What is NPEA Data Counts?
The National Partnership for Educational Access (NPEA) Data Counts Project brings together key stakeholders in the field of educational access to define, measure, and report on the most important markers of progress and success for those who work with underserved students. Building on industry research and the work of a pilot group of education access programs, NPEA recommends tracking 10 Key Indicators of college access and success to best support positive outcomes for underserved students. This project is supported by The Esther A. & Joseph Klingenstein Fund.

Who participates?
For each round of collection, NPEA invited non-profit member programs and select schools to contribute data to the project. In the most recent round of collection for the 2017-2018 school year, 66 programs reported serving 244,506 students over a 12-month period. Most students served were in high school, while 15% were in middle school, elementary school, or were high school graduates.

How does NPEA Data Counts support programs?
NPEA Data Counts (NDC) supports its members in using data effectively, intentionally, and strategically to inform practice and planning to best serve their students. The collective impact of the project is that programs can address challenges more effectively together than they would be able to on their own—a practice shown by the Wallace Foundation to be critical in implementing data-based solutions in the field of educational access.

What is the impact?
Members involved in NPEA Data Counts are committed to using data to ensure positive outcomes for students. During recent NPEA data focus groups, members noted benefits of using the indicators, saying:
- “We have stronger data as a result.”
- “…these are things you should track from day one.”
- “The data project intensely focuses us a couple times a year. NPEA is asking the questions, so we do a deep dive in data.”

Why is NPEA Data Counts important for funders?
NPEA Data Counts provides a common set of standards that funders can use to better understand the work and outcomes of their grantees. Knowing that the 10 Key Indicators are tracked by a growing number of access programs opens up the possibility for dialogue between funders and grantees based on a common language around these well-defined indicators. The national aspect of the project is important for programs as they can point to being part of a larger data initiative with like-minded peers. It is helpful for funders as they can better understand a grantee’s initiatives and outcomes as compared to the aggregate of NPEA members.
The NPEA Data Counts Project emerged as an answer to members’ questions regarding how best to collect, store, and use data for their programs. Another important function of the project is to facilitate communications between programs and funders by establishing a common set of standards and language. A funder, knowing how important the post-secondary graduation rate is to a student’s success, could ask a program how their data compared to the NDC average*. Likewise, a program could cite their success on Indicator 10 (relative to the NDC average) as evidence for the strength of their organization. In both instances, funders and programs can use NPEA Data Counts as a means of creating a dialogue about an organization’s impact and how they are working to improve student outcomes.

*It is important to note that all indicators are reported on using aggregate data. NPEA does not share program-specific data with the public.

For more information about NPEA Data Counts and to learn how to get involved, please contact Karin Elliott, Executive Director, at kelliott@tsf.org or (617) 423-6300 ext. 284.