**Fight to Preserve Upward Bound!**

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, the Department of Education has released the draft Upward Bound application which proposes a new funding structure aimed at reducing the cost-per-student to $4,500 or less. This proposed reduction will compromise program quality and irrevocably change the program that has transformed young people’s lives since 1965.

This week, COE met with Department officials who have indicated they have only received FOUR responses from the TRIO community about the potential impact of these changes. In the past, the Department has received thousands of comments in response to proposed changes. It is critical that representatives from each Upward Bound program speak out and make their voices heard.

I am asking each Upward Bound program to secure at least FIVE responses to the proposed application by next Friday, November 18. Ideally, the comments will come from: the project director, a senior administrator at your institution, teachers at your program, teachers and principals for your target schools, parents and alumni. (While the official deadline to submit comments is November 30, we want to ensure that the Department of Education and the Office of Management and Budget have sufficient time to review and consider all comments before the Thanksgiving holiday.)

We know that many of you have shared your concerns with COE, but it is vital that you file official comments as well; otherwise, these concerns will not be considered. It is also critical that you send a copy of your letter to your U.S. Representative and Senators and their legislative aides.

To see the application in the Federal Register, please go to: [http://edicsweb.ed.gov/browse/downldatt.cfm?pkg_serial_num=4742](http://edicsweb.ed.gov/browse/downldatt.cfm?pkg_serial_num=4742).

Please note that COE’s legal counsel has assured us that TRIO personnel may use work time and resources to respond to the draft application because the Department solicited public comments and responding to a request for comments is not lobbying.

**What Should the Comments Say?**

Comments do not have to be long. They can be as simple as a paragraph reflecting on questions like the following:

- **FOR UPWARD BOUND DIRECTORS/STAFF:**
  - How have you already had to “do more with less” over the last several years?
  - How would your programs have to change as a result in the cut in per-student cost? (Provide specific examples, like having to reduce the number of weeks of your residential program, eliminating college tours, reducing hours of tutoring services, etc.)
  - How much would these changes impact the student experience in UB?
  - In terms of program management, would you have to reduce the number of staff or hours they work?
• **FOR UPWARD BOUND STUDENTS/ALUMNI:**

  o How much did Upward Bound influence your decisions about your future (e.g., deciding to go to college, picking your major, choosing your career field, etc.)?

  o How did the experiences in Upward Bound, such as college tours, living on a college campus during the summer, and being mentored by tutor counselors, impact your life?

  o Where do you think you would be today without Upward Bound?

• **FOR UPWARD BOUND PARENTS:**

  o How has Upward Bound impacted your child’s life?

  o Has participation in Upward Bound influenced any other members of your family to pursue college?

  o Where do you think your child would be without Upward Bound?

Sample letters are attached for your convenience.

**What About Congress?**

In addition to filing official comments, COE strongly encourages Upward Bound programs to alert their Representatives and Senators to the potential threat and urge them to weigh in with the Department of Education as well. Contact information for all Members of Congress is available at [http://www.contactingthecongress.org](http://www.contactingthecongress.org). Also make sure you email your comments to the legislative aide you work with.

COE is happy to assist you in reaching out to your legislators regarding this issue. We have provided the attached set of talking points to assist you in contacting Capitol Hill.

**What If I Have More Questions?**

COE will be hosting two conference calls next week for Upward Bound programs about the comment process and our efforts to overturn this proposal. The calls will take place at:

• Tuesday, November 15 at 3pm (Eastern)

• Wednesday, November 16 at 11 am (Eastern)

To participate in the calls, please dial 1-800-747-5150 and use Access Code 4445658.

**Where Do I Send the Comments?**

**(COE Suggests You E-Mail Your Comments)**

Comments should be sent via U.S. mail, fax, or e-mail to the contact information below:
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

Attention: Education Desk Office

Office of Management and Budget

725 17th Street NW, Room 10222,

New Executive Office Building

Washington, DC 20503

FAX: (202) 395-5806

E-MAIL: oira_submission@omb.eop.gov with a cc: to ICDocketMgr@ed.gov.

Please send copies of your comments to COE at Nicole.Ward@coenet.us.

Again, we need each Upward Bound program to submit FIVE comments to the Department by next Friday, November 18. Please be sure to use the contact information above and to send a copy (only) to nicole.ward@coenet.us at COE.

Together, we can defeat this proposal and ensure continued access to high quality, intensive support services for Upward Bound and all TRIO students.

Sincerely,

Arnold Mitchem

President

Please do not "reply" to this e-mail as the general Government Relations address is not checked on a regular basis. Please send responses directly to heather.valentine@coenet.us or kimberly.jones@coenet.us. Thank you.

**The next couple of pages contain sample letters.**
[DATE]

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Attention: Education Desk Office  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street NW, Room 10222,  
New Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20503

Re: Application for Grants under the Upward Bound Program  
OMB Control Number: 1840-0550

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is [NAME] and I am a [student/alumus/a] of the Upward Bound program at [HOST INSTITUTION.] I am writing in response to the draft application for grants awards under the Upward Bound program, published at 76 F.R. 67,156 (Oct. 31, 2011). I am very concerned about the proposed reduction in the cost-per-student. This change will not allow the program that has changed my life to continue to impact low-income, first-generation students just like me.

Upward Bound has had a profound impact on my life. Many of my experiences in the program transformed my vision of what I could accomplish and gave me the tools and the desire to succeed. [PROVIDE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF PROGRAM EXPERIENCES THAT IMPACTED YOU AND YOUR COLLEGE/CAREER CHOICES]

Please do not take away the opportunity for so many students in need to receive the benefits of this life-changing program. Reject this proposal and allow Upward Bound programs to continue providing intensive services to the students who need it most.

Sincerely,

[NAME]
[DATE]

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Attention: Education Desk Office
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW, Room 10222,
New Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503

Re: Application for Grants under the Upward Bound Program
OMB Control Number: 1840-0550

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is [NAME] and my child is a student in the Upward Bound program at [HOST INSTITUTION.] I am writing in response to the draft application for grants awards under the Upward Bound program, published at 76 F.R. 67,156 (Oct. 31, 2011). I am very concerned about the proposed reduction in the cost-per-student and the impact it will have on my child’s experience in this program.

Through this program, I have literally seen my child transform into a driven, focused young [man/lady] who is determined to [go to/graduate from] college and succeed. I know that this change is a result of [his/her] participation in Upward Bound because it has provided the guidance that [he/she] needs and has been unable to get from other sources. [ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT NEW QUALITIES EXHIBITED BY THE CHILD - BETTER STUDY HABITS, MORE DETERMINATION AND FOCUS - AND BY SIBLINGS AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS.]

As a parent and as a citizen, I strongly support Upward Bound and I urge you not to reduce the amount the program can spend on each child. Only by investing in our young people today will we be able to ensure our future tomorrow.

Sincerely,

[NAME]