

Stackable Credentials and Career Pathway Opportunities for TANF Participants

Tuesday, August 28, 2012 4 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Welcome! The session will begin momentarily.

Please Dial **1-877-668-4493** and enter the Access Code: **663 980 335** to join the Audio portion of the Webinar.

Presenters:

Judy Mortrude, Nola Speiser, and Danielle Kressin, Minnesota FastTRAC Initiative Jay Landau and Nancy Phillips, Heartland Alliance, Heartland Human Care Services Elizabeth (Liza) Ehrlich, New York City Parks Opportunity Program (POP) John House, Edmonds Community College HPOG Program

James Butler, Moderator and Federal Project Office, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Webinar Learning Objectives:

- 1. Provide background information on stackable credentials and career pathways.
- 2. Discuss methods for stackable credential/career pathways program design, as well as methods for integrating these components into transitional jobs and subsidized employment programs.
- 3. Encourage collaboration between TANF agencies, the business community, Department of Labor, and local organizations to better serve TANF participants by providing skill-building and credentialing opportunities.

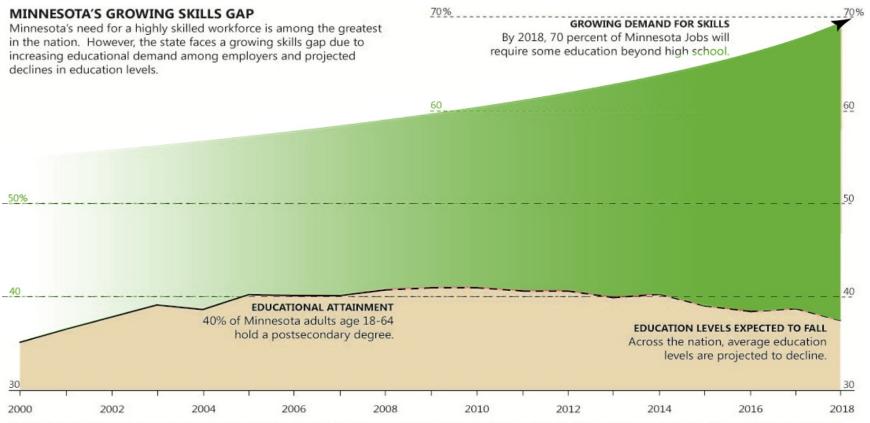


Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways

August 28, 2012



Setting the Context



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey; Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce; National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. Trendlines beyond 2008 are based on single-point-in-time estimates. Taken from the 2010 Governor's Workforce Development Council publication, "Strengthening the Skills of Our Current Workforce"



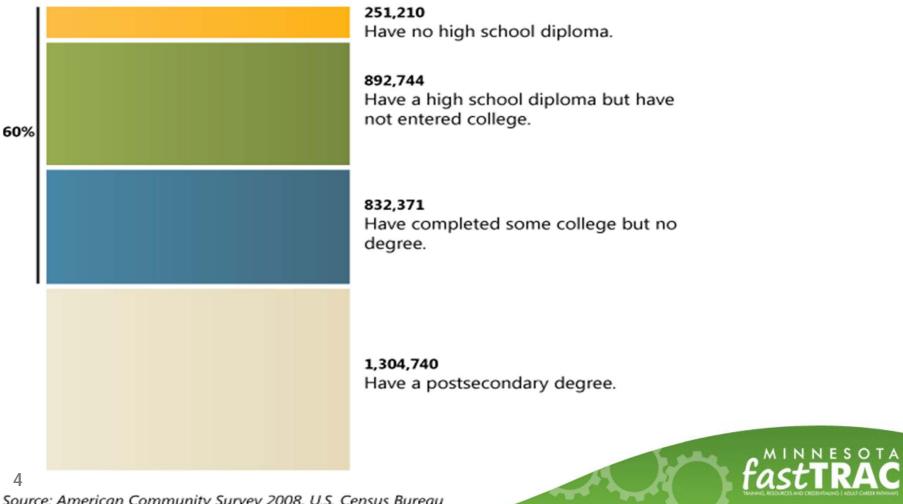
Minnesota's Labor Force: 2010-2030

2020 2030 2010 435,240 New Nearly three entrants to 910,210 Minnesota's labor force quarters of the 2030 workforce are beyond Individuals currently in 3,092,330 Minnesota's the reach of labor force... ...will make 2,843,080 up 73% of Minnesota's the K-12 2,405,400 total labor force in 2030 System 3

Skills Gap in Minnesota

WORKING LEARNERS IN MINNESOTA

Among individuals 18 to 64 years old, six in ten lack a postsecondary degree.

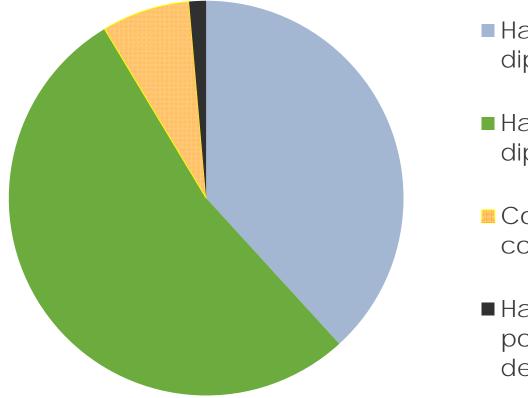


Source: American Community Survey 2008, U.S. Census Bureau

Skill Gap in MFIP Population

Working Learners on MFIP

Among individuals on Cash Assistance 98.6% lack postsecondary degree



- Have no high school diploma
- Have high school diploma
- Completed some college no degree
- Have a postsecondary degree

Source: Minnesota Family Investment Program and Diversion Work Program: Characteristics of December 2010

Tipping Point Research Study

- Out of Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges in 2005
- Showed significant wage increases for students who were able to complete one year worth of college credit bearing curriculum and attain a credential
 - \$7,000 for students who started in English as a Second Language (ESL)
 - \$8,500 for those who started in ABE or GED
 - \$2,700 and \$1,700 for those entering with a GED or high school diploma, respectively
- I-BEST students are 29 35% more likely to earn a postsecondary credential than students in traditional model



Joyce Foundation: Shifting Gears

Spurred by changing economies, the **five states in the Shifting Gears** initiative are **designing policy solutions** aimed at **expanding access** to and **completion** of **postsecondary credentials** that lead to familysupporting careers.

