

2026 Program & Impact Report

Our first full cohort, from application to move-in.



Students from the 2026 cohort at the Orientation and Celebration, hosted at the Napa Valley Community Foundation, July 15, 2026.

A NOTE FROM THE FOUNDER

Why we do what we do.

When the idea for Campus Ready Foundation first came to Karen and me, we thought we'd support a few kids in our town. Then we learned that the need we proposed to fill is vast, and it doesn't stop where financial aid formulas say it should. We don't do things in a small way, so we decided to build a platform that can scale to support as many kids as possible.

This year I sat with single mothers who had no idea how they'd make college possible for their daughters, and who had carried that uncertainty alone for years. I met first-generation parents who spoke little English, distrusted a system that was never explained to them, and were proud of their kids but weren't sure how to pay for getting them to school. I learned that the gap isn't only money. It could be debt a family can't afford to take on, or the distance between getting in and getting there.

Here's what I believe. A student who, against all odds, did the work, got the grades, and earned a place in college shouldn't lose their shot over move-in essentials and the cost of getting there.

The system isn't set up for those kids. We are.

Eric Lilavois

Founder



Karen Dantzler and Amara Boerner after the Orientation and Celebration.



2026 IN FIGURES

The Highlights

STUDENTS SERVED

35

from application through move-in day

COLLEGES ATTENDED

21

institutions in six states

APPLICANTS AWARDED

100%

of eligible, on-time applicants. No rationing, no lottery.

ITEMS SHIPPED

1,479

in kits each student customized

COST PER STUDENT, ALL-IN

\$1,244

against \$1,350 projected in the spring

THE PROBLEM

Financial aid stops short

Financial aid was designed to cover tuition, room, and board. It was not designed to cover moving away from home, the flight to campus, or the costs that mount the week before classes start. For many students those costs arrive without warning and without a solution.

That is the moment Campus Ready was built for.

43% of our students qualify for the federal government's highest designation of financial need, yet the aid they receive does not cover move-in or travel. Our grants are not cash. We deliver the products and services directly: personalized move-in essentials, travel to campus, and early arrival meals.



A family after the Orientation and Celebration in July.

The metrics that matter

43%

15 of 35 grant recipients carried a Student Aid Index of zero or below, the federal maximum-need designation

49%

17 of 35 received SNAP, WIC, or free school meals

63%

22 of 35 reported at least one hardship circumstance, from a parent out of work to no home internet

\$65,000

median household income. Median income per household member: \$16,573.

20%

7 of 35 contributed financially to their own households

Full cohort detail, including home states and relocation distance, appears in the appendix.

FULFILLMENT

1,479 items, packed for one student at a time



Every kit was shopped based on the student's own choices and shipped to arrive at home before they left for campus, or delivered to campus. Bedding, bath, desk supplies, and personal care, in the colors, scents, and sizes each student selected.

\$744.11

average kit cost per student, \$26,043.96 in total

Maria Mosconi, UC Berkeley, the day her packages arrived.

One cycle, start to finish

By May 15

45 completed applications received. Applications closed May 15. Three arrived after the deadline and one did not meet program criteria, leaving 41 eligible, on-time applicants.

May 27

41 students awarded: every eligible, on-time applicant.

July 1

Kit customization. Each student chose colors, scents, sizes, and firmness from a 174-product catalog.

Mid-July

35 students confirmed. Six of the 41 stepped away before move-in, among them one who could no longer afford on-campus housing, one who could not afford a four-year school, enrolled at a community college, and will be residing at home, and one whose family lost their home, was unsure where she'd be living, and put college on hold. The fragility we exist to address was evident.

July 15

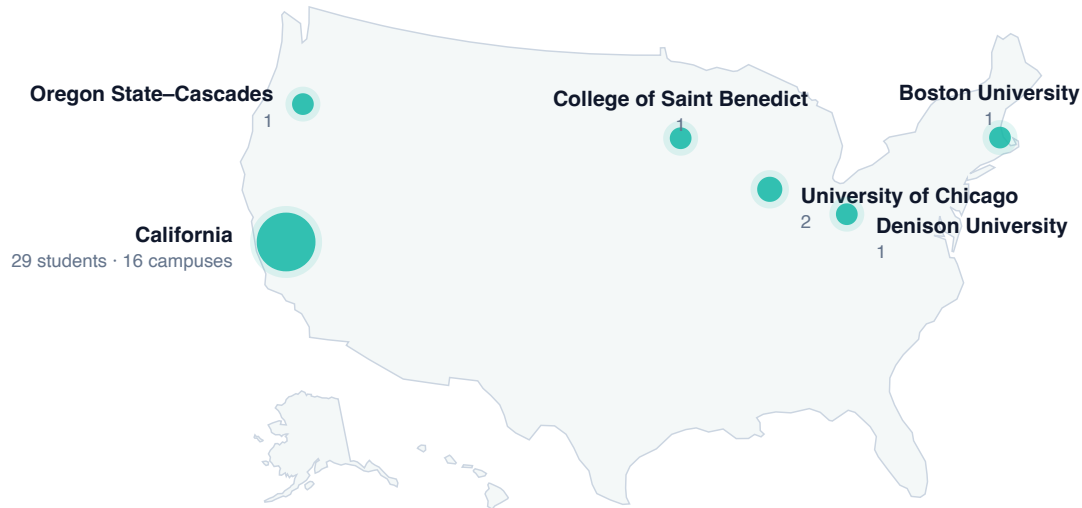
Orientation and Celebration, hosted at the Napa Valley Community Foundation, with 25 students and their families attending. Travel and meal credits were issued in the room.

