Yuba College serves the Yuba-Sutter, Colusa, Woodland and Lake areas. These areas are composed of a large agricultural base. Median income is among the lowest in the State. Unemployment rates (over 20%) are among the highest in the state, worsened by a declining economy. Based on the fact that (1) traditionally, low income, at-risk, underrepresented Hispanic students do not consider a college education to be an option in their future; and that, (2) it is quite common for young Hispanics to work in the fields as a family unit, often dropping out of school altogether to work longer hours, Yuba College is proposing the "Intervention Approach". Besides a consistent effort to convince students at an early age that education is important, this approach will require educators at different levels to bridge resources and provide students with an educational path through which they can easily transition from elementary, middle and high school into college.

To serve at-risk, underrepresented Hispanic students, the "College is an Option" program proposes to develop an interlinking tutoring and mentoring partnership, which would include (1) Yuba College, (2) CSU Sacramento/Chico, (3) Migrant Education, (4) two middle schools, (5) one high school, (6) the parents of the participating at-risk students, and (7) private industry. The project has five main goals and it is divided into five different components: (1) Retention and Academic Success Through Tutoring and Mentoring; (11) Retention and Academic Success through Mentoring and Family Linkages; (111) Access and Success in College Through Special Academic Support; (IV) Access and Academic Success in College Through Linkages and Financial Support from Private Industry; and, (V) Addressing Educational Barriers Through Multicultural Awareness.

This grant will target 133 underrepresented Hispanic students from low socioeconomic backgrounds who traditionally do not consider college to be an option in their future. This project will work with this particular student population at the middle and high school levels, as well as at the college level. In addition to focusing on retention rates through tutoring, mentoring and student-family-school connections, the project will address access and transfer to two four-year higher education institutions. Through its different components, the proposed educational partnership will address the high drop out rate among at-risk, low income underrepresented Hispanic students, as well as access, retention, and transfer from high school to two- and four-year educational institutions.