### Higher Education Fact:

- **Students who graduate from college earn more than $1 million dollars more over the course of their lifetimes.**

- **Young people can easily pull up data to help them decide what movie is worth watching, but they don’t have the data they need to make one of the most important financial decisions of their lives: which college to attend. Nearly half of all students are missing from the federal database tracking graduation rates, for example.**

- **Black and Hispanic adults are almost half as likely to get a postsecondary degree as their white peers. These gaps have remained stagnant or grown larger over the last twenty years.**

- **The Pell Grant used to cover 80% of college costs at a public four-year college, but today, covers less than a third.**

- **Children from families in the top 1% are 77 times more likely to attend an elite college compared to the children from low-income families.**

- **A white college dropout is less likely to default on their student loans than a black college graduate.**

- **College should be a ladder out of poverty, but the system is failing lower-income students. Today, fewer than 15% of low-income students get a four-year degree, while more than 6 in 10 wealthy students do.**

- **Students who start college but don’t finish are three times as likely to default on their loans.**

- **A college degree benefits students and society as a whole. College graduates face lower unemployment, earn more, pay more in taxes, are healthier, and are more civically engaged.**

- **We have a leaky pipeline in higher education, as only half of all students who enter postsecondary education earn a degree.**

- **Today’s college students are more diverse than any previous generation—37% of students are 25 or older, 24% are parents, 40% attend part-time and 64% work while attending school.**

- **The number one reason students go to college is to get a job so they can have a stable and secure life.**

### Question to Ask:

- **How does this plan prioritize connecting pathways that will ultimately help students who want to earn a bachelor’s degree?**

- **How does this plan address making improvements to our federal postsecondary data system so that all students have a full picture when deciding where to attend college or whether to take out loans?**

- **How does this plan propose to make investments in programs or institutions that help close racial completion gaps and/or create on-campus support for students of color?**

- **How does this plan address strengthening the Pell Grant and other need-based aid programs and ensure that non-tuition costs like food and housing are covered?**

- **How does this plan incentivize institutions to close existing gaps in access for students from low-income households?**

- **How does this plan propose to address systemic racism and support students that are most likely to default on their loans, like students of color?**

- **How does this plan seek to eliminate unmet need and focus first on the students most at risk of stopping out due to financial challenges?**

- **How does this plan help address the college completion crisis?**

- **How does this plan address the importance of increasing attainment nationwide?**

- **How does this plan intend to hold schools accountable for getting the students they enroll across the finish line?**

- **How does this plan support today’s students, including those who are parents (many in need of childcare), and those balancing work and school at the same time?**

- **How does this plan propose to guarantee that all college graduates are gainfully employed and can earn enough money to pay off their student debt?**