These solutions include:

- Breaking down the walls separating basic skills and English language services from postsecondary education and training and offering these options together;
- Supporting access to and success in postsecondary education with **more readily available financial aid and other supports**;
- **Connecting education and work** through career pathways programs that help adults gain employment and advance in specific industry sectors; and
- Using data to guide policy change at the state level.

www.shifting-gears.org

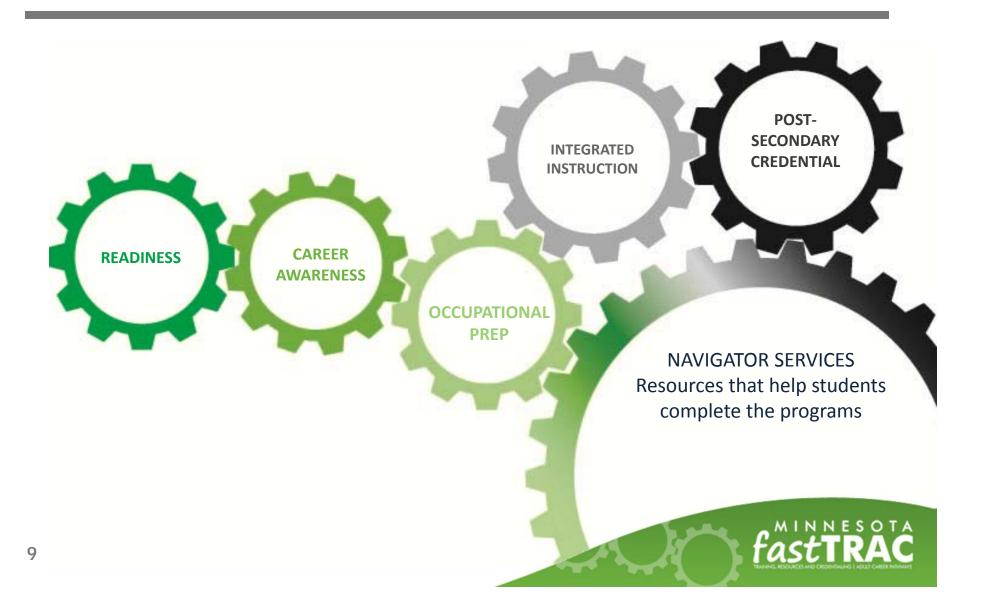
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Minnesota FastTRAC

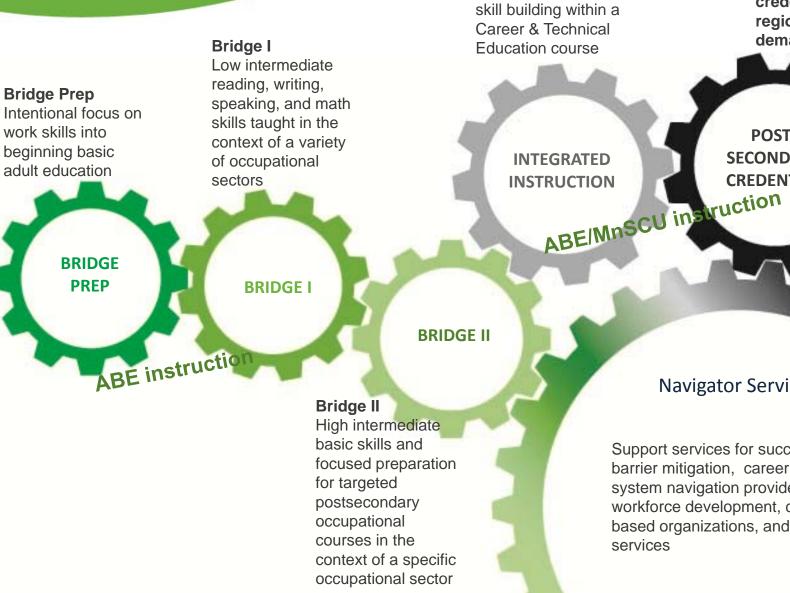
A wide-ranging collaboration between:

- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
- Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system (MnSCU)
- Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)
- Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Minnesota Department of Corrections
- The Greater Twin Cities United Way
- The Joyce Foundation

MN FastTRAC's Program Model



fast TRAC



Industry recognized credential in regional high demand field

Integrated Instruction

Adult Basic Education

POST-**SECONDARY** CREDENTIAL

Navigator Services

Support services for success including barrier mitigation, career advising, system navigation provided by workforce development, community based organizations, and human

Navigator Services

- Liaison and stakeholder connector
- Recruitment and outreach
- Coordination of assessments and intake
- Case management and support services
- Career and academic counseling
- College admissions processes: enrollment, registration, financial aid.
- Employment resources and services
- Retention and completion plans





Success Story

Diane Hutton, Metro North ABE Valerie Lis, Anoka Ramsey Community College Teresa Dill & Judy Jurek, Anoka Technical College

Anoka County Health Care Pathways



Health Care Pathways Program

This training allows low level and low income learners to earn 8 college credits and a **Nursing Assistant Credential.** Bridge Class - 100 hours of ABE prep class Integrated Classes – 160 hours:

- ATC 5 college credits for Nursing Assistant/ Home Health Aide
- ARCC 3 college credits Intro to Holistic Healing & On Cou

Outcomes

18 students started the Bridge class -17 completed

- 94% of the students met college requirements to move into the College classes – Pre-Nursing Accuplacer or TABE scores.
- 16 students moved into the integrated class 12 completed
 - 75% of the students obtained 8 college credits and passed both the written and skills exam to obtain their CNA Credential.
 - 100% that took the CNA exam passed both written and skills and are currently on the Nursing Assistant Registry.

