Community college students face many barriers to success including tuition costs, a lack of support on campus, and academic and other barriers such as cost of books and transportation. College Promise programs, which now number more than 300 nationally, provide financial support to pay students’ tuition and fees. These programs have received bipartisan support from state and municipal policymakers as a way to improve students’ access to college, putting college financially in reach.

While College Promise programs have been shown to improve college access through tuition assistance, not all of them address other barriers to college success. MDRC’s College Promise Success Initiative takes the College Promise program one step further by implementing evidence-based student support practices to improve college completion. This event will discuss the impact of College Promise programs and MDRC’s College Promise Success Initiative on college access and success, highlighting the Detroit Promise Path. The evidence of the proven benefits of these programs is coming at the right time to inform the process of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in helping students access and complete college.

11:45am  Registration open with lunch available

12:00pm  Welcome and Introduction
Betsy Brand, Executive Director, American Youth Policy Forum

12:05pm  Setting the stage: Background on College Promise from a national perspective
Martha Kanter, Executive Director, College Promise Campaign

12:20pm  College Promise programs and MDRC findings
Alyssa Ratledge, Research Analyst, MDRC

12:35pm  Detroit Promise Path
Monica Rodriguez, Director of Children and Youth Services, City of Detroit Mayor’s Office
12:50pm  Respondents: College Promise and HEA reauthorization
Katie Berger, Professional Staff Member, Committee on Education & Labor, U.S. House of Representatives
Alex Ricci, Professional Staff Member, Committee on Education and Labor Republicans, U.S. House of Representatives

1:05pm  Audience Q&A
Moderator: Betsy Brand

1:30pm  Adjourn