

Why is education important for your future and How can education IDAs help you reach your educational goals?

Education is often the best tool for creating wealth and happiness. Education can help your long-term economic prospects and help you to obtain, keep, and maintain a home or business in the future. Next, are some reasons to consider starting with education as your first IDA asset¹.

Economic benefits of attending some form of college:

- Over one's life and within a person's average annual salary, individuals who attend college earn more as a result of their higher levels of education. *In fact, college graduates earn more than twice as much as high school graduates. Some studies have found that college graduates with a bachelors degree earn 80% more per year than those with only a high school degree.*
- The more schooling you obtain, the more your average salary rises.
- Individuals who attend college are employed at higher rates and with greater consistency. Individuals with less than a high school degree are three times as likely as a person with a bachelors degree to be unemployed.
- Individuals who attend college save more money and have more assets including homes, cars, and investments.
- People who attend college tend to work in white collar jobs, in office buildings or other facilities with air-conditioning, heating, and conveniences that improve the quality of life.
- Individuals who attend college make better informed decisions as consumers, which can also lead to having more money.
- Individuals who attend college have greater work opportunities and tend to have skills that can be easily applied in different work settings and different geographic locations. In other words, they have many more work options, which helps to stabilize income in changing times.

But there are much more than economic benefits to attending college. It can truly change your life (and that of your children) and lead to greater happiness and health.

Social benefits of attending some form of college:

- A survey of by Public Health Services indicates that those with a college education have longer life expectancies. They also tend to exercise more and play more sports.
- Children of college educated individuals are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college and have higher cognitive development.
- Individuals who attend college tend to have jobs that are more meaningful and interesting and allow them more freedom to make decisions at work.

¹ Adapted from think collegeearly.com