58% of the graduates are currently working:

- 71% of those are working in a training related position
- \$11.05 is the average wage for training related positions
- 3 of the 5 graduates currently not working are planning on returning to school in the summer or fall of 2012
- 91% of the graduates were interested in continuing treat their education in Health Care in the near future.

Student Success Stories



Background

Kim came into the program at a very tough time in her life. She was going through a divorce, fighting for custody, on the verge of being homeless and depressed.

She was on MFIP and working with a PFS counselor. She is a mother of 2 children.

Limited work history as she has been a stay-at-home mom since 2000.

She has her high school diploma

Chantwan was on DWP when referred to the program by her job counselor as she had a strong interest in working in health care.

She is the mother of 2 children and her 9 year old has Cerebral Palsy.

Her work history consisted of fast food for the last 5 years making \$8.50 an hour and forklift driver for a few years prior.

She has her GED

Education

Kim was very determined to improve her life. In a world that felt out of control education was one area she could control.

Kim's instructors said:

- "Kim was always kind and thoughtful in her approach to caring for others. She respected the residents and treated them as individuals."
- "I found Kim to be dependable, honest, friendly, determined, hardworking, helpful, on time, a good friend"

Chantwan has a passion for helping others and can be empathic as she has a disabled child.

Chantwan's instructors said:

- "Chantwan has great insight thereby making her a very skilled and confident health care provider. Her light hearted spirit makes people smile and brightens their day."
- "I found Chantwan Payton to be polite, strong-minded, dependable, on time, hardworking, self-motivated, open-minded, honest, & a quick learner."

Kim had excellent attendance & successfully obtained 8 credits.

Chantwan also had excellent attendance & successfully obtained 8 credits.

Employment

Kim was offered several positions after completing training.

- Part time work at 2
 different facilities
- Full time work at the site they had their clinicals

Chantwan is working part time for Benedictine Center making \$11.30 an hour as a Nursing Assistant. She is constantly picking up extra hours and likes that it is very flexible.

 Kim is working full time at Camila Rose as a Nursing Assistant. She is making \$10.81 an hour. She is focused on working right now. She is registered to start North Hennepin Community College in the Fall to get her RN as she wants to be a Nurse Practitioner. She will continue to work while in school

MN FastTRAC Partnerships are Working

34 FastTRAC in demand pathways created since January 2010 -

Healthcare	Business
Manufacturing	Energy
Education	Culinary

Preliminary education outcomes

- 67% completed occupational prep course and moved into MnSCU career and technical training
- 88% of those completed their first combined ABE/MnSCU career technical education course



www.mnfasttrac.org



fastTRAC

Heartland Human Care Services

Adult Learning in the Context of Work: Transitional Jobs and Contextualized Adult Instruction

Jay Landau & Nancy Phillips

Stackable Credentials and Career Pathway Opportunities for TANF Participants

HHS Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance Webinar

August, 28, 2012



Heartland Human Care Services, Inc.

ALLIANCE

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Community Green Jobs Program

HHCS Community Green Jobs Program through Chicago Department of Environment, an ARRA funded CDBG-R opportunity

- Population adults transitioning from homelessness; overcoming multiple barriers to employment
- Participants' starting reading and math grade levels of 3-11 (most at grade levels 5-8 in these cohorts). All grade levels eligible to participate.
- Co-enrolled in HHCS Housing First programs which recruit directly from homeless shelters
- *Note: NTJN conference jump drive includes more slides



Program Structure

- Participants complete an orientation and Job Readiness Training before starting their Transitional Job and the curriculum.
- Participants work 24 hours a week in their Transitional Job and spend 6 hours a week in job search, job group, career development and Green Jobs classes. The lessons are typically 1.5 – 2 hours/week for the 12 weeks.
- Transitional Jobs site was Greater Chicago Food Depository. Participants sorted over 1 million pounds of food and 862,704 pounds were reclaimed by TJ workers and distributed to low-income persons via a network of 650 partner agencies between late August and late March.
- Nancy and Jay wrote Green Jobs curriculum in August, 2011 began first cohort at end of August. Third cohort completed in March, 2012. Prior to developing contextualized literacy curriculum, we were using noncontextualized Adult Basic Education lessons.



Why include Contextualized Literacy? (not a funder requirement for this program)

- To help participants achieve their goals for economic security, obtain and maintain employment -- the context or content of the lessons supports participant employment goals, both for the next job and for their long-term career
- Participants who are currently or formerly homeless are overcoming more barriers and typically have lower TJ completion and placement rates than other populations, so we wanted to provide more supports
- Skill-building in all life areas parenting, wellness, civic engagement and advocacy, career advancement, etc. – supported by literacy skills
- Building skills, confidence, self-esteem and peer support to extend into the workplace
 - New funder, opportunity to innovate
- Laying the groundwork for other curricula new iteration is Urban Agriculture/Landscaping and Warehousing, started in February



Community Green Jobs Program



Development of Curriculum and Contextualized Literacy TJ Integrated Model

Curriculum Development

- Participant Centered drawing on their expertise
- Employer Engagement
 - Safety manuals, sorting sheets (reading)
 - Ratios, weight, cost (math)
 - In Landscaping, leaf blowers require a mixture of 50:1 fuel. Other tools use 16:1 or 8:1 fuel ratios.
- Cultural Relevance diverse biographies; local info; relating to their experiences



