

# Fresh Finds

## The Collaborative on Economic Mobility Newsletter

March 2025

### Promising Practices Highlight

#### Pre-Apprenticeships and Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships remain a high-impact pathway for workforce development, though access and understanding can be challenging. In the article *Trends and Opportunities in Work-Based Learning: Pre-Apprenticeships and Apprenticeships*, Brandon Anaya from Seattle Jobs Initiative has provided valuable insight into current trends and strategic approaches.

Key takeaways:

- **High Demand, Limited Supply:** Apprenticeship programs are highly competitive. Addressing this gap requires strategic pre-apprenticeship initiatives.
- **Pre-Apprenticeships as a Critical Onramp:** These programs prepare candidates for entry exams and provide essential skills, significantly improving their chances of success. Look for programs with industry-aligned curricula and direct pathways to registered apprenticeships.
- **Sector Diversification:** Apprenticeships span numerous sectors beyond traditional trades, including healthcare, IT, and education. This presents diverse opportunities for client placement.
- **SNAP E&T Integration:** Pre-apprenticeships can be incorporated into SNAP Employment and Training programs, expanding access for eligible participants. Consult your local E&T office for details.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Effective programs leverage collaboration between employers, educational institutions, and social service agencies. This model ensures comprehensive support, including paid training, academic credentials, and wrap-around services.
- **Program Development Resources:** Organizations offer resources for developing pre-apprenticeship programs. State apprenticeship offices can provide technical assistance.

In essence, pre-apprenticeships serve as a vital bridge to registered apprenticeships, enhancing customer readiness and expanding access to high-demand career pathways.

To learn more, read the article here:

[Access the Article](#)

### Highlighted Initiative

#### Leap to Teach

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency offers an innovative early childhood education apprenticeship program known as Leap to Teach, including paid training, college credit, Child Development Associate (CDA) certification, and supportive services, including SNAP Employment & Training.



[Click here](#) to learn more.

## Upcoming Learning Opportunities

***Don't miss out on these upcoming learning opportunities available from the Collaborative on Economic Mobility!***

### **Webinar Series: Innovative Approaches to Workforce Development**

**Part 1: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 2pm ET | 1pm CT | 12pm MT | 11am PT**

**Part 2: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 2pm ET | 1pm CT | 12pm MT | 11am PT**

Join NCAP to gain insight into the emerging trends and promising practices for advancing economic mobility through innovative workforce development strategies. Participants will learn from the successes and challenges of local Community Action Agencies who have implemented innovative workforce development strategies and have the opportunity to identify actionable strategies that can be replicated and adapted to meet the unique needs of their own local community.



[Click here](#) to register.

### **Webinar Series: Building and Sustaining Strategic Partnerships**

**Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 2pm ET | 1pm CT | 12pm MT | 11am PT**

**Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 2pm ET | 1pm CT | 12pm MT | 11am PT**

This webinar series will highlight Community Action Agencies who are leveraging strategic partnerships to advance innovative economic mobility initiatives. Participants will have the opportunity to gain insights from the experiences of other Community Action leaders who have built and sustained trusted working relationships with cross-sector partners in the areas of Workforce Development, High-Quality Education, and Community-Asset Building. Through intentionality and collaboration, Community Action Agencies can coordinate and enhance services to improve outcomes for individuals and families.



[Click here](#) to register.

## Tools & Resources

***Dig into the latest tools and resources available from a variety of experts across the field of economic mobility.***

## Workforce Development

### **Conference Training Opportunities:**

*Explore opportunities to network with other workforce development professionals across the country, participate in dynamic and insightful training workshops, and gain knowledge of best practices and emerging trends for advancing economic mobility through workforce development initiatives.*



## **National Association of Workforce Development Professionals: Annual Conference**

May 5-7, 2025

Virginia Beach, VA

[Click here](#) to learn more.

## **ACT Summit: *Connecting K-12, Higher Ed, and Workforce***

July 15-17, 2025

Nashville, TN

[Click here](#) to learn more.

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## **Tool: *Pathways to Prosperity Framework***

This framework is intended to help communities better prepare young people for family-supporting careers by strengthening and improving the pathway from high school to postsecondary education, and the workforce. The framework includes five key levers for successful workforce development systems: Secondary-Postsecondary Integration, Career Navigation Systems, Work-Based Learning, Intermediaries, and Leadership and Policy. Strengthening and improving the workforce development system through these levers not only prepares young people for the workforce but also provides employers with a pipeline of skilled and talented professionals and meets the economic and labor needs of the state and region.



[Click here](#) to learn more.

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## **Research Summary: *Young Workers Need Support When They Can't Find Their Footing in the US Workforce***

This article examines the challenges young workers face during economic downturns, highlighting how recessions, especially the pandemic, hurt their job prospects. It explores the rise in youth unemployment and offers policy solutions, like expanded workforce training and unemployment benefits, to support young job seekers. A must-read for those interested in the long-term impact of recessions on youth employment and economic security.

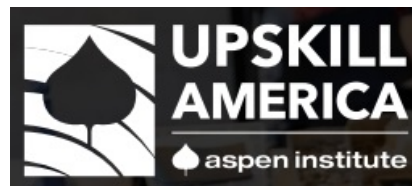


[Click here](#) to learn more.

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## **AI for Everyone: Building an AI Education Ecosystem with Community Colleges Across America**

This article highlights how community colleges are partnering with tech companies across the U.S. to create AI education and training programs. The article features a local example in Grand Rapids, Michigan as well as the example of a statewide initiative in Mississippi. These programs are preparing the future workforce by helping students build competency and gain valuable skills in emerging technologies.



[Click here](#) to learn more.

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**[ApprenticeshipUSA](#)**

ApprenticeshipUSA serves as a comprehensive resource for individuals seeking to enter or advance in skilled trades through registered apprenticeship programs.

It provides tools to search for opportunities, understand the benefits of apprenticeships, and access resources for employers looking to build a skilled workforce. The site emphasizes earning while learning and gaining industry-recognized credentials that lead to successful careers.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

## Peer Sharing and Learning



*Does your agency, tribe, state, or region have an innovative and efficient program, service, or approach you would like to share with your peers? Let us know more about it and have the opportunity to be featured in an upcoming newsletter by [clicking here!](#)*

## Access the Archives

***Explore previous training webinars from the Collaborative on Economic Mobility and uncover any insights you may have missed!***



### **Laying the Foundation for Advancing the Collaborative on Economic Mobility**

This training webinar provides an overview of the Collaborative on Economic Mobility, including the focus areas of Workforce Development, Community Asset Building, Whole Family Approaches, and Innovation. Access the recording to discover future learning opportunities to strengthen and enhance services.

[Click here](#) to access the recording.

**If you have any questions, contact us at:  
[cem@communityactionpartnership.com](mailto:cem@communityactionpartnership.com).**

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