

School Counselor Corps Grant Program July Training Guiding Questions for Panel

1. What was your motivation for applying for the School Counselor Corps Grant Program?
2. Did year 1 data collection and analysis change your initial grant proposal? If so, how did it change?
3. What do you wish you could or would have done differently and what got in the way?
4. What worked or what is working that you can highlight?
5. What is your advice to grantees just beginning the development year?

Panel responses:

Question #1

- Make sure to include grant funded counselor part of the counseling team, even if physical office is not near other counselors.
- Motivated to apply for SCCG to target high risk population of students with a lower case load.
- Applied for the SCCG again, with different schools to target subgroup for stronger impact

Question #2

- School counselor goals should align with district goal. These are already in place. You can always pull data, but use data that aligns and share.
- From needs analysis we immediately saw a pattern. We focused our goals on these two things and found great interventions that have made a difference.
- Used consultants to help with data. We used internal and external sources, then the numbers to back up the need. Shared information and data with the decisions markers. Present to your board. Find ways to talk to stake holders
- Used consultants too. Transition was an issue, this was an ah ha moment. Surveys showed us what the students, parents, teachers, needed. We were able to focus on just a couple and do them really well.

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#3

- The grant allowed us to have interventions around transition, as this was the need. We are sharing our data and our resources with non-grantee district schools.
- Include your feeder schools early in the process
- I should have reached out to other grantees to keep me from reinventing the wheel.
- Don't get so wrapped up in data and reports and services that you put things off. Don't wait until the last minute. Believe in yourself.
- This is a great opportunity to take a risk. Hire early. Budget planning if surplus – have a plan. Think when to implement – important to have an implementation strategy.

#4

- Don't work in silos – Communicate! Create a team approach. Data showed students starting college, but not finishing. Teachers didn't know this – share the data.
- Go to the PTA meeting. Communicate with all partners and they help spread the word and advocate for your program. Go to teacher meetings and department meetings. When the teachers find out you care about them too, they are very receptive and more responsive to your programs and interventions.
- Identify what you need to reach your identified goals. Figure out what you need. What you are doing right and what is not working. Stop doing what is not working.

#5

- Be a stickler on the budget. Spend your dollars appropriately and get your PD.
- Needs assessment - may show multiple needs. Focus on just two or three. Keep it simple and then it will be sustainable. Build a culture of sustainability.
- Take time to get people at team meetings. Take time to put yourself on the principal's calendar. Think and talk about budget. Go to CSCA, it is so helpful.
- Have fun – don't stress. Create goals that are achievable and interventions that fit and work for your kids.