Skills addressed and examples:

- Soft skills teamwork, time management, communication skills (example: Make a business plan for a green business with your team; present your ideas to the group).
- Literacy and Numeracy Skills Relevant Reading, Writing, and Math exercises
- Hard skills Career Exploration, green sector vocabulary and knowledge
- Leadership Critical thinking (read "Chicago Climate Action Plan" and critique)



Reading Skills:

Vocabulary in context
Recalling information
Summarizing
Finding the main idea
Interpreting graphic information
Extending meaning



Math Skills:

- Decimals
- Weights and Measures
- Fractions
- Percentages
- Calculating Area
- Money math
- All applied Math: (Not isolated equations but situational)



Skill Building

Sample Math activities:

- 1. The Greater Chicago Food Depository (TJ worksite) sells food like the food donated by Goodness Greenness - to local nonprofits for 7 cents a pound. Let's see how much local nonprofits would pay for the following:
- a. 1 Box of assorted water 50 pounds.
- b. 2 boxes of candy, cookies and snacks 1 box is 25 pounds and 1 box is 28 pounds.
- c. 1 box of crackers 15 pounds
- d. 1 box of juice boxes 36 pounds
- e. 3 boxes of fruit each box is 40 pounds

Example and formula:

Example: 1 box of baking goods – 30 pounds

Formula: take number of pounds x 7. Move decimal point two spaces to the left.

x 7

30

210

Move decimal point 2 spaces = 2.10 The food depository would sell this box of food for \$2.10



Math and Reading Literacy Results

Math gains:

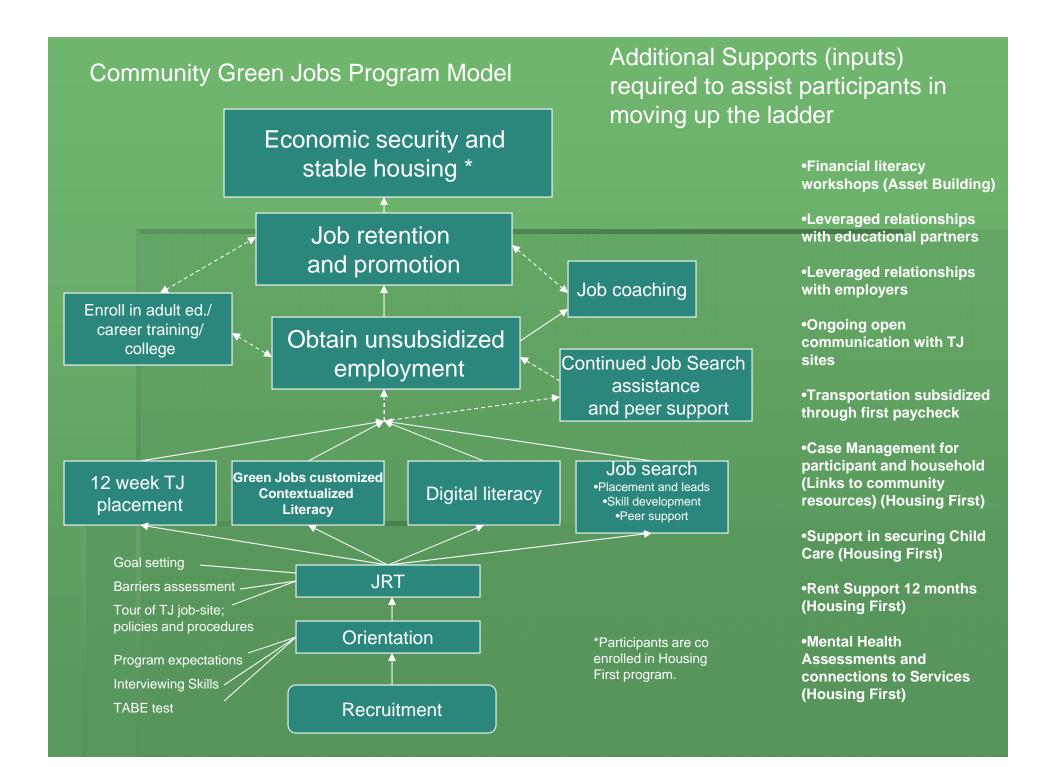
- All demonstrated a gain in math skills,
- 2.5 + grade levels average
- highest gain of nearly 5 grade levels over the 12 weeks.
- Reading gains:
 - 1.8 grade levels average increase highest increase of nearly 5 grade levels - over the 12 weeks.

