#### **MARCH 24, 2021**

### AGENDA ITEM 6 INFORMATION ITEM

#### SCHOLARSHARE INVESTMENT BOARD

Review of Marketing Performance for ScholarShare 529

#### Background

TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI), the program manager for ScholarShare 529 (Plan), has provided its "Q4 2020 Marketing Results" for the Plan. It includes an overview of the account and asset results for 2020 and how they measure against the marketing performance criteria adopted by the ScholarShare Investment Board.

The overview also outlines the budget and results for marketing activities completed in 2020 which include:

- Q4 2020 Achievements
- 2020 Matching Grant Program
- 2020 Campaigns Recap
- Public Relations
- Social Media
- Employer Outreach
- Outreach Events
- 2020 Marketing Budget

#### Presenter

Doug Harrison, Senior Director, TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc.



# Q4 2020 Marketing Results

March 24, 2021

### **2020 Marketing Plan**



1. Brand Management	2. Gain New Accounts/AUM	3. Engage Underserved Families	4. Mature AO Relationships	5. Employers	6. Financial Professionals
Ensure ScholarShare 529 brand is well-known and understood among key target audiences.	Drive new account growth and increased AUM through initiatives that reflect the target market characteristics.	Educate families about ScholarShare 529 and the importance of saving for college.	Drive Account Owner subsequent contributions through engagement initiatives.	Harness employer endorsements to build business.	Engage RIAs and other financial professionals to endorse ScholarShare 529 as the program of choice.
All Audiences S M C	Middle/Affluent M C	Struggling/Middle	All Audiences S M C	All Audiences S M C	Financial Professionals  C
A. Refresh brand campaign to support greater audience breadth, leveraging claims (like Morningstar Gold rating), California state sponsorship, and consumer research insights.	A. Leverage data-driven marketing techniques to efficiently attract and convert prospect leads.	A. Develop platform for Treasurer to speak to the challenges of less affluent families.	A. Leverage content marketing techniques to further engage Account Owners and drive subsequent purchases and retention.	A. Support TIAA Field Consultants and SIB Staff in gaining employer partnerships through public relations and HR Professional outreach initiatives.	A. Define engagement model and strengthen communications tailored for this audience.
B. Through paid media, public relations, and social media, strengthen ScholarShare 529's brand identity to ensure tactical marketing initiatives deliver desired results.	B. Strengthen our content to better engage prospects with varied mindsets and at different stages of the purchase journey to drive sales.	B. Support <b>Matching Grant Program</b> (Year 3) to instill the idea that a college education is attainable.	B. Continue to demonstrate how gifting can help families to reach college savings goals collectively.	B. Promote employee utilization via various engagement techniques.	
C. Continue to monitor ScholarShare 529's brand health.	C. Address prospect concerns related to COVID-19.	C. Deliver Children's Savings Account (CSA) programs—directly and through partners to engage underserved families.	C. Effectively communicate recordkeeping platform change and Enrollment Year Investment Portfolios launch in January 2020.	C. Assure employers promote ScholarShare 529 as a benefit for all income tiers of employees.	
			D. Address account owner concerns related to COVID-19.		

- Very strong results versus prior periods.
- ScholarShare 529 is now 5<sup>th</sup> largest Direct-Sold Plan by assets.

Accounts and Contributions	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2020	% Change
Total New Accounts Opened	28,864	34,300	18.8%
Total New Contributions Collected	\$856.3 million	\$980.8 million	14.5%
Growth Rate	ScholarShare 529	Industry	% Difference
Annual Asset Growth Rate	14.98%	16.47% *	-1.49%
Rollovers	Performance Criteria		% Change
% of Plan Accounts Closed Due to Rollovers	< 2.0%	0.47% **	0.00% **
Accounts and Assets	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2020	% Change
Total Open Accounts	332,423	352,398	6.0%
Total Assets	\$9.88 billion	\$11.36 billion	15.0%
Market Share*	4.899%	4.846%	-1.08%

<sup>\*</sup> Source: ISS Market Intelligence—Direct Sold 529 Plans—Q4 2020. Q4 Quarterly Growth Rate for ScholarShare 529 was 9.22%, versus 10.41% for Direct Sold Plans.

