



High School Equivalency Program/ College Assistance Migrant Program (HEP/CAMP)

Program Description

Farmworker migrant and seasonal worker students are some of the most disadvantaged and at-risk students. They have one of the highest dropout rates in the country. They encounter tremendous obstacles in completing high school and pursuing higher education.

For over three decades, the **High School Equivalency (HEP) /College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)** have been successful in helping to close the access and completion gaps for many first generation low-income minority farmworker migrant and seasonal worker students particularly Latinos who programs are served by these programs.

The **High School Equivalency program (HEP)** grantees provide intensive GED instruction and support services to migrant students who have not completed high school. HEP provides personal, academic, vocational counseling, health services, stipends, and housing for residential programs.

The **College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)** grantees provide intensive support services to help migrant students make the transition into college. CAMP offers academic support, personal and career counseling, stipends, scholarships, health services, and other supports necessary to ensure that migrant students are successful in college.

Currently there are 82 programs (44 HEP and 38 CAMP) throughout the country particularly in states with high farmworker migrant and seasonal worker populations such as California, Texas, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, Florida and many other states. Every year, over 6,000 students are served by the HEP Program and 2,000 students are served by the CAMP Program, many of whom are the first in their family to attend college.

The HEP/CAMP programs are authorized under the *Higher Education Act* section 418(A) and administered by the United States Department of Education's Office of Migrant Education (OME). The Department of Education awards competitive five-year grants to institutions of higher education or to private non-profit organizations who work in cooperation with institutions of higher education.

Budget History

The HEP/CAMP programs are relatively small programs. In FY 2003, the year of their peak funding levels HEP received \$23.35 million and CAMP received \$15.40 million for a total of \$38.75 million and there were 102 programs throughout the country. Since FY 2004, HEP/CAMP has experienced declining funding levels. As a result, 20 HEP/CAMP programs have been eliminated in states with high farmworker migrant student populations. For example, Wisconsin and Florida had several CAMP programs for many years but currently have no CAMP programs

For FY 2009, the House Appropriations Subcommittee recommends a slight increase for HEP/CAMP for FY 2009 (see budget chart below). In FY 2009, the most experienced and successful HEP/CAMP programs are up for competitive five-year grants. If HEP/CAMP does not get an increase in funding in FY 2009, the Department of Education estimates that another 3 HEP and 3 CAMP programs will be eliminated due to limited funding.



FY 2010, the **National High School Equivalency Program (HEP)/ College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) Association**, a non-profit membership organization comprised of HEP/CAMP Programs urges the President to increase funding for HEP/CAMP in the amount of \$30 million for HEP Program and \$20 million for the CAMP Program for a total of \$50 million. This amount would support existing programs, reinstate some of the programs that were eliminated, and add programs where there is the most need. Most importantly an increase in funding would ensure that a larger number of farmworker migrant students can be served by these programs.

Funding History

Funding History	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009 President's Proposal for	Association Proposal for FY 2009	FY 2009 Congressional Proposals
in millions					
HEP	\$18.55	\$18.22	\$18.22	\$30	House \$19.10 Senate \$18.22
CAMP	\$15.53	\$15.10	\$15.10	\$20	House \$15.86 Senate \$15.22

Legislative Update

The recently enacted *Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEAO)* recognizes the importance of the HEP/CAMP program. It increased the authorization levels for HEP-CAMP to \$75 million, an increase of \$55 million. HEAO also makes some changes to the existing authorizing statute that would expand and improve the HEP/CAMP services to farmworker students to ensure they have the best opportunity to complete their GED and pursue higher education in an effort to better their lives for themselves, their family and their community.

Profiles

When I heard about the High School Equivalency Program in Presidio, Texas, I realized that this would be my last opportunity to get my GED diploma. I come from a low-income farm-working family and in helping them doing farm work I never finished high school. Matter of fact, my English was not that great before I enrolled at the University of Texas at El Paso HEP. I knew that the HEP program would open doors for me, not only for obtaining a GED but to go to college. I thank the HEP teachers and the staff for their unselfish caring and for helping me to successfully finish my high school education. I am now attending El Paso Community College and plan to transfer to UTEP and major in Computer Science.

-- Juan Carlos Muñoz University of Texas El Paso CAMP

Mavet Mora arrived in this country at the age of eight. She had to learn English while working on content subjects and helping her parents work in the fields during her breaks. Mavert's family are low-income farm workers. She is the first in her family to graduate from a university. When she joined the College-Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) at Fresno State she showed great potential and leadership. Her classes were extremely challenging. However, she always managed to earn excellent grades, while devoting her limited time to help her community. Mavert majored in business administration and accounting. Despite her humble origins, through hard work and the support of the CAMP program, Mavet is the first CAMP student to graduate with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

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