

TRIO Funding Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Last Updated May 15, 2025

What's the difference between Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) and Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26)?

Like most education programs, TRIO is “advance funded,” meaning that federal funds are appropriated a year in advance. Thus, although the federal Fiscal Year 2025 runs from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025, for TRIO purposes, FY25 provides funding for the 2025-2026 program year. Likewise funding for FY26 will cover programming in the 2026-2027 program year.

Is TRIO eliminated for FY26 (Program Year 2026-2027)?

No. In May, the White House issued a [budget request to Congress](#) that proposed eliminating the Federal TRIO Programs. It's important to remember that the Executive Branch does not fund the federal government—that role belongs to the U.S. Congress. This summer, the House and Senate will begin considering funding packages (“[appropriations](#)”) to fund the federal government during FY26, but due to procedural challenges they will not conclude their work until the end of the calendar year. Therefore, TRIO advocates must keep up consistent pressure in demonstrating to legislators the importance of TRIO programs in their communities.

When will we find out what our funding level is for Program Year 2025-2026?

Although Congress passed a [continuing resolution](#) (CR) that maintained overall funding levels for Fiscal Year 2025 (which funds Program Year 2025-2026), that legislation did not include specific instructions directing the Administration how to fund individual federal programs. Without this instruction, there is a risk that the Administration may attempt to withhold funds. (This risk is heightened for programs like TRIO given that the [White House has issued a proposal to eliminate TRIO in FY2026](#).) Therefore, it is absolutely critical that all TRIO advocates [take action now](#) and put pressure on their House Representatives and Senators to ensure that the Department of Education releases the 2025-2026 Grant Award Notices as soon as possible. This is particularly urgent for the Upward Bound program as many grantees have June 1 start dates. (Advocates can find out who their federal legislators are at this website: <https://govtrack.us/congress/members>. Please [click here](#) to find email addresses and phone numbers of legislators' education aides.

When will the Department issue the Grant Award Notifications for Upward Bound for projects with a June 1, 2025 start date?

Because Congress did not provide the Administration with specific instructions about how to spend funds in FY25 (Program Year 2025-2026), it is plausible that the Administration may attempt to withhold funds for TRIO and many other discretionary grant programs. Because of the June 1 start date, the Administration's handling of Upward Bound will be a signal as to what may come in the future. TRIO advocates must demand that Congress ensure that Upward Bound award notices are released as soon as possible to prevent the disruption of services to students and families.

What happens if the Department fails to issue the Grant Award Notifications for Upward Bound for projects with a June 1, 2025 start date?

If the Department fails to issue the award notices, COE is prepared to file suit in federal court to request immediate [emergency injunctive relief](#) to get the grants issued as soon as possible. It is

important to note, however, that because COE is a membership-based association and would be filing suit in this capacity, if the court grants relief, that *relief would only apply to COE member institutions*.

When will the Department notify Student Support Services programs about the status of their 2025-2030 grant applications?

Previously, officials at the Department of Education have stated that they expect notifications for SSS competition to be issued by the end of June. However, given the Administration's proposal to eliminate TRIO in FY2026 as well as the lack of a spending plan in the FY2025 continuing resolution, it appears that all movement to finalize and issue the grant awards has halted. Therefore, it is crucial that TRIO advocates maintain pressure on Congress to compel the Department of Education to release the results as soon as possible. This will require emphasizing the potential loss to students and families. SSS projects must aim to put particular pressure on Republican legislators.

What happens if I have remaining funds in the final year of my SSS grant and I'm renewed for 2025–2030?

The Department has unequivocally stated that no-cost extensions will *not* be allowed for programs that are renewed. Programs should plan to fully expend all remaining funds by the end of the current grant cycle. If programs need assistance exploring ways to spend remaining funds, COE is available to review budgets and recommend reasonable, allowable options in compliance with federal regulations.

When will the Department issue the continuation Grant Award Notices for the non-competing TRIO programs?

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Am I allowed to reach out to my Member of Congress during work hours/using grant resources?

The rule of thumb is that you cannot use federal money to get federal money. That's why you have to work on your grant proposals during non-work hours. The same thing applies when it comes to "lobbying," which is formally asking a legislator to take a certain action (e.g., "*Make sure the Department of Education ensures that our GANs come out as soon as possible!*" or "*Work with your colleagues in Congress to ensure that TRIO is funded in FY26!*") What is not considered lobbying – and is allowable – is simply sharing information with your legislators about the work of TRIO at your institution/in your community and its impact (e.g., inviting your legislators to observe students during a Saturday academy or summer bridge session, inviting legislators to address students at a ceremony or community service gathering). More information about the difference between broader advocacy and specific lobbying is available [here](#).

If you have additional questions about connecting with your Members of Congress, please contact Diane Shust (diane.shust@coenet.org) or Owen Toomey (owen.toomey@coenet.org).

If you have additional questions about your grant and the Department of Education, please contact Angelica Vialpando (angelica.vialpando@coenet.org), Jennifer Rudolph (jennifer.rudolph@coenet.org) or Woodrow Lewis (woodrow.lewis@coenet.org.)