

Rutgers University Newark
Academic Foundations Center



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Program Description

The Talent Search Program (TS) is a part of the Academic Foundations Center (AFC) at Rutgers-Newark and is funded through the United States Department of Education as one of their TRiO Programs. The goal of Talent Search is to identify and assist individuals from underserved backgrounds within target areas, who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school, continue on to, and complete their postsecondary education. Talent Search also encourages persons who have not completed education programs to enter or reenter and complete postsecondary education.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a TRiO Program?

A TRiO Program can be one of eight programs funded through the United States Department of Education and they are outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from underserved backgrounds. TRiO includes eight programs targeted to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs. TRiO also includes a training program for directors and staff of TRiO projects.

2. What school district(s) will be served by the Talent Search Program?

The AFC TRiO Talent Search Program (TS) at Rutgers University-Newark will exclusively serve students from the Orange, and Irvington NJ Public School District.

3. How many students will be served by the Talent Search Program in the 2016-2017 academic year:

The TS Program will serve 500 students. Students are encouraged to apply between September – June, admissions is on-going each school year.

4. Which “target schools” will be served by the Talent Search Program?

Students from the following schools are encouraged to apply to TS Program: Park Avenue School, Lincoln Avenue School, Cleveland Street School, Orange High School, Orange Preparatory Academy, University Middle School, Union Avenue Middle School and Irvington High School.

5. How will services be offered?

The TS Program offers services via workshops, seminars, and other group activities. Throughout the school year (September-June) the TS Program will provide workshops on a variety of topics to students (and parents) during an in-school/afterschool

component at target schools. All workshops are designed to help build a student's knowledge and prepare them for their personal journey to higher education and graduation with a bachelor's degree. Moreover, students will be given connections to tutoring and mentoring resources through partnerships TS builds with the Orange and Irvington School District and the Greater Newark Area.

6. Is there a cost to Orange and Irvington families to participate in the program?

No. The program is offered at no cost to families. The program is sponsored by the United States Department of Education, Rutgers University-Newark and the Academic Foundations Center.

7. What are the eligibility requirements for participants?

In order to qualify for The TS Program, students must:

- Be between the ages of 11-27 and have completed the fifth grade
- Have a minimum 2.5 GPA; be in good academic standing, or in need of services.
- Be a potential first-generation college student, that is, no parent(s) or guardian(s) has a four-year college degree from a college or university.
- Attend one of the target schools (Park Avenue School, Lincoln Avenue School, Cleveland Street School, Orange High School, Orange Preparatory Academy, University Middle School, Union Avenue Middle School and Irvington High School)
- Be highly recommended by a teacher and/or school administrator
- Have full support and participation of parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Participate in all required programs and activities
- Agree to submit a completed application and meet the financial guidelines
- Agree to submit all requested information and documents up to six years after high school graduation

8. How does Talent Search differ from other TRiO Programs?

The TRiO Talent Search Program is able to offer services to a larger number of students through group workshops, tailored to provide advisement to ensure students are taking rigorous high school courses required for college entry and by providing them with exposure to college and the financial aid process. Moreover, Talent Search has been tasked to assist individuals (ages 11-27) who have not completed education programs to enter or reenter and complete postsecondary education.

9. Are students able to participate in Talent Search and the Upward Bound Program?

Rutgers University-Newark is committed to serving 560 students from the Orange and Irvington Public School District (Talent Search will serve 500 and Upward Bound will serve 60). Given grant stipulations, students cannot be enrolled in both programs concurrently.

10. How can the target schools and the Orange/Irvington School District facilitate the Success of the TS Program?

- Introduction of and access to guidance counselors, parent coordinators (COC), and key personnel at target schools
- Contact Information on other programs that serve target schools (possibility of building partnerships)
- Information to be mailed home to eligible students about TRiO programs offered at Rutgers-Newark
- Access to school mailings and automated phone calls that will enable TS to share program information