



## **Single Stop Announces Social Innovation Fund Study Results and Latest Performance Numbers**

Independent research conducted by RAND reveals Single Stop clients are more successful in college

For Immediate Release

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Boston, MA - At a press conference this morning, Single Stop USA, the national nonprofit focused on eradicating poverty through connecting those in need to the more than \$1 trillion in available governmental programs and resources, announced the results of a recent study into the organization's effect on student achievement and success. The Social Innovation Fund-sponsored study was funded through New Profit and spearheaded by independent evaluators at RAND. The study observed low income, first-time college students and tracked Single Stop programs at 11 community college campuses. Overall, the evaluators found that students who use Single Stop are more successful than their counterparts who do not. Additionally, year-to-year persistence rates increased by as much as 11% over those students who did not take advantage of Single Stop's services.

Cost is a major barrier to success in postsecondary education, and traditional financial aid programs are often insufficient to meet the needs of students with low-incomes. Public benefit programs and other resources can help students achieve the financial stability they need to be able to persist and achieve in school. These are existing, funded programs that can be difficult to navigate. Powered by state-of-the-art software and a world-class staff, one visit to a Single Stop site streamlines coordinated access to these programs. Leveraging these resources, Single Stop clients can move forward, progressing toward economic stability, empowered to reach their full potential.

The RAND study investigated program effects at Bunker Hill Community College, six CUNY Community College campuses, Delgado Community College, and three Miami Dade College campuses in the Fall of 2014. It compared students who used Single Stop, to students who did not use the program but were similar in many ways (e.g., demographic, income, and academic characteristics). Results showed that students who used Single Stop were more successful than students in the comparison group.

- Single Stop clients persist longer in college, from 3-16%, varying by college and the Single Stop services utilized.
  - One-semester and one-year persistence rates were at least 3% higher for students across the study who received any Single Stop service.
  - Students receiving tax services were found to persist at rates 12%-16% higher than comparable students who did not receive tax services.

- Single Stop clients attempted and earned more credit hours on average than students who did not utilize the services, with results varying by college.
- Findings were particularly positive for Single Stop users who were adult learners (age 25 and older), independent students, and nonwhite students.

“We could not be prouder of RAND’s findings; these numbers illustrate very impressive results in our fight against poverty,” said Single Stop CEO Christy Reeves. “However, it’s our clients—these students—who tell the real story of our success,” she said. “They are some of the most tenacious people around; it’s their drive and resulting accomplishments that fuel our passion and fulfill our mission,” Reeves said.

A panel of experts was on hand to discuss the impact of the study on the field of higher education, including Pam Y. Eddinger, Bunker Hill Community College President, accompanied by two students; J. Noah Brown, President and CEO of the Association of Community College Trustees; and Rahn Dorsey, Chief of Education for the City of Boston. The panel was moderated by Margaret Hall, the GreenLight National Executive Director.

“We are encouraged and not at all surprised by RAND’s findings that prove the success of Single Stop,” said Association of Community College Trustees President and CEO J. Noah Brown. “We already knew through our partnership that Single Stop services connect the neediest community college students with the resources they need to persist and succeed. We look forward to continuing our partnership to advance student success and college completion,” said Brown.

The positive outcomes highlighted in the RAND study are supported by interim results released this Fall, of a second independent study being conducted by Metis, and also sponsored through SIF and GreenLight. Results of that study will be released in 2018. For additional information and to download the full RAND report on Single Stop, visit [www.singlestop.org/RAND](http://www.singlestop.org/RAND).

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#### About Single Stop:

Single Stop USA is providing a solution to poverty in America through connecting people in need to the more than \$1 trillion in governmental anti-poverty resources. These are existing, funded programs that are often under-marketed, with cumbersome application processes or ambiguous requirements. This confusion ends and the American Dream begins at Single Stop. In one visit, our world-class staff and state-of-the-art software suite create a unique profile and resource roadmap, based on an individual’s data. Leveraging these resources, our clients can move forward, progressing toward economic stability, empowered to reach their full potential.

#### About Social Innovation Fund:

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. The SIF empowers organizations to identify and support sustainable solutions that are already making a significant impact in transforming communities. For more information, visit [nationalservice.gov](http://nationalservice.gov)