluation's Level of Evidence*: Preliminary

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

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.