August

Move-in. Students headed to campus with their personalized move-in essentials, door-to-door travel covered, parents included when they traveled along, and extra support for incidentals.

WHERE OUR STUDENTS WENT TO SCHOOL

21 institutions, six states



Dots are sized by the number of students enrolled. California students attend 16 campuses across the state.

83%

in California, 29 students

17%

out of state, 6 students went to Illinois, Massachusetts, Ohio, Minnesota, and Oregon

THE SCHOOLS

Public flagships, state schools, and a few small colleges

CALIFORNIA, 29 STUDENTS

15 at University of California campuses, 43% of the cohort, including 7 at UC Davis. 11 at California State University campuses, 31%. 3 at California privates: University of San Francisco, two students, and Whittier College.

OUT OF STATE, 6 STUDENTS

University of Chicago, a top-ten national university, two students. Boston University. Denison University. College of Saint Benedict. Oregon State University–Cascades.

19 of 35

attend NCAA Division I institutions, 54% of the cohort.



Students at the Orientation and Celebration, July 15.

Guidance for the weeks before move-in

A grant covers what a student needs. Travel to campus, move-in essentials, and early arrival meals. It does not tell them what the first week will feel like. On July 15, 25 of our 35 grant recipients and their families attended the first Campus Ready Orientation and Celebration, hosted at the Napa Valley Community Foundation. Teams from 10,000 Degrees and If Given a Chance joined us.

Students walked in to a phrase on the screen: Prepare to be Prepared. A representative from 10,000 Degrees walked them through what college move-in day actually looks like, and a Napa Valley Unified School District counselor spoke about what it takes to feel like you belong once you are there. Students received their Lyft ride codes and DoorDash credits, a travel card powered by Ramp, and a gift card from Target.

Three mothers separately told us, through tears, that the support we gave their daughters was support they had once wondered how they would provide themselves.



Eric Lilavois speaking to the first cohort, July 15.

PARTNERS

Partner support, applied directly to the cohort



A community engagement grant, used to issue students gift cards for incidentals.



Ride credits covering door-to-door travel: home to airport, airport to campus, and direct rides for students staying close to home.



Community Credits for meals and groceries in the days before dining halls open.



Students show off their Target gift cards at the Orientation and Celebration.

In their words

“Everything got here!!! I am extremely grateful for all the support I’ve received from Campus Ready Foundation, THANKS!!!”

Maria Mosconi, texted the day her kit arrived

“I truly feel ready now. This would not have been possible without Campus Ready.”

Melanie Avila · Sonoma, CA · Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

“Thank you so much for all the support you have provided as I prepare to start college. I am incredibly grateful for the Campus Ready Scholarship and for everything you have done to help make this transition easier for my family.”

Journey Penterman · Napa, CA · Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

WHAT IT COST

The model held

\$1,244

all-in cost per student, against \$1,350 projected in the spring report.

The all-in figure covers the move-in kit, our cash outlay for travel, and the partner credits applied to each student. We planned the 2026 program on an estimate. We can now price 2027 on an actual.

\$995

cash cost per student, excluding applied partner credits

\$13,750

in partner support applied to the 2026 cohort

Line-by-line program actuals appear in the appendix. Student travel cards remain active through October 15, 2026; figures reflect the fully reconciled travel model as of publication.

2027

Next year, priced on actuals

125

students, our 2027 target

\$150,000

fundraising goal, built on the verified per-student cost rather than an estimate

The systems are already built

Application scoring, kit customization and fulfillment, travel coordination, and orientation all ran for 35-students this year and the system is designed to scale. No reinvention necessary.

New reach

To help us reach more students, the STARS College Network is confirmed for the 2027 cycle, and conversations are underway with additional student-serving organizations. 10,000 Degrees will be working alongside us again to reach students throughout California.



With students from If Given a Chance, a Napa Valley organization working with students we serve.

APPENDIX

Program actuals and cohort detail

PROGRAM ACTUALS, 35 STUDENTS

Move-in kits, 1,479 items shipped	\$26,043.96, \$744.11 avg per student
Travel, CRF cash outlay	\$8,757, budgeted \$10,071 with contingency
Lyft ride credits, applied	\$150 per student
DoorDash Community Credits, applied	\$100 per student
Operating expenses	\$2,500
All-in cost per student, excluding operating	\$1,244, cash cost \$995

COHORT DETAIL, FINAL 35

High-need SAI, zero or below, federal maximum-need designation	15 of 35, 43%
Receiving SNAP, WIC, or free school meals	17 of 35, 49%
Financial contributors to their own households	7 of 35, 20%
Parent unemployed or underemployed	4 of 35, 11%
No home internet or computer	2 of 35, 6%
At least one reported hardship circumstance	22 of 35, 63%
Median household income	\$65,000
Median income per household member	\$16,573
Young women / young men	74% / 26%
Relocating 500 or more miles from home	10 of 35, 29%
Home states	California 33, Florida 1, Massachusetts 1

We will report first-year persistence for this cohort in spring 2027.



The Campus Ready Foundation Board of Directors and Advisory Board.
Karen Dantzler, Eric Lilavois, Terri Linder, Xochilt Polanco, and Janie Green

Campus Ready Foundation
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eric@campusready.org
campusready.org
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