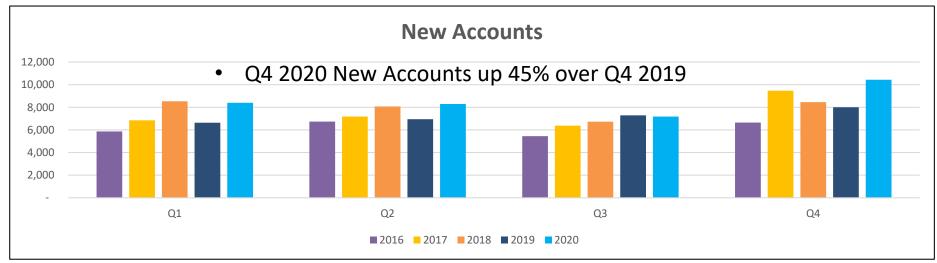
All results in this report are for the period ending December 31, 2020.

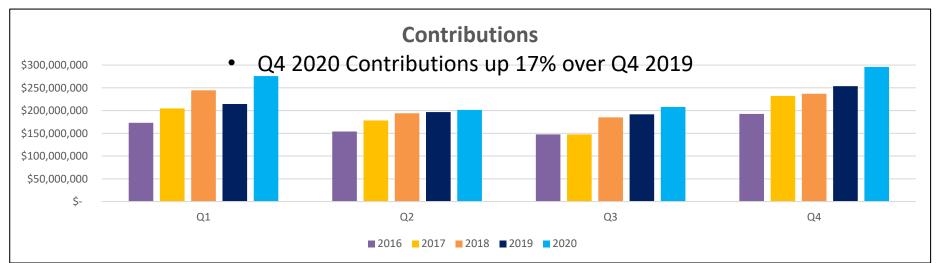


<sup>\*\*</sup> YTD 2020 (as of 12/31/20) versus YTD 2019.

#### Results

### **New Accounts & Contributions**





The 2020 Marketing Plan was successfully implemented with record results in terms of new accounts and contributions.

1. Brand Management	2. Gain New Accounts/AUM	3. Engage Underserved Families	4. Mature AO Relationships	5. Employers	6. Financial Professionals
Ensure ScholarShare 529 brand is well-known and understood among key target audiences.	Drive new account growth and increased AUM through initiatives that reflect the target market characteristics.	Educate families about ScholarShare 529 and the importance of saving for college.	Drive Account Owner subsequent contributions through engagement initiatives.	Harness employer endorsements to build business.	Engage RIAs and other financial professionals to endorse ScholarShare 529 as the program of choice.
<ul> <li>PR Success: In 2020, ScholarShare 529 was mentioned 283 times in the media reaching 783 million readers/viewers.</li> <li>Among the top 10 direct-sold 529 plans by AUM, ScholarShare 529 was mentioned most frequently in the media.</li> <li>Plans completed for annual brand health study to be fielded in Q1 2021.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>December's Holiday         Promotion drove 3,035         new accounts, up 30%         over 2019.     </li> <li>December's new         account growth was             unprecedented with a             monthly total of 5,942,             up 42% over December         2019.     </li> </ul> December New Accounts 8,000 4,813 4,000 4,813 4,000 4,000 2,000 2,000 2017 2018 2019 2020	<ul> <li>Logo designs and materials developed for CalKIDS.</li> <li>The 2020 Matching Grant Program concluded with:         <ul> <li>1,065 applications</li> <li>770 new accounts</li> <li>\$804,401 in contributions</li> <li>\$108,023 in projected grants.</li> </ul> </li> <li>New content for underserved students/families, including a 40-minute panel discussion video, posted on College Countdown.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Account Owners were targeted as part of December's Holiday Promotion.</li> <li>College Countdown – 16,000 visitors in first 4 months.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Supported TIAA Field Consultants and SIB Staff in gaining employer partnerships.</li> <li>Workplace Savings Video produced and webpages updated to feature partner logos.</li> <li>Work began to support SIB Staff's 2021 focus on growing municipal employer participation in Workplace Savings Program.</li> </ul>	Revised RIA presentation materials.



### 2021 Marketing Plan—Q1 Initiatives

#### Initiatives in development now:

- Matching Grant Program launch Feb. 1
- Tax Time Campaign Feb/March
- Brand Health Study In the field in Q1
- Spanish PR initiative kicked-off for 2021
- Expanding content resources for families:
  - College Countdown Continue content build-out and promotion
  - New Parent Content Program in development called "First Steps"
  - New videos: 1) 529 Basics; 2) Web Account Opening Tutorial; 3) Children Savings Accounts
- Workplace Savings Program Municipal market support





### 2020 Matching Grant Program

#### **Program Summary**

Timing: February 1 – December 31, 2020

Offer: \$200 dollar-for-dollar match for qualifying accounts

opened in 2020. \$25 bonus for ACP set-up.