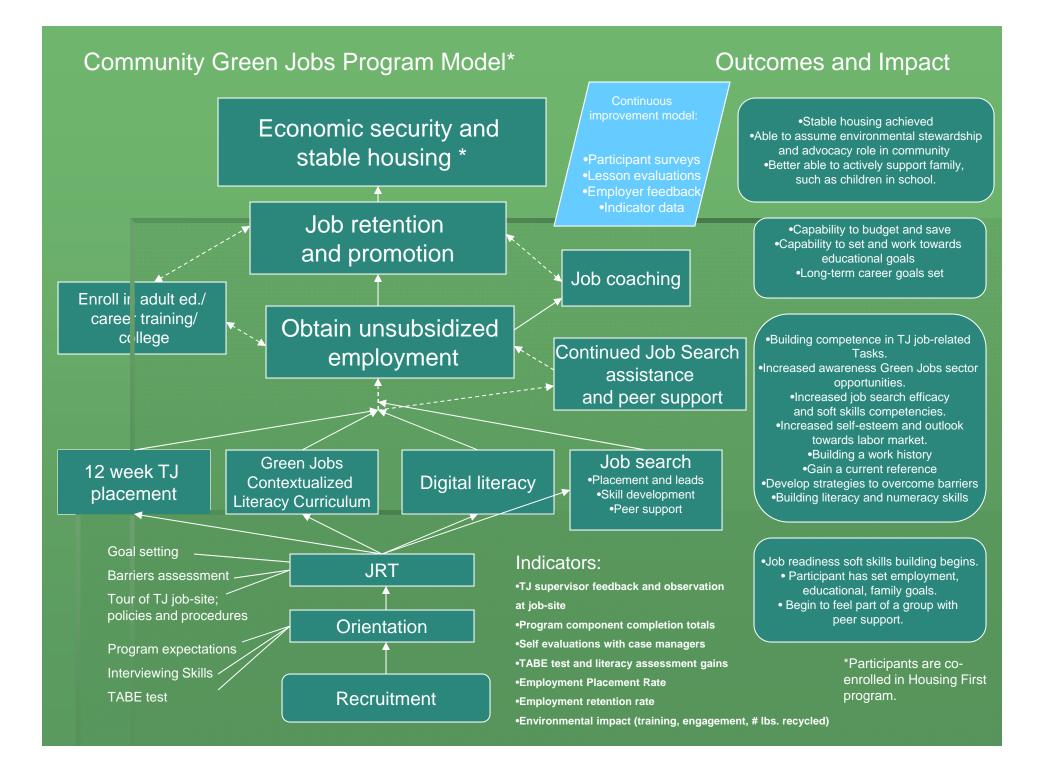


Employment Outcomes

- 29 Participants were enrolled between August, 2011 and January, 2012.
- 70% of participants completed their Transitional Jobs between end of August, 2011 and end of March, 2012
- 60% of TJ completers have already transitioned to unsubsidized employment
 90% of them gained full-time employment;
 70% of the positions are benefits eligible;
 \$11.50 is the average hourly wage.







Adapting and Evolving – New Program

- City of Chicago Transitional Jobs program for persons with convictions in their background – serve 30 this year; 1st cohort 6 weeks in.
- Urban Agriculture/Landscaping & Warehousing sectors
- Building on partnerships with Greater Chicago Food Depository and landscaping employer
- Partnering with Wright College for certificate
- 12 weeks of contextualized lessons, all lessons have reading and math



Wright College Partnership: Stackable Credentials

Incorporating stackable credentials:

Stackable Credential: Part of a sequence of credentials that can be accumulated over time to build up an individual's qualifications and help them to move along a career pathway or up a career ladder to different and potentially higher-paying jobs.
(Source: TEGL 15-10, www.doleta.gov)

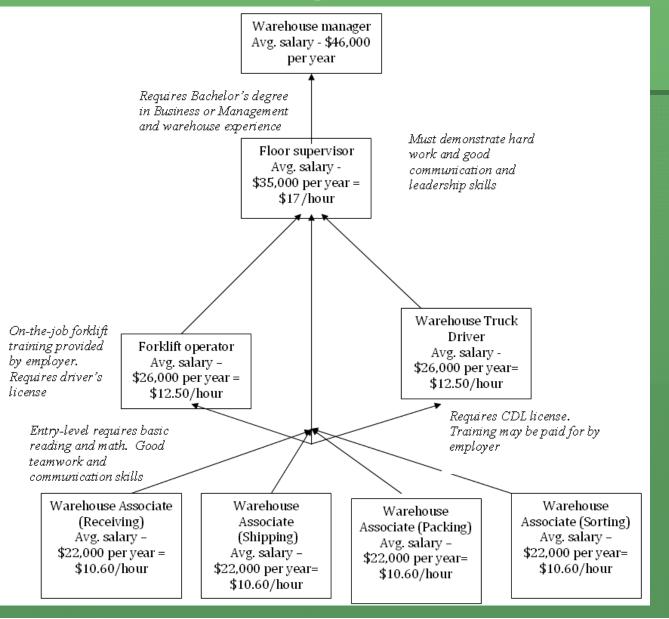
Wright College Partnership: Stackable Credentials

Partnering with employers and community college to connect participants to education, training/GED opportunities and unsubsidized employment

- Partnering with Wilbur Wright College, a City College of Chicago, to offer a certificate of Employment Readiness in Urban Agriculture/Landscaping and Warehousing. Employers contribute to curriculum and career pathways models to enhance placements into unsubsidized employment.
- Students learn about Wright College programs including Environmental Technology and take College Placement test upon completion of certificate
- Transitions into GED programs or further certificate programs in warehousing, environmental safety, etc. (i.e. forklift training) will be facilitated for qualified students

Landscape Construction and Maintenance Career Path **TRAINING and** WORK BASED **EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION** TRAINING Bachelor's, Master's, PhD Account / Project Manager Horticulture, business, landscape architecture, urban planning **Career Technical Education (AA or AAS) Field Supervisor** Horticulture, landscape design, natural areas management **On-the-Job Training Industry-based Certifications** small equipment troubleshooting, **Crew foreman** Master Gardener, Certified Landscape horticulture knowledge (plant Technician, Certified Arborist identification, planting (NOTE: These certifications are not required for techniques), drivers license, plan employment, but they are widely recognized and reading, supervisory skill valued by the industry) **On-the-Job Training** Laborer (construction) hardscape construction (brick High School Diploma / GED laying, retaining walls) (NOTE: This academic credential may not be required for entry level employment, but it is necessary before advancing to higher level **On-the-Job Training** education) mowing, pruning, edging, small Laborer (maintenance) equipment operation, basic plant identification **Basic Education Programs** Literacy, Math, ESL Version 1.0 (July 2010)

Warehousing Career Path



Adapting and Evolving – Changes in Curriculum

- Site visits to permanent employers
- Employer engagement in curricular content, workplace skills, advancement; increased hard skill content
- Successful former participant input on workplace skills
- Screening for affinity in industry sectors
- Incorporating Career Ladders (Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative – HHCS is partner)



