



Social Services, TANF and ESL:
Working Together So Clients Can Work

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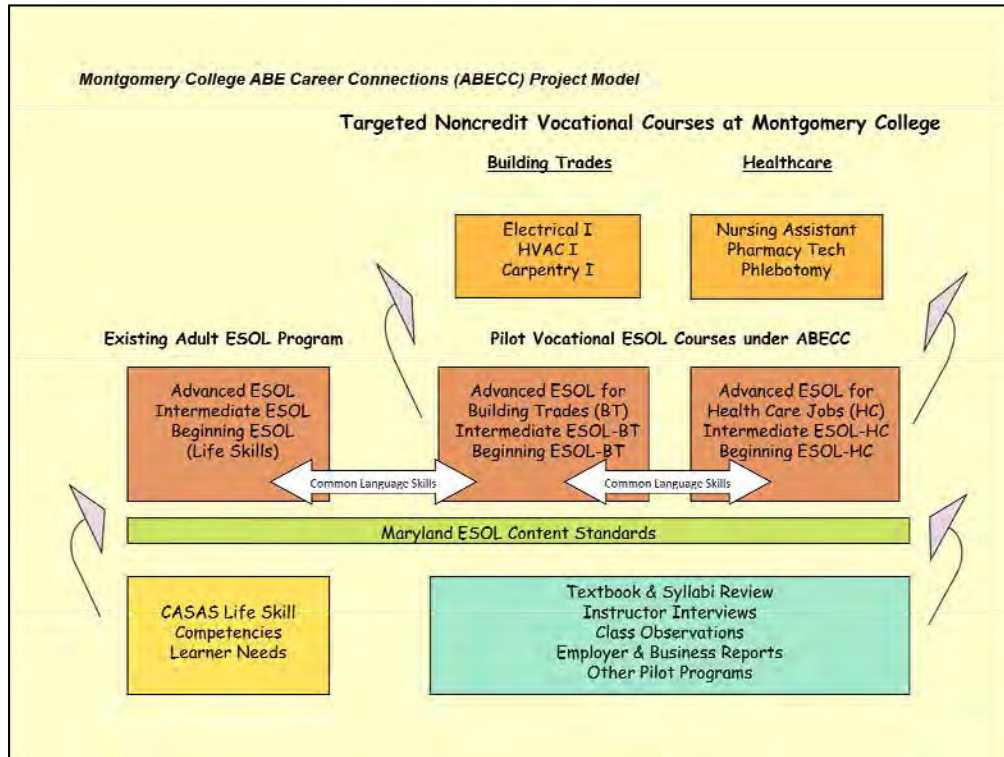


Thinking about Language Learning

A social services worker decided that her clients needed more English and found a multilingual volunteer who was interested in teaching an ESL class and who could translate. They decided on a class to meet two hours per week for ten weeks. The agency provided some grammar books for the students to work their way through the class. At the end of the session though, the clients were still not speaking English and the case worker was very disappointed.

*What four underlying assumptions about language learning can you find?
(Hint: Think about 'myths'.)*

- Language learning takes a long time.
- Student needs buy-in.
- Grammar isn't the only thing.
- Language learning happens everywhere with everyone.



Explain briefly

Note common language skills

Will build backward to intermediate, beginning

Target classes will be I-BEST like with support

Get to Know Your Local Adult Education Services Provider(s)

- May be housed under community colleges, public school systems or local nonprofits
- Typically offers ESOL, Adult Basic Education, GED, and Work Skills Preparation with an emphasis on transitions to employment and postsecondary training
- Is charged with working with the learners who are most in need
- May be funded with a variety of grants – the largest of these is under the Title II of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998
- May already have employment outcomes and postsecondary training outcomes that they need to meet
- May already be working with the local One-Stop employment system as part of their funding requirements
- May already have close connections to employers via
•institutional partnerships and departmental networks
- Can work with your agency on contract training, customized coursework, career pathways development, grant applications, partnerships, training for your staff on working with immigrants, and leveraging resources such as stimulus funding



<http://gogedgo.org/programs.html>

What Your Agency Has to Offer

- Students
- Connections to student interests and needs for program development
- Social service network
- Guidance and career counseling support
- Leverage to cut services for noncompliance
- Access to alternate funding streams
- Employer connections
- Employment placement
- Language practice, coaching, mentoring
- Space for classes
- Willingness to partner and leverage resources

