Pathways for Advancing Careers and Education (PACE): Briefing on Implementation and Early Impact Findings for Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement (VIDA)

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Presentation Overview

- Findings in a nutshell
- Pathways for Advancing Careers and Education Evaluation
- VIDA evaluation findings
- What’s next?
- Questions and discussion
After 24 months, VIDA increased...

Number of college credits earned
Rates of full-time college enrollment
Credential attainment
The VIDA Program

- Founded in 1995
- Based on Project QUEST model
Pathways for Advancing Careers and Education (PACE)

- Part of PACE, an evaluation of 9 promising “career pathways” programs
- Used “gold standard” methodology to assess impacts on educational attainment and career progress
VIDA Evaluation

**STUDY ENROLLED ~1,000 VIDA APPLICANTS**

Assigned randomly to one of two groups

**CONTROL GROUP, ~500 PEOPLE**
Could enroll in college, receive financial aid, college advising

**TREATMENT GROUP, ~500 PEOPLE**
In addition to what controls could access, could receive VIDA services

Collected information for both groups

**EFFECT OF VIDA**

How did the treatment group do relative to the control group with regard to educational outcomes?

- # of college credits
- % enrolled full time
- % earning a credential
Who are VIDA’s Participants?

- 25+
- 63% age 25 or older
- 70% female
- 96% Hispanic
- 77% had at least some college education
- < $15K
- 50% made less than $15,000/year
- 67% reported financial hardship
Study enrollment
2011 to 2014

Early impacts after 24 months
Educational outcomes

Intermediate impacts after 36-42 months
Educational, employment, earnings outcomes; cost-benefit

Long-term impacts after 72 months
Educational, employment, earnings, family wellbeing outcomes

Report 2017

Report 2019

Report 2021
Impact Study Findings: College Credits

VIDA participants earned more college credits.

24 Months (All study participants)

- Total College Credits: 33.1
- Control: 27.5
- Treatment: +5.6***

36 Months (3/4 of participants)

- Total College Credits: 39.4
- Control: 32.5
- Treatment: +6.9***

***Significant at the 1% level
### Impact Study Findings: Full-time Enrollment

VIDA participants enrolled in college full-time at a greater rate.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>24 Months (All study participants)</th>
<th>36 Months (3/4 of participants)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ever Enrolled</td>
<td>75.7</td>
<td>78.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Time</td>
<td>64.8</td>
<td>65.2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+10.9***</td>
<td>+13.0***</td>
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**Significant at the 1% level**

**Legend:**
- Treatment
- Control
Impact Study Findings: College Credentials

VIDA participants earned more college credentials.

24 Months (All study participants)

- Earned a College Credential
  - Treatment: 53.3
  - Control: 45
  - Difference: +8.3***

36 Months (3/4 of participants)

- Earned a College Credential
  - Treatment: 68.8
  - Control: 53
  - Difference: +15.8***

***Significant at the 1% level
VIDA’s Effects in Context: CUNY ASAP Program

College credits earned after:
- 24 months (# credits): ASAP* 6.4, VIDA 5.6
- 36 months (# credits): ASAP* 7.7, VIDA 6.9

Credential attainment after:
- 24 months (percentage points): ASAP* 6.0, VIDA 8.3
- 36 months (percentage points): ASAP* 18.3, VIDA 15.8

What Explains VIDA’s Effects?

- Evaluation not designed to determine the role of each program component on outcomes
- Implementation study findings offer insight
  - We asked program staff and participants, “what makes a difference?”
  - Answer: financial support + counseling
VIDA Financial Support

- VIDA provided an average of almost $7,000 in direct financial assistance per participant
  - Supported tuition/fees, books, tools, uniforms, transportation to school

“If it was just counseling without financial assistance, the program wouldn’t be effective. These individuals have their plates full...The last thing they need is encouragement without something in it for them.”
  – VIDA Staff

“I think VIDA does an excellent job in providing anything...They pay your tuition, and that’s probably the biggest thing...I’m so glad that I don’t have to worry about it.”
  – VIDA Participant
Mandatory Participation in Weekly VIDA Counseling

- One-on-one once a month, group sessions three times a month
- Identify and address possible barriers to college attendance before they cause drop-out

“Accountability at every step is very important from the very beginning to the end. This is not an entitlement program, not a “gimme”, charity. You have to commit to going to school, making grades, and seeing your counselor. You commit I commit, you bail I bail.”

–VIDA Staff

“The counseling sessions, being there, kind of like a parent really. Like, “Hey, how are you doing?” Like, “Hey, are you continuing with that? Are you having issues? What’s going on?” They were always there. They were a call away, a text away. It was ridiculous the amount of attention.”

–VIDA Participant
What is Next?

- **Intermediate outcomes study**
  - 36+ month impacts on education, employment and earnings
  - Cost-benefit study

- **Long-term outcomes study**
  - 72-month impacts on employment, earnings, personal and family wellbeing
More Information

- Report available online
  - www.career-pathways.org

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Questions and Discussion