Considerations for starting an Integrated TJ Contextualized Literacy program

- Be mindful that participants may have had negative experiences in classrooms before; structure so that their input is drawn out and valued; make it relevant to their goals and experiences; no red marks and bad grades; more discussion and reading
- Work is an equalizer helps people overcome stigma around literacy; "Green Jobs" class vs. "literacy" class.
- Pre and Post-Test to measure results to assist participants in seeking further training or education, to help determine effectiveness of the curriculum and to support grantwriting efforts



TJ and Contextualized Literacy; A Natural Fit

- Integrating contextualized literacy and Transitional Jobs programs combines applied hands-on work experience with reading, math, presentation, critical thinking and soft skills in a classroom setting.
- Combining these creates a synergy that can lead to enhanced motivation on the job and in class, increased community and peer support, improved job performance through preparing for tasks ahead of time in the classroom, and greater confidence, selfesteem and self-efficacy on the job.
- Improved literacy supports participants in obtaining and maintaining long-term employment, advancing in their careers, pursuing academic and training opportunities and in other areas of their lives (for example, helping children with homework, reading prescription bottles).



HHCS and Contextualized Literacy

Contextualized Literacy programs offered now or in the past by HHCS:

- Hospitality Sector preparing Limited English Proficient refugee participants for entry level work in hotel industry in Chicago
- Culinary Arts in Benton Harbor, Michigan
- Landscaping in Benton Harbor, Michigan
- Customer Service in Benton Harbor, Michigan
 - Green Jobs in Chicago

Urban Agriculture/Landscaping and Warehousing in Chicago



To contact us:

 Jay Landau, Director of Contextualized Literacy, Heartland Human Care Services: jlandau@heartlandalliance.org

 Nancy Phillips, Director of Green Initiatives, Heartland Human Care Services:
 <u>nphillips@heartlandalliance.org</u>





NYC's Parks Opportunity Program: Utilizing /Developing Transferable Skills in a Transitional Employment Model

What is the Parks Opportunity Program (POP)?





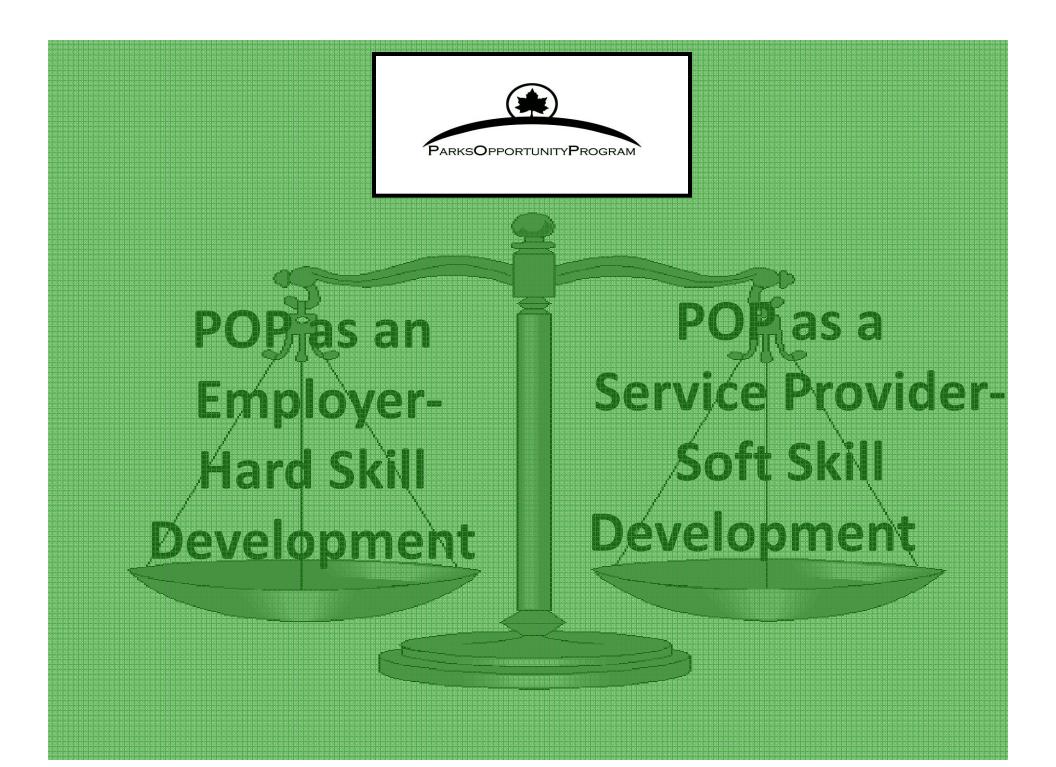
POP is one of the United States' longest-running transitional employment programs, where trainees gain work experience in New York City's parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers.

Through a partnership with the NYC Human Resources Administration, POP trainees learn transferable skills in maintenance, security, horticulture, administration, and customer service while receiving employment services, career counseling, education and training at NYC Parks.







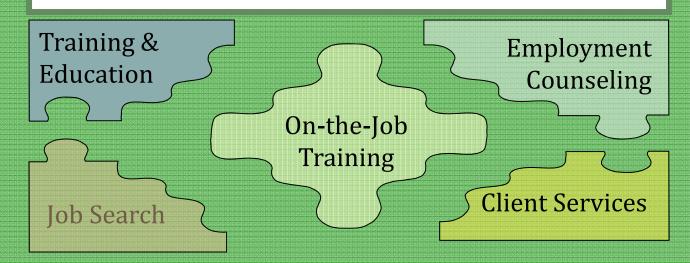


POP as an Employer





POP as a Service Provider





POP the Employer

Trainees who participate in POP:
Work 40 hours per week for 6 months
Earn \$9.21/hour
Are represented by Labor Union District Council 37
Are required to participate in POP employment activities as a part of their job
Are physically able to perform the duties of the position









4 Days/Week of On-the-Job Training Builds Transferable Skills



<u>POP work</u>
<u>assignments include:</u>
Landscaping parks
Maintaining comfort stations
Repairing and restoring facilities
Performing general maintenance in parks, beaches and pools

- Staffing recreation centers
- Office administration
- Providing security at facilities and

events

Weatherizing Parks' facilities

Examples of Transferable Skills in Transitional Employment

Trainees in subsidized employment learn skills each day which are directly applicable to unsubsidized employment, regardless





of industry sector.

