



# Immigrants and TANF: Services and Opportunities

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# Goal

- Balance the challenges of “participation” with improving employability and self-sufficiency
- Strategic Focus: E I C
  - Engage and support
  - Integrate and blend
  - Contextualize for employment

# What Works?

- Skills plus employment
- Integrated education and training
- Transitional/subsidized jobs (with skills and support)
- Ongoing supports and benefits for working families

# Policy challenges

- TANF participation rate rules
- Economic crisis
- History of lack of program coordination
- Inadequate supply of appropriate services/providers

# Pre-employment

- Outreach and information – beyond TANF
- Motivation and assessment- beyond tests and formulas
- “Readiness” for education, job training, and employment
- Integration of education (ESL, basic education) with occupational training (e.g., early childhood, health care, Microsoft skills)
- Engagement and supports (use of technology, mobile services, social services, peer support, coaching, communities of learning)

# Employment

- Subsidized employment (Recovery Act options and challenges)
- Work experience (preferably paid)
- Career pathways
- Work study
- Self-employment

Ingegrate work and education/training (e.g., make up hours for activities, workplace settings "count")



# Post Employment

- Upgrading skills and job (demand focus)  
(Community College of Denver Essential Skills Program)
- Certificates not just degrees (but demand driven)
- Support for working families – and ongoing access to services and benefits (Earnbenefits and navigators)

# Partnering

- NGOs/CBOs
- TANF
- WIA (and challenges due to economy and Recovery funds-spend)
- Business and industries (and challenges in recession)
- Community Colleges (opportunities but also challenges)
- K-12 schools (intergenerational)



# Future challenges and opportunities

- Economy
- TANF and WIA reauthorization
- Recovery act: training grants, dislocated workers, youth employment/training
- DOL training grants: Green Jobs, Health Care Jobs, link to proposed American Graduation Initiative
- ISIS Demonstration

# Conclusion

- Think beyond TANF
- Blend
- Emphasize skills development now---“window”
- Innovate and evaluate – gain the evidence