



BRINGING UPWARD BOUND TO YOUR COMMUNITY: FEDERAL RESOURCES FOR COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Presented By : Matt Bisek

Oregon TRIO Association | 2026



INTRODUCTION

Presenter: Matt Bisek – OTA Executive Director

Agenda:

- **Overview of TRIO Programs & Upward Bound**
- **Impact of TRIO Upward Bound Programs**
- **Upcoming Federal Grant Application Opportunity**
- **Collaboration with Community Partners or College Institutions**
- **Steps to Get Involved**
- **Q&A Session**
- **Call to Action**

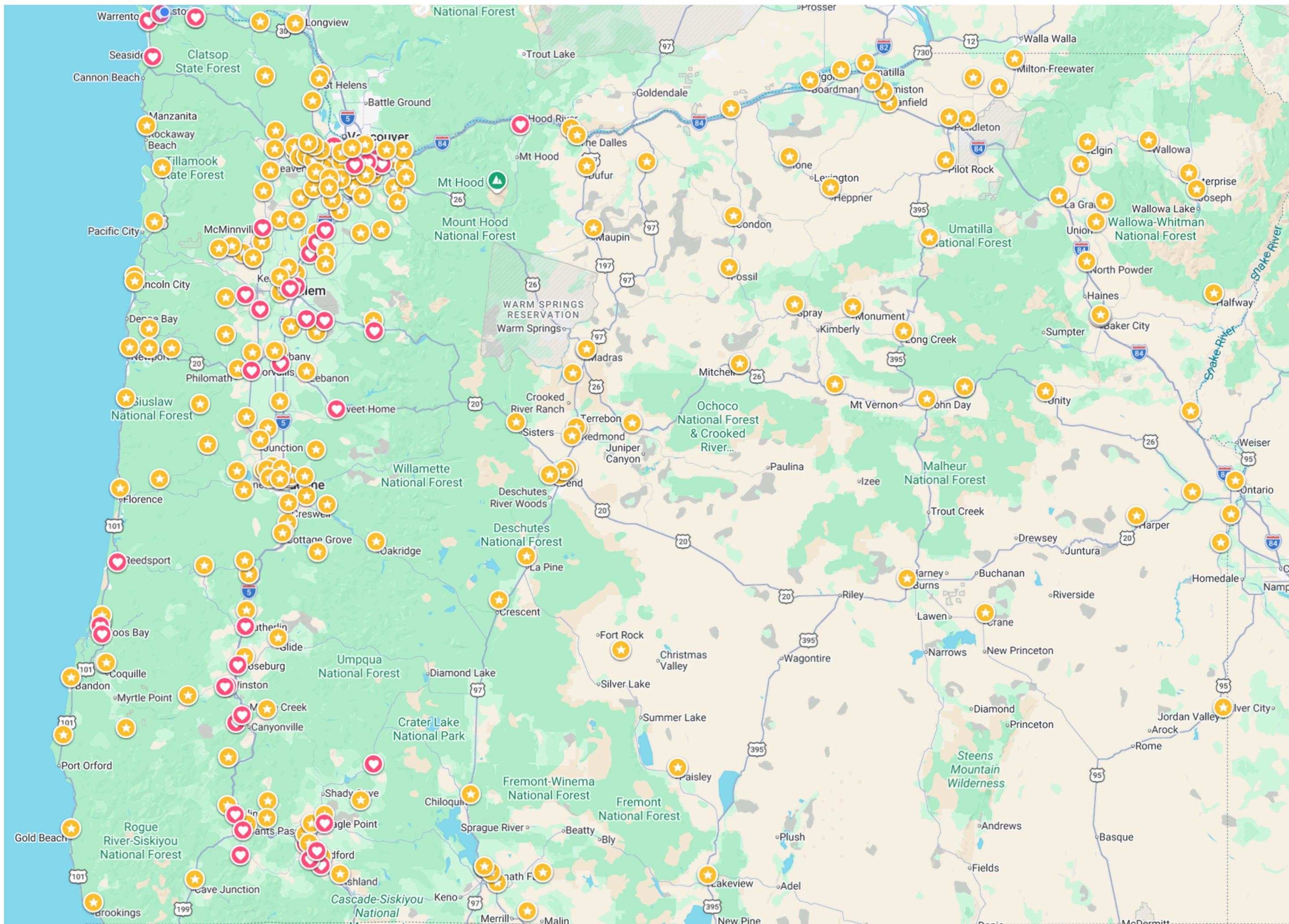


1968 HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

- **1964: Economic Opportunity Act** created Upward Bound as part of the War on Poverty, providing support to high school students from low-income families to prepare them for college.
- **1965: Higher Education Act (HEA)** introduced Talent Search to identify and assist individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education.
- **1968: Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act** established Student Support Services (SSS), aiming to increase college retention and graduation rates among disadvantaged college students.
- **TRIO:** The term "TRIO" was coined following the 1968 reauthorization to collectively refer to these three programs: Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Student Support Services.
- **Evolution:** Over time, TRIO expanded to include seven student-serving programs to supporting first-generation and low-income students through educational pathways.

OVERVIEW OF UPWARD BOUND PROGRAMS

- Specific goals of the Upward Bound program: to identify and assist individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education.
- Currently, \$275,000 / yr. to serve 60 students in grades 9-12
 - 5-year grant cycle
- Services Provided:
 - Academic, career, and financial counseling.
 - Assistance with college admissions and financial aid applications.
 - Tutoring, mentoring, and exposure to college campuses; including a 6-week summer program.
 - Workshops for families and students on preparing for college.
- Objectives
 - Secondary school persistence & graduation
 - Rigorous curriculum
 - Postsecondary enrollment & completion within 6 years



UPCOMING FEDERAL GRANT APPLICATION OPPORTUNITY

- Overview of the Grant
 - Anticipated Timeline – Due early 2027 (historically Dec 2026)
 - Funded programs would start Sept 2027
 - Previous RFP
 - 100 points will remain identical, and 6-9 points can be determined by DOE
 - Continuing programs can earn a bonus 15 points for meeting prior grant objectives
 - Newly funded grants will need a near-perfect score
 - 8% indirect to grantee, no matching required
- Eligibility and Application Requirements
 - School Districts, Non-Profits or College/University partners can write the grant
 - Upward Bound can serve current high school students
 - Can combine schools to meet 60 student caseload

COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- **How Collaboration Works**
 - Explanation of the collaborative process.
 - Examples of successful partnerships between schools and community partners/colleges.
- **Benefits of Collaboration**
 - Streamlined application process.
 - Access to additional resources and expertise.
 - Enhanced ability to serve students effectively.
- **OTA's Role**
 - Technical grant assistance and support
 - Full proposal reads and feedback
 - Coordinate collaboration to maximize expansion and avoid duplications

STEPS TO GET INVOLVED

- **Identifying Potential Partners**
 - Create buy-in from high school partners to serve their students
 - Identify who will write the grant
- **Next Steps for Schools**
 - Identify interest in being a Upward Bound School to OTA
 - Determine if the school wants to write the grant or partner with another institution
 - Complete an MOU
 - Agreement to support TRIO staff members, if funded, to work within your institution to help recruit and support students
- **Writing the Grant**
 - OTA will work closely with partners over the next several months to support the grant writing process, including a peer group of other experienced TRIO staff

QUESTIONS?

CALL TO ACTION

- **Call to Action:**
 - Join us in our efforts to direct millions of federal dollars into our communities of need to help support our schools and the students who are looking to improve their lives through education.
- **Contact:**
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