- Punctuality
- Professional Communication
- Working as Part of a Team/ Cooperation
- Taking Direction from Supervision
- Task Completion
- Goal Setting
- Accepting Responsibility
- Taking Criticism
- Customer Service
- Workplace Organization and Maintenance
- Handling Change





Parent Comment

1 Day/Week of Soft Skill Development Builds Upon Transferable Skills

Using the worksite as a laboratory, Employment Skills Counselors conduct sessions





with trainees which offer:

- •Employment planning
- Interviewing skills
- Writing résumés
- Applications
- Cold Calling
- Job Maintenance Skills
- Creating a job search plan
- Phone etiquette
- Networking
- Employment retention
- Training and skill completion
- Exit counseling





The Importance of Partnership in Transitional Employment



PARKSOPPORTUNITYPROGRAM

CULTIVATING NEW YORK CITY'S WORKFORCE SINCE 1994

POP@PARKS.NYC.GOV

Liza Ehrlich Chief elizabeth.ehrlich@parks.nvc.gov

CATCH

Creating Access To Careers in Healthcare A project of Edmonds Community College www.edcc.edu/catch

'Stackable Credentials and Career Pathway **Opportunities for TANF Participants'**

August 28, 2012

John House, HPOG-CATCH Director





Washington State САТСН **Snohomish County PARTNERS: Community Colleges** Health Profession Opportunity Grants

Regional Healthcare Employers Technology and In-home Learning Experts The overarching CATCH goal – to close the gap between underlying poverty in Snohomish County, WA and regional job shortages in healthcare.

Program Characteristics:

- Affordable Care Act → Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) Program → Administration for Children and Families → U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Year two of a 5-year project : \$1.4 million awarded for the first year of a 5-year project, and \$1.6 million for each remaining year
- 100 new participants enrolled per year (120-150 active participants served per year)
- Promising Practices e .g., IBEST, e-learning, student learning communities, learning labs, wraparound services –integrate and expand to improve training and employment outcomes.
- Navigators and dedicated advising staff help participants *understand* the various systems necessary for success and how to navigate these systems.
- Dynamic partnership grounded in tailored MOUs
- A demonstration project: demonstrating the feasibility of new methods and practices

Under One Umbrella

Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG)

Colleges

Edmonds Community College Everett Community College

Business Access – In-Home Learning Experts

Workforce Development Council (Navigators)

Employers

and WIBs

Employment Security –

WorkSource

Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

> Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council

TANF

WorkFirst (Welfare-to-Work) & Basic Food Employment and Training

> TRAC Associates – Career Services

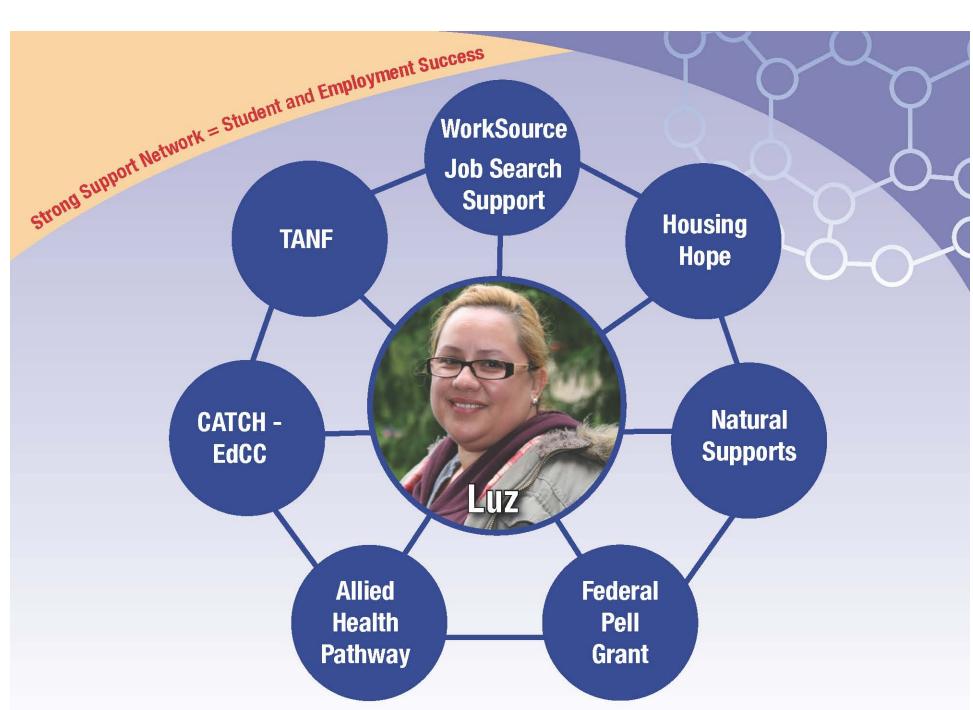
Building Changes Foundation

Community Agencies

Refugee and Immigrant Services

Housing Hope – Homelessness Services

Health Careers for All: King County HPOG Grant (WA State)



"I became homeless," said Luz, 40, who spent the last year living in her car to staying in transitional housing. "I received TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), which helps you get by. But then a counselor at a shelter offered me a new program."

