Five Things to Know About Single Stop

History:

• Started in New York as an initiative of the Robin Hood Foundation
• In 2007 became its own National Non-Profit
• Shortly thereafter started partnering with Community Colleges across the nation

Goal:

• To provide support services that will help increase retention and graduation rates among students in need.
• Augmenting financial aid by providing access to benefits & services that supplement income.
• Help students leverage existing federal & state resources.
• Connecting students to resources in their local community.

Partnering with Community Colleges:

• The path to educational attainment & economic success for America’s most vulnerable students runs through CCs.
• A CC degree provides opportunity to move from lowest income percentiles to middle class in one generation.
• However, many low income students do not complete degrees due to various barriers.
• Partnering with CC & integrating SSUSA with student services departments, SSUSA harnesses two of the country’s most effective anti-poverty tools...
  o Access to America’s safety net (benefits) + post-secondary education.

What is Single Stop?

• A one site approach to helping students in need access benefits.
• Helps with the overly complicated application process & enrollment.
• Saves multiple trips to different offices for information on various benefits/resources.
• Helps explain confusing eligibility requirements
How it Works:

- **Benefit Screening:**
  - In 15 minutes screen for:
  - CalFresh/Food Stamps
  - Cash Aid Programs (CalWorks)
  - Healthcare (Medi-cal)
  - Reduced Utility Bills
  - Referrals to Community Resources
  - Affordable Housing
  - Food Banks

- **Tax Preparation:**
  - Earned Income Tax Credit is one of the largest single benefit programs that exists for working families in the US.
  - Every year an estimated 15-20% of all national EITC money remains unclaimed.
  - Our IRS certified tax preparers help connect student to all eligible tax credits to help ensure students get the largest return possible.

- **Financial Coaching:** Provides individualized support & financial education
  - Debt Management
  - Credit Counseling
  - Banking
  - Budgeting
  - Asset Building

- **Legal Advice:**
  - Housing assistance
  - Labor issues
  - Tax related assistance
  - Benefits advocacy
  - Family Law – *Domestic violence, child support, divorce, etc.*