
Representative Danny K. Davis (D-IL)

Dr. William W. Sullivan TRIO Upward Bound Student Stipend Support Act

This bill would modernize the TRIO Upward Bound (UB) stipend to better enable low-income and first-generation students to successfully complete high school as well as enroll and complete higher education. Created in the 1960's, UB has transformed the lives of millions of Americans by providing students with barriers to higher education with support services that equip them with skills and tools needed for college success. By focusing on high school students from low-income families or from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree, UB successfully has increased the rates that these students complete secondary education as well as enroll in and graduate from post-secondary institutions. In FY2026, UB funded 1,159 projects overall, serving over 208,000 participants.

A key support for students is the monthly stipend that allows students the necessary time to focus on educational success. Low-income students often must work part-time to meet basic needs and ease financial stress. Stipends serve as an essential support for students to focus on their studies and academic preparation for college. Unfortunately, Congress last increased the maximum stipend amount for UB students four decades ago – in 1995, dramatically eroding the usefulness of the stipend due to inflation. Although stipend amounts vary based on student service hours, current law sets the maximum monthly stipend awards at \$40 during the academic year, \$60 over the summer, \$40 for Veteran UB participants, and \$300 for UB work-study summer students.

The Dr. William W. Sullivan TRIO Upward Bound Student Stipend Support Act would increase stipend awards to help students focus on educational preparation. Specifically, the bill would triple the maximum monthly stipends for the majority of UB participants while substantially increasing the Veteran stipends to meet the heightened responsibilities of these students. Further, the bill would maintain the stipend's value by adjusting it to inflation.

UB Participant Type	Current Maximum Monthly Stipend	Increased Maximum Monthly Stipend
During academic year	\$40	\$120
During summer	\$60	\$180
While employed in summer work-study	\$300	\$900
Veteran Participant	\$40	\$300

The Department of Education reports that matriculation through Upward Bound over an extended period of time results in better student academic outcomes and improved graduation success rates among participants. By modernizing the various UB stipend awards, the *Dr. William W. Sullivan TRIO Upward Bound Student Stipend Support Act* will help improve UB participant retention and completion rates by helping students focus on educational preparation and easing financial stress.

The bill is supported by the Council for Opportunity in Education, which offers training and services to student support staff at more than 1,000 colleges, universities, and agencies to help low-income students enter college and graduate. To cosponsor, please contact Jill.Hunter-Williams@mail.house.gov.