

A pathway to greatness

The East Bay College Fund is a college access and graduation model that helps students from some of the poorest and most violent neighborhoods believe in their abilities, persist and attain a college degree.

Nearly three of every ten children in Oakland live in households that earn less than \$23,000. For many young people, a college education is a pipe dream even though they are smart enough to get in.



A college degree raises up an individual, a community and expands possibilities.

We make that happen.

The single most effective tool in escaping poverty is a college education. Graduates earn about 85% more than those without a degree, and education opens up a world of opportunity. Individuals who achieve college degrees also pass on the value of higher education to their children, family and communities.



**More than a scholarship:
Counseling. Mentoring. Developing Careers.**

The East Bay College Fund provides scholarships, mentoring, and a system of intensive preparation and support that buoys our Scholars’ existing strengths and taps into their abilities.

We look for students who are typically overlooked for scholarships yet show great desire and resiliency. Every year we guide more promising young people to apply to college and persist to graduation.

The East Bay College Fund serves almost 1,000 students from elementary school through college.



“The East Bay College Fund fuels my confidence.”

–S. Vargas, East Bay College Fund Scholar

What makes our model work

Great Expectations Program

- Substantial \$16,000 scholarship (\$4,000 per year).
- Individual Mentor for college tenure.
- College Counselors provide ongoing guidance and support.
- Unique life skills workshops, financial training and semi-annual personal growth retreats.
- Networking and career development.

College Crews

- On-campus peer mentoring and leadership development program.
- Trained upperclassmen support our freshmen and sophomores as well as students from partner schools and agencies.
- Help students connect to resources on campus, inspire peer accountability, and assist with financial aid and scholarships.

Reboot

- Specialized intensive support groups to help Scholars dismissed from college successfully re-enter 4-year colleges.

College Access Program

- Full-time staff members at Oakland Unified schools guide 9th-12th grade students, parents, and school community members towards college.
- Assist with college and financial aid applications and school selections.
- Strategic summer bridge programs to keep students on track.

African American Male Achievement Initiative

- Partnership with Oakland Unified School District and UC Berkeley’s Destination College to orient young men towards higher education.
- Provide weekly college awareness and preparation classes taught by our alumni to 300 9th-12th graders on five campuses.
- All seniors who qualify for our scholarship will have priority consideration.

Early Pledge

- With our partners, we commit \$1,000 scholarships to elementary students to encourage them to prepare for higher education.

“It’s not easy for anyone to get through college, let alone if you are the first in your family. I love giving to East Bay College Fund, because they support students all the way through college to a degree.”

A. Lee,
East Bay College Fund Mentor & Donor