Target Audience: Low to moderate-income California families.

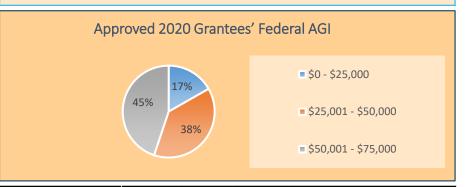
## Demographic insights among approved grantees for 2018, 2019, and 2020 include:

#### Grantees...

- Have a smaller household size than typical Account Owners
- Are more often Hispanic and less often Western European than typical Account Owners
- Are younger than typical Account Owners
- Are less likely to be married compared to typical Account Owners
- Are much less likely to have a college degree than typical Account Owners
- Have lower average household incomes
- Live less affluent lives versus typical Account Owners, with lower home values, lower investment resources, and lower net worth

#### Results as of 12/31/20:

- 1,065 applications received
- 770 new accounts
- \$804,401 in contributions
- \$108,023 in projected Matching Grants



	Grantees			Overall		
	2018	2019	2020	2018-2020 Total	AO's	New AO's (Last 12 Mos.)
Ethnicity						
African American	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Hispanic	21%	14%	14%	17%	9%	9%
East Asian	10%	10%	9%	10%	12%	12%
Western European	25%	26%	21%	24%	38%	31%
Eastern European	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Other	41%	47%	54%	47%	38%	44%
Education						
Some High School	8%	8%	3%	6%	1%	1%
Completed High School	16%	17%	16%	16%	5%	6%
Some College	39%	38%	32%	37%	20%	24%
Completed College	33%	33%	34%	33%	62%	61%
Attended Graduate School	2%	1%	2%	2%	9%	8%





### **Driving New Account Growth**

Leverage data-driven marketing techniques to efficiently attract and convert leads.

Audience	Objective	Tactics and Channels	Cadence
Prospects	<ul><li>Awareness</li><li>Interest</li><li>Open new accounts</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Search engine marketing</li> <li>Web advertising</li> <li>Email (EM)</li> <li>Direct mail (DM)</li> <li>In-person</li> </ul>	Seasonal and evergreen
Inquirers	Open new accounts	<ul><li>Search engine marketing</li><li>Web advertising</li><li>Email</li><li>Direct mail</li></ul>	• Evergreen
New AO's	Fund and engage with account	• Email	Evergreen
Account Owners	<ul> <li>Continued engagement and support</li> <li>Fund accounts</li> <li>Open additional accounts</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Primarily email</li><li>Limited direct mail</li><li>Limited web advertising</li></ul>	Seasonal and evergreen





Advertising spending produced higher than usual response levels leading to above average business results for the year.

Audience	Campaigns Measured	Audience Reach Highlights	Engagement and Conversion Highlights
Prospect	<ul> <li>February Tax Time DM/EM, May 529         Day DM/EM, College Savings         DM/EM, Holiday DM/EM     </li> <li>Episodic Programmatic Display</li> <li>Search</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Over 3.2MM Prospects Reached via DM</li> <li>Over 4.4MM Prospects Reached via EM</li> <li>Over 375MM Digital Impressions Served</li> </ul>	Holiday promotion generated 3,035 new accounts, up 30% over 2019.
Inquirers (Rolling 12 months)	Monthly DM and EM Inquirer Content Drip Stream for new leads	Over 2.7K unique individuals reached	<ul><li>31% e-mail unique open rate</li><li>9.3% conversion rate with 255 new accounts generated</li></ul>
New AO's (Rolling 12 months)	New Account Onboarding program	Over 26K unique new AOs reached	<ul> <li>49% email open rate</li> <li>0.9% account upsell rate with 288 new accounts and 40% recurring contributions sign-up</li> </ul>
Account Owners	<ul> <li>February Tax Time EM, May 529 Day EM, College Savings DM/EM</li> <li>Content Drip</li> <li>Episodic/Evergreen Targeted Online Display</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Over 161K mail pieces delivered</li> <li>Over 1.8MM e-mails delivered</li> <li>Over 47MM Digital Impressions Served</li> </ul>	Holiday EM campaign generated     1,206 new accounts and \$75MM+ in     contributions through 12/31/20





