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**CRADLE TO CAREER**  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## TCCC receives \$40,000 grant to focus on FAFSA Charleston one of 25 cities selected for FAFSA Completion Challenge

North Charleston, SC - [National College Access Network](#) (NCAN) has selected Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative (TCCC) to receive a \$40,000 grant for the 2018-2019 FAFSA Completion Challenge.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) provides grants, loans and work-study funds to students and is a pivotal part in many students' decision to attend college. NCAN challenges each of the [25 grant recipients](#) to increase their city's FAFSA completion rates by at least 5 percentage points for the graduating high school class of 2019.

TCCC will work in partnership with Charleston County School District, the City of Charleston and Trident Technical College over the next year to meet that goal.

"Many of our most promising, college-bound students miss out on Pell Grant opportunities and other forms of financial aid because they don't complete the FAFSA," TCCC CEO John C. Read said. "This NCAN grant will empower TCCC and our partners to help more students get the financial assistance they need to attend and successfully complete college."

[The Kresge Foundation](#) and [Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates](#) funded the grant. The 2018-2019 competition builds on the success of the original Kresge-funded 2016-2017 FAFSA Completion Challenge.

"The 2016-17 Challenge demonstrated that cities could achieve significant progress in just one school year by working collaboratively across sectors to give students the FAFSA completion support they need," said Caroline Altman Smith, Kresge's deputy director for its education program. "This is a high-leverage investment for philanthropy because the FAFSA enables students to tap into huge amounts of government resources that often go unclaimed."

NCAN will award a \$100,000 grand prize in September 2019 to one of the 25 cities based on a holistic review of the percentage growth in completions, adoption of effective strategies, barriers overcome and likelihood of sustainability.

### About the Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative

The Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative (TCCC) is a community-wide movement in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties, South Carolina, focused on improving the quality of life of its citizens and its workforce through education. Using data and focused community collaboration across a continuum from "cradle-to-career," TCCC serves as a catalyst for widespread, systemic change, with the ultimate goal of increased success and economic prosperity for all.

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