

# PROJECTS, ASSETS, VALUES IN EDUCATION (PAVE) THE WAY

by Community Action Agency of Greater Kansas City (CAAGKC)

Region 7 • Kansas City, Missouri  
caagkc.org



## Youth • Education • College • Workforce Development

### INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

PAVE the Way is a transformative afterschool and summer program aimed at providing youth with post-secondary training, resources for higher education, and holistic educational opportunities. Education is a path to self-sufficiency. The PAVE the Way program does that by offering mentorship, tutoring services, internships and scholarships that helps the student and their families plan for their future as well as strategies to address some of their personal present needs.

### LOCAL NEED ADDRESSED BY INITIATIVE

Community Action Agency of Greater Kansas City's most recent community needs assessment surveys found that 92% of youth found that our youth services, including PAVE the Way, impact kids' lives in a positive way; our focus groups asked for more PAVE the Way locations; and Education continued to be in the top five of our three-county area's overall needs.

- As CAAGKC works to help families become self-sufficient, the PAVE the Way program works with families' next generations in achieving the goal of self-sufficiency.
- The PAVE the Way program prepares today's youth for tomorrow through educational, enrichment, and developmental programs.
- Parents may be struggling to meet the needs of the entire family but with PAVE the Way, their high school and college age family members can help themselves and in turn help the family.
- Students by participating can enhance their high school or college experience on their own volition through this program.



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### ROLE OF CSBG FUNDS

This program is fully funded by CSBG dollars.

### TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

PAVE the Way addresses three key challenges for low-income students:

1. The challenge of succeeding at school while your household is under financial stress and emergency, and you are counted on to "help out" either through working after school or providing childcare for your household. This program offers a stipend for those who participate, allowing those students to still contribute to

their household (or to save for school), while also being able to focus on developing their own academic and career goals as well as leadership skills. The program being presented by CAA also means that their families have access to our supportive services, which can reduce the stress on these students.

2. The second challenge the program addresses is planning for post-high school education when the financial barriers to entry are high. Students know they have the opportunity for a scholarship after graduation, and that can be a deciding, motivating factor to pursue continuing education. CAA offers college tours to help students explore these possibilities.
3. The third challenge the program addresses is that low-income students have fewer opportunity for internships to develop their resumes for college/careers. PAVE the Way offers summer internships at CAAGKC for select students, which not only helps them develop their career skills and goals, but help them with scholarships and jobs.

## EVIDENCE-BASED OUTCOMES

Impact is demonstrated through the use of survey data; measuring program attendance, grade point average, and partnerships/internships.

Our PAVE the Way program currently has 32 former PAVE the Way students attending college with 6 scheduled to graduate in May 2021 with their bachelor or associates degree. We currently have 8 students participating in our PAVE the Way program that attend Early College Academy that are schedule to graduate May 2021 with their high school diploma and an Associate degree. We currently have 65 students participating in the PAVE the Way program.

## EQUITY LENS

While the program's only stated goals are to reach students who are 125% or under the poverty line, we do

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collect data on race served, and our youth reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of our community.

Our educational, enrichment and developmental programs provide strategies to deal with equity issues. We believe that education has always been and will continue to be an important mechanism in coping and dealing with equity issues as well as coming up with solutions for these issues. We help our students understand through our PAVE the Way programs that equity issues are no excuse not to continue the journey to self-sufficiency for themselves or their families.

Education, mentoring and development are so important for our students in understanding that equity issues must be looked at from three perspectives – historically, current situation and the goal. With the goal being equity for all. By supplementing our families' journey to self-sufficiency, our PAVE the Way programs play key roles in addressing equity issues.

## CUSTOMER VOICE

The program has used parent meetings, student meetings and surveys to collect feedback and data on the program. We also have our community needs assessment which includes focus groups.

### Contact

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