### **Creative Samples**

#### **Evergreen Campaigns**

#### **Prospect & Account Owner Banners**









#### Emails: New Account Owner Onboarding, Inquirer Content Drip, **Account Owner Content Drip**



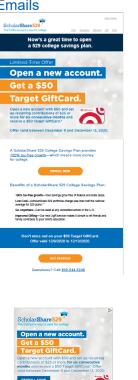




### **Episodic Core Campaigns**

Prospect Direct Mail, Prospect/Account Owner Banners, and











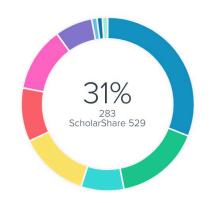


#### **Outreach**

### Public Relations: 2020 Recap

Media relations initiatives through our PR agency drive coverage in print, online and in broadcast. These mentions help prospects become familiar with our brand and attributes.

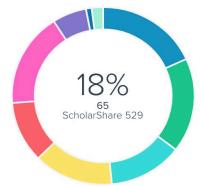
- In 2020, ScholarShare 529 was mentioned 283 times in the media reaching 783 million readers/viewers
- Among the top 10 direct-sold 529 plans by AUM, ScholarShare 529 was mentioned most frequently in the media.
  - 31% of the Share of Voice (SOV).
  - The next closest plan is CollegeAdvantage 529 (Ohio) with 16% SOV.



ScholarShare 529	31%
CollegeAdvantage 529 (Ohio)	16%
<ul><li>UNIQUE 529 (New Hampshire)</li></ul>	8%
Maryland 529	13%
Utah's My529	10%
MESP (Michigan)	12%
<ul><li>MESP (Michigan)</li><li>BrightStart 529 (Illinois)</li></ul>	<b>12</b> %
BrightStart 529 (Illinois)	<b>7</b> %

### Public Relations: Q4 Summary

- In Q4 2020, ScholarShare 529 was mentioned 67 times in the media reaching more than 114 million readers/viewers.
- Among the top 10 direct-sold 529 plans by AUM, ScholarShare 529 was mentioned most frequently in the media.
  - 18% of the Share of Voice (SOV).
  - The next closest plans are CollegeAdvantage 529 (Ohio) and MESP (Michigan) with 17% SOV.
- The most impactful article in Q4 was Treasurer Fiona Ma's opinion piece, "Why college savings is more important than ever this holiday season," which was published in San Francisco Examiner and reached approximately 134,000 readers.



ScholarShare 529	18%
CollegeAdvantage 529 (Ohio)	<b>17</b> %
UNIQUE 529 (New Hampshire)	13%
Maryland 529	14%
Utah's My529	11%
MESP (Michigan)	<b>17</b> %
BrightStart 529 (Illinois)	6%
NY 529   Direct	< 1%
Vanguard 529 (Nevada)	1%
MEFA U.FUND (Massachusetts)	2%



### Social Media: 2020 Recap



Social media served as an effective communications platform in 2020, communicating timely resources and announcements, reinforcing ScholarShare 529's "Made in California" brand, and addressing customer inquiries.

Key Performance Indictors - Total Results	<ul> <li>66,202 Total Followers (1,034 New Fans across all Social Media channels)</li> <li>4,229,544 Impressions</li> <li>36,888 Social engagements</li> <li>Took in 746 messages, 640 which warranted responses.</li> <li>Average cross-channel engagement rate: .5%</li> </ul>
Paid Promotion	Facebook:  • 529 Day Campaign:  - 13,183 website visits  - 2,446 engagements  - 2,839,457 impressions  LinkedIn:  • Holiday Offer Campaign  - 307 website visits  - 60,261 impressions  • LinkedIn Brand + Feature Videos Campaign  - 125,522 video views with 10.38% view completion  - 247 website visits



### Social Media: Q4 Summary



In Q4, we resumed running paid ads on select social media platforms to engage core audiences in the Holiday Offer in December, and to promote new video content.

