



## Early awareness programs

Tools to help students and families succeed.



## USA Funds Early Awareness Programs

Many families need more-complete information about the value of education following high school, the range of education options available to them and the wide availability of financial aid. USA Funds®' early awareness programs introduce middle school students and their families to the benefits of and options for education after high school.

Two programs, USA Funds Consejos and USA Funds Unlock the Future®, offer easy-to-use video presentations that schools, community agencies and faith-based organizations can deliver to students and their families. These programs are offered at no cost.



# USA Funds Unlock the Future

USA Funds Unlock the Future challenges students to dream, informs them of their career and educational options and encourages them to plan for the future. The program encourages adults to play an active role in their children's future.

The curriculum is built around a video that follows Dominique Taylor as she plans "the biggest Sweet 16 party that East High School has ever seen." The only thing standing in her way is algebra. Then life brings unexpected changes to the Taylor family — and when it seems all hope is lost, Dominique re-discovers what really matters. Dominique's and her family's experiences provide a springboard for discussion and activities designed to help students along the pathway to postsecondary education. The video also features special guest, actor Nick Cannon.



# USA Funds Consejos

Designed to inform Latino students and their families about the value of a postsecondary education, this flexible program allows presenters to customize the presentation to include middle school students, parents or the entire family.

The curriculum features a video, presented in the popular telenovela format, that follows the Chavez family as two brothers plan for their future. Robbie Chavez is unsure if he wants to attend college after high school — and his big brother David isn't helping when he tells Robbie that "college isn't for everyone." When David's position is eliminated at work and he doesn't have the education requirements to take a higher level position, he realizes that he was wrong. The family's experiences provide a springboard for discussion and activities designed to help families understand what options are available after high school and how to prepare for postsecondary education.





## Facilitating the programs

Both programs come with a meeting-planning guide that makes it easy to plan, prepare and facilitate the program. Each program also includes workbooks for students and parents, fliers to help promote the presentation, posters, pens and other giveaways to encourage students to continue to plan for the future.

USA Funds Unlock the Future and USA Funds Consejos are available to schools, community- and faith-based organizations, with priority consideration given to those located in states where USA Funds is the designated guarantor — Arizona, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada and Wyoming — as well as those in California, Florida and Texas; and those connected with minority-serving postsecondary institutions or with local, state and national educational organizations that help prepare students and families for postsecondary education.

More information about USA Funds Unlock the Future and USA Funds Consejos is available from the USA Funds Web site at [www.usafunds.org](http://www.usafunds.org) in the section for “Organizations Supporting Higher Education.”

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