Inching the Door Open -

Low-Income Students and College Success:

- Eliminate costs
- Accelerate training without comprising rigor, content, and competencies
- Provide technology, technology training, and dedicated technology support
- Increase support through I-BEST model
- Minimize barriers using hybrid instruction
- Frontload college success skills, backload employment transition skills
- Foster learning communities (promotes help-seeking)
- Wrap-Around social supports



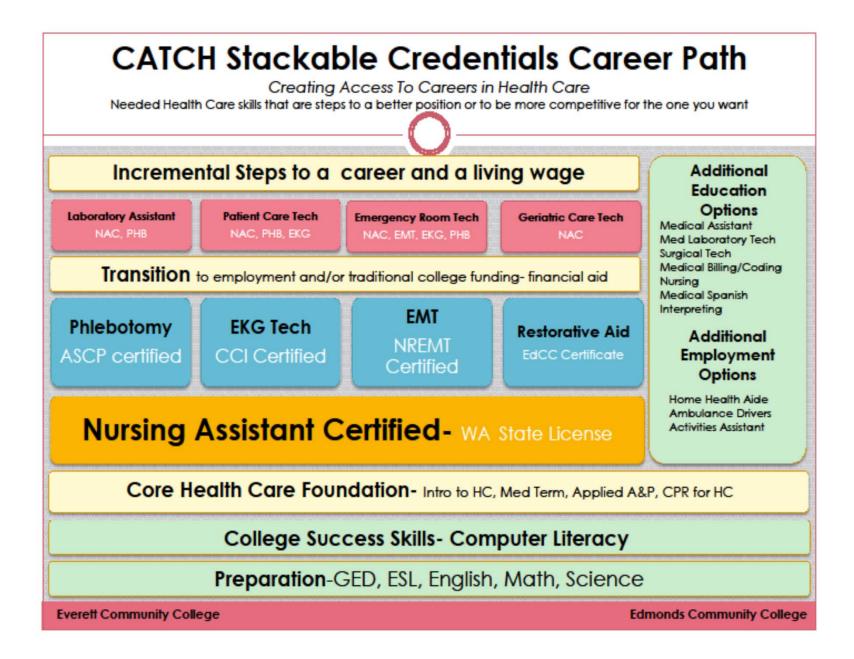
Skill Progression / Pathway Progression

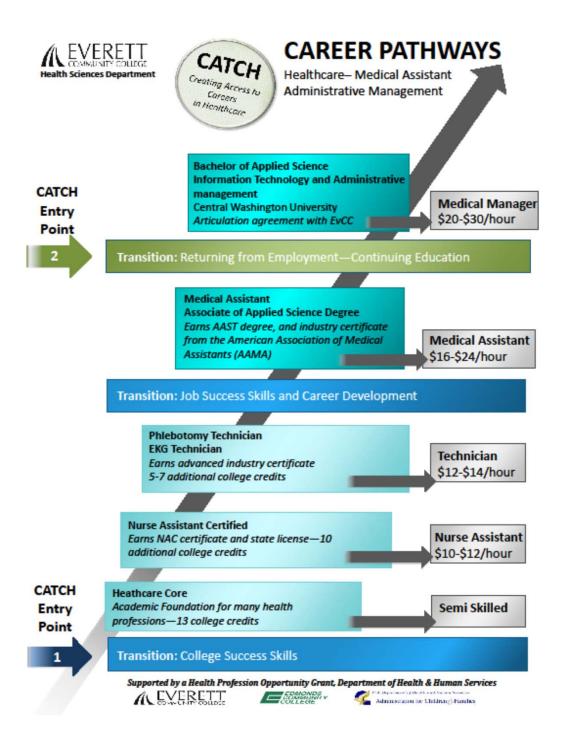
CATCH Pathway

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- Employment
- Advanced Certificates/Degrees
- Employment and Advanced Certificates/Degrees

Sample Health Care Career Pathways Phlebotomy → clinical lab assistant → medical technologist Nurse assistant → patient care tech → LPN → registered nurse Nursing Assistant → Patient Care Technician Nursing Assistant → Health Unit Coordinator Nursing Assistant → Monitor Technician





CATCH Navigation / Social Supports

Philosophy of CATCH Navigation:

- Gain knowledge of community and local systems
- Form partnerships with students to address the information-and-supportseeking requirements of today's social and educational systems
- Anticipate and overcome barriers to success
- Leverage, facilitate and broker college and community service systems
- Assess and promote use of natural supports
- Foster self-determination

Practical Strategies / Lessons Learned Non-instructional Supports:

- Define non-instructional support infrastructure
- Create strategies to notify and engage partners across the systems
- Foster early bonding to campus and vision as a college student
- Encourage social relationships through learning communities
- Scaffold curriculum components to increase student success
- Offer intensive tutoring interventions early
- Build multiple course tracks with multiple start points

Student Spotlight

Nina, EvCC CATCH Student

Completed Work-Ready Certificates in Nursing Assistant and Phlebotomy

- <u>Referral Partner</u>: Immigrant and Refugee Services NW
- <u>Strength</u>: Persistence, Passed WA State Nursing Assistant Written Exam on 2nd Attempt
- <u>Outcome</u>: Landed a job in less than three months. Working as a CNA at Prestige Care and Rehab in Edmonds, WA
- <u>Next Step</u>: Phlebotomy Tech Position

"I am very thankful for the CATCH Program and all of its staff. Because of this program, I finally found a job that I like and I have many new opportunities because of this experience. Now I feel much more happier about my life."



- What do you notice about Nina?

Thank You!

John House, CATCH Director John.house@edcc.edu, 425-640-1851

CATCH Information: <u>http://www.edcc.edu/CATCH/</u>

HPOG Funding Information: http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/09d/state_charts.html

IBEST Model: http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/e_integratedbasiceducationandskillstraining. aspx

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