Goals & Objectives	<ul> <li>Aligned PR and social media efforts and strategies.</li> <li>Provide social care to current and prospective customers.</li> <li>Engaged core audiences through sharing of helpful resources and information.</li> <li>Audited and begin planning for potential integration of Spanish and official Facebook pages.</li> </ul>
Key Strategies	<ul> <li>Tailoring messages and hashtags across social platforms.</li> <li>Support STO/SIB activities by distributing and liking tagged messaging, as needed.</li> <li>Complete transition to "Made in California" brand.</li> <li>Navigate #StopHateForProfit Facebook advertising boycott.</li> <li>Test LinkedIn sponsored posts and videos</li> </ul>
Total KPI Results	<ul> <li>64,719 Impressions (15.4% increase in organic impressions from Q3)</li> <li>3,219 Social engagements (69.69% increase in organic engagements from Q3)</li> <li>Engagement rate increased to 2.1% (increase of 9.3% from Q3)</li> </ul>
Paid Promotion (LinkedIn)	<ul> <li>Holiday Offer Campaign: \$1,221.20 spent    - 307 website visits at \$3.98 cost per visit    - 60,261 impressions</li> <li>LinkedIn Brand + Feature Videos Campaign: \$8,000 spent    - 125,522 video views with 10.38% view completion rate at \$.06 per video view    - 247 website visits</li> </ul>



### Social Media—2020 Samples



#### **Holiday Offer**

#529Plans #529CollegeSavings #529Planning

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ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare529 · Dec 9, 2020 ···· Start celebrating by opening a tax-free ScholarShare 529 college savings account from Dec. 9-13 and you will receive a \$50 @Target GiftCard.

scholarshare529.com/holidayoffer/



ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare529 · Dec 7, 2020 · ...

Open a ScholarShare 529 college savings account from Dec. 9-13 and receive a \$50 @Target GiftCard. Learn more.



### 529 Day



ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare529 · May 20, 2020 · California families - don't miss your chance to kickstart your college savings! Open a new ScholarShare 529 account between May 26-31 and earn an additional \$50. #529Day #CollegeSavings

cnbc.com/2020/04/10/how...





ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare529 · May 25, 2020 · · 529 Day is almost here! Open a new ScholarShare 529 account between May 26-31 and earn an additional \$50. #529Day #CollegeSavings

scholarshare529.com/buzz/529day-of...





### Social Media—2020 Samples



# Savings Trends and Matching Grant Program



ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare 529 · Aug 12

Despite the current challenges, California parents are still saving for college: 76% said in a recent ScholarShare 529 survey that nothing would make them prouder than to help their kids afford college. #CollegeSavings #SavingForCollege #CA529

scholarshare529.com





ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare 529 · Aug 25

For a limited time, California's qualifying families can get up to \$225 to help kickstart their college dreams with ScholarShare 529's tax-free college saving plan. #SavingForCollege #CA529 #529Plans

scholarshare529.com/buzz/matching-...



#### College Savings Month



ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare 529 · Sep 11

September is #CollegeSavingsMonth! Open a ScholarShare 529 college savings account today and feel good all year about putting California's tax-free plan to work for you. Learn more. #529Plans #CaliforniaCollegeSavings scholarshare529.com





ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare 529 · Sep 17

Watch @CalTreasurer @fionama talk with @Tonysuniverse and @Araksya on @FOXLA show @GDLA about #CollegeSavingsMonth and how you can help your child prepare for college with a @ScholarShare529 account here: foxla.com/video/851465 #529plans



California College Savings Plan

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma joins Good Day LA to discuss Scholarshare 529, the state ...



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### **Employer Outreach Activities**

Employer Outreach continued in Q4 despite COVID-19 distractions.

#### **New WPS Partners: 5**

- The City of Chico
- City of Moreno Valley
- Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development Counsel
- University Studies Abroad Consortium
- Deep Blue Builders

**WPS: Employee Education: 27** 

Webinars: 21

Virtual Benefits Fair: 6



**WPS HR Introductory Meetings:** 10

HR Conferences/Webinars: 2

Consumer consultation meetings: 324

**Consumer webinars:** 6





### **Outreach Events Summary**

ScholarShare 529 participated in the following events in Q4 to promote the Plan to California families.

