The purpose of the College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACG) is to form partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and organizations through matching challenge grants that are aimed at preparing and increasing the number of low income students who enter and succeed in postsecondary education. According to the U.S. Department of Education grants are awarded to provide information to students and families regarding postsecondary education and career preparation; promote financial literacy and debt management; conduct outreach activities; assist students in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA); provide need-based grant aid; conduct professional development for guidance counselors at middle and secondary schools, financial aid administrators, and college admissions counselors; and offer loan repayment and cancellation options to students.

Eight programs under the auspices of the Office of Special Programs at WSU were awarded grants through the Kansas Board of Regents. The following provides a brief description of those projects.

**TRIO/Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) Program Ambassadors.** EOC is conducting multi-faceted college opportunity information and outreach to at least 300 eligible adults ages 25 and over. The goal is to make contact with Pell eligible adults who have some college credit, are unemployed, and wish to re-enter the workforce as productive college educated personnel. To achieve this grant goal, EOC is convening a cadre of ambassadors composed of EOC program alumni. These ambassadors disseminate information about college access to other adults including applying to the EOC program. The EOC program trains up to fifty ambassadors.

**The Communication Upward Bound Program (CUB)** is offering the following activities and services with CACG funding:
- Let’s WRAP (Writing Resumes, Applications and Papers) sessions
- Reading club that feature local authors like U.L. Rip Gooch and Riccardo Harris
- Conversations with Charles F. McAfee about memories of Gordon Parks
- Financial literacy workshops
- FAFSA assistance
- Scholarship packet for high school seniors.
- Support staff for writing, the Homework Assistance Program (HAP) and CUB Projects.

**The Upward Bound Wichita Prep Program (UBWP)** is utilizing CACG funding to disseminate information to students and parents in the following areas:
- Career Exploration and Financial Literacy
- FAFSA and scholarships assistance
- College Preparation (tutoring and homework assistance, college admissions)
- ACT and SAT preparation
- Parent leadership to guide parents to understand income taxes, FAFSA completion, college preparation, ACT prep, and college admission process
- Mindset coaching to build high esteem in students and their families

**TRIO Talent Search** has expanded tutoring services in the target schools, hosts several ACT workshops during the school year, increased the number of campus visits, and implemented FAFSA activities for students and their families as a result of CACG funding. The summer enrichment program has been expanded to 75 middle school students and the duration of the summer program has increased to seven weeks. Summer courses are taught by certified teachers and the eighth grade students are offered out-of-state campus visits. The talent show and awards ceremony, held at the end of the summer program, has been expanded as well.
TRIO Hosted CACG Programs

The Upward Bound Math Science assists the Center with provision of services in the following ways:
- Additional academic support of Study Buddies featuring study groups focused on difficult courses with high-enrollment, ACT and SAT preparation services are included using workshops and Communication Fitness, an on-line tutorial program.
- Implementation of a College Bridge Component for UBMS graduates to take summer courses on the WSU campus while residing in the university residence halls.
- Family college planning services including financial literacy, bi-monthly newsletter and parent programming prepare parents for the college going process.

Veterans Upward Bound supports the transition of families of veterans into college. Located on the main WSU campus, the grant serves veterans and their dependents in three Kansas counties: Butler, Harvey and Sedgwick. The goal is to prepare participants for post-secondary education or vocational/technical schools of their choosing. Services have been enhanced through CACG in providing post-secondary, personal, and career counseling, assessment of academic skills, assistance with completing college admission and financial aid (FSAFA) forms and college readiness workshops.

The Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP provides low-income and at-risk middle school students in Kansas the flexibility of an online schedule. Students are able to choose and participate in a financial literacy program that fits the needs of their busy lifestyles, one that is sensitive to pre-teens’ school activities, and family obligations. Highlights of the program include:
- Students learn to work at their own pace.
- Students can log into their account, stop and start, review materials, and revisit past modules until they have completed the course. The program is accessible anyplace, anytime.
- A variety of incentives may be earned as students progress through the course’s modules and successfully complete each one.
- The research-based curriculum was created using the National Standards for Personal Financial Literacy.
- Testing is recorded after each module to ensure students comprehend the material before moving to the next section.

The Homework Assistance Program (HAP) is funded, in part, by the U.S. Department Of Education and hosted by WSU. With university support and the cooperation of schools throughout the Wichita-Metro area, the program provides drop-in tutoring and homework assistance during the school year to students in grades 6 through 12 who are enrolled in one of the TRIO or Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP pre-college programs. The HAP staff consists of certified instructors from Wichita public schools as well as academically capable college students who serve as tutors and mentors. The staff work diligently with students to provide guided curriculum practice or help with homework assignments. In addition, students receive help with test preparation, address academic deficiencies, and provide assistance in core assignments.

The after-school Homework Assistance Program is held Monday-Thursday, during the school year, in Brennan Hall on the WSU main campus.