Timing	Number of Virtual Events	Estimated Number of Virtual Attendees	List of Select Virtual Events
Fourth Quarter 2020	39	1,000	San Jose State University Benefit Fair, CalHR Healthier U Workgroup, State Employee Webinars (CHP, CalSTRS, CalPERS, DMV, CA Earthquake Authority), First 5 LA Employee Webinar, Be an HR Hero Employer Webinar, Nevada County Employee Webinar, KQED, USAC Lunch and Learn Webinar, USC - Understand 529 Plans Webinar, Long Beach City Employees Federal Credit Union Member Webinar, City of Chico Employee Webinar, Trinity SF Open Enrollment



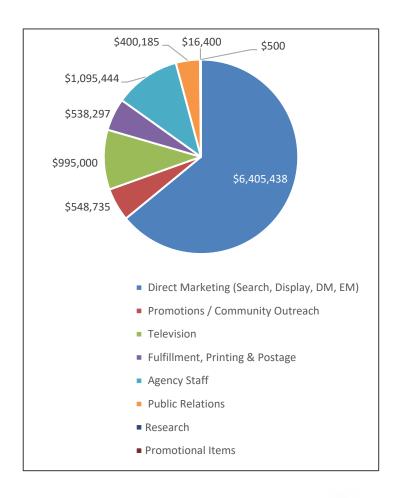
# **Appendix**



### 2020 Marketing Budget

#### 2020 Marketing Budget: \$10 million

ACTUALS AS OF 12/31/2020	Spending	%
Direct Marketing (Search, Display, DM, EM)	\$ 6,405,438	64%
Promotions / Community Outreach	\$ 548,735	5%
Television	\$ 995,000	10%
Fulfillment, Printing & Postage	\$ 538,297	5%
Agency Staff	\$ 1,095,444	11%
Public Relations	\$ 400,185	4%
Research	\$ 16,400	0%
Promotional Items	\$ 500	0%
TOTAL	\$ 10,000,000	100%





### New Audience Map



#### **OVERALL CORE AUDIENCE: CA FAMILIES WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN**

	012.012200.		
SEGMENTS	A. STRUGGLING FAMILIES	B. ANXIOUS MIDDLE	C. CORE SAVERS
LEGE LIKELIHOOD	LOWER	HIGHER	HIGH
RENT EDUCATION	LIMITED/NO HIGHER EDUCATION	TYPICALLY 1+ COLLEGE GRAD	COLLEGE GRAD PLUS
FAMILY INCOME <sup>1</sup>	UNDER \$75K	\$75K-\$150K	OVER \$150K+
	Some HS HS Grad \$39K Mean \$60K Mean	Low Income College Grad \$82K Max. (HUD for LA) \$122K Mean	Max Fin Aid Qualifier \$220K FAFSA 7
FAMILY SAVINGS <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$0</b> (for under \$60K Income)	\$51K	\$157K
CALIFORNIA POPULATION <sup>1</sup>	45%	30%	25%
SAVINGS <sup>1,2</sup>	5%	26%	69%
HOLARSHARE 529			
ACCOUNTS <sup>6</sup>	17%	37%	46%
DOLLARS <sup>6</sup>	10%	28%	62%
GOAL	INCREASE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT 47% Less likely to enroll vs. high income <sup>9</sup> 3% Unbanked <sup>3</sup>	IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY 72% Saving all they can for college <sup>4</sup> 63% Cost of college "a national crisis" <sup>4</sup>	SECURE ASSETS FOR CA PLAN 45% Plan to contribute \$5,000+/year <sup>4</sup> 75% Confident about college goal <sup>4</sup> 55% Use Financial Advisor <sup>4</sup>
STRATEGY	ANY COLLEGE SAVINGS 300% More likely to enroll if there are any savings <sup>5</sup>	SMARTER COLLEGE SAVINGS +70% Make at least one costly college savings mistake <sup>4</sup>	CHOICE OF SCHOLARSHARE 529 79% Use a competing plan 29% Use ScholarShare 529 <sup>4,8</sup>

<sup>1.</sup> Census Bureau data and calculations based on Census Bureau data including calculations by DHYDI. Family income based on family of four. HUD figures based on HUD data for LA. 2. Source: Federal Reserve, FDIC, and Magnify Money estimates, March 2019. All savings goals. Cohorts with median balance of \$0 indicate more than 50% of these households have no savings. 3. 2017 National Survey of Unbanked, (Oct 2018) FDIC. 4. ScholarShare 529 Parent Emotions Study, 2019 of over 1,000 CA FAMILIES. 5. The Center For Social Development, Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis, 2018. 6. TFI ScholarShare 529 sales data 2018. 7. Forbes/Troy Onink 2017, for 4—year private school. 8 Among those with a 529 Plan. 9. 78% us. Alcudes non-HLS grads. Pell Institute Indicators of Higher Education Equity 2018.