

Beyond the Diploma: Expanding Economic Mobility Pathways Through Alternative Credentialing

National Community Action Partnership

Management and Leadership Training Conference

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Disclaimer

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Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Speaker Presentations
- Q & A
- Tools & Resources

Project Overview

Purpose

“The Collaborative on Economic Mobility is intended to highlight emerging and promising practices in economic mobility for low-income communities and to expand the capacity of the Community Action network to deliver services that promote economic mobility.”

What is Economic Mobility?

“The measure of how an individual or family’s economic well-being changes over time. The movement of an individual from a lower economic level to a higher economic level refers to upward mobility. The movement from a higher economic level to a lower economic level refers to downward mobility.”

Key Focus Areas

Community
Asset Building

Innovative
Community
Programs and
Organizations

High-Quality
Education

Two-Generation
and Whole
Family
Approaches

Workforce
Development

Workforce Development

- Sector-based approaches that align training programs with the specific needs of key industries experiencing growth
- Employer engagement and demand-driven strategies
- Hands-on experience and mentorship opportunities
- Integration of technology and digital literacy initiatives
- Entrepreneurship and small business development

Menti Poll

Session Overview

Introduction to Short-term/Alternative Credentials

Trends/Legislation

Community Action Examples

* Hampton Roads Community Action

* Community Action Marin

Funding Example for Alternative Credentialing

Closing/Questions

Alternative Pathways to Credentials

Background

“Toolbelt Generation”

What are Alternative/Short-Term Credentials?

- Micro-credentials
- Skill-based certifications
- Badges

Examples

- OSHA 10/30
- Child Development Associate (CDA)
- Building Performance Institute (BPI) Certification

Trends

- Career Pathways
- Expanded Funding, e.g. Short-term Pell



Trends in Short-Term Credentials

National Career Clusters Framework

Participant Benefits

- Broader Career Pathways/Transferability
- Market Demand/Economic Stability
- Stackable Credentials
- Financial Accessibility
- Reduced Barrier to Entry



Trends in Short-Term Credentials

Funding Sources

SNAP Employment & Training

Short Term Pell

WIOA

Apprenticeship/
Apprenticeship Subsidized by E&T

Foundation/Corporate Support





Beyond the Diploma

Expanding Economic Mobility Pathways
Through Alternative Credentialing

“Empowering aspirational working families
to move into the middle class.”

Kevin D. Otey, Jr.
Chief Operating Officer, HRCAP
Board Chair, VACAP State Association



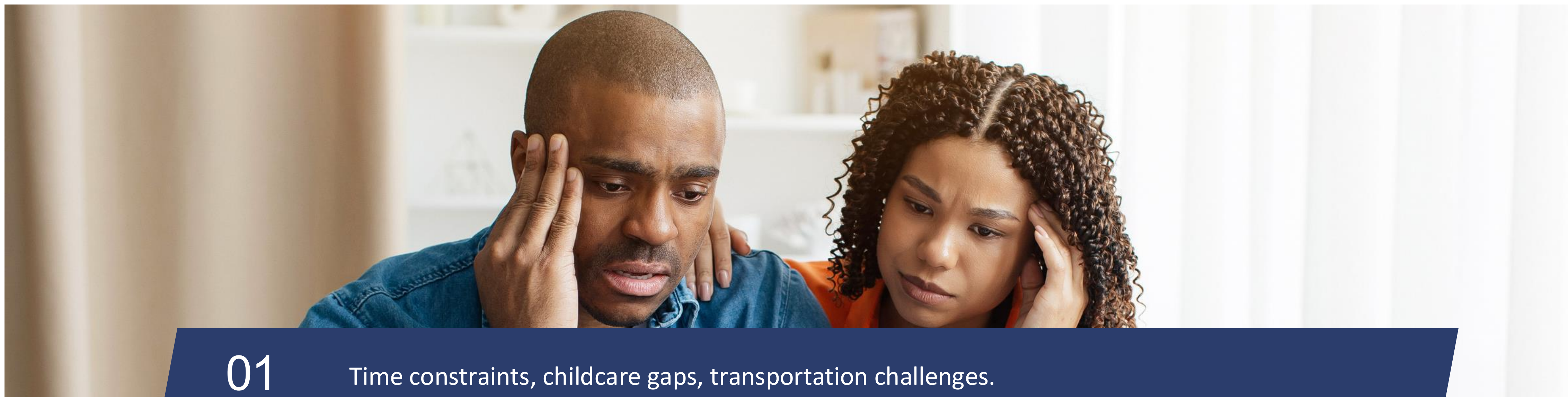
Why This Workshop Matters

Today's workforce requires strong skills and real-world competencies, not just degrees. Families need flexible pathways to living-wage careers, and employers are increasingly valuing competency-based hiring. Community Action Agencies play a key role by providing coordinated, effective local solutions that help individuals move toward long-term success.



- 01 Today's workforce demands skills, not just degrees.
- 02 Working families need flexible, efficient pathways into living-wage careers.
- 03 Employers value competency-based hiring.
- 04 Community Action Agencies are uniquely positioned to deliver local, coordinated, and effective solutions.

Barriers Families Face



- 01 Time constraints, childcare gaps, transportation challenges.
- 02 Limited digital skills or confidence.
- 03 Employers value competency-based hiring.
- 04 Community Action Agencies are uniquely positioned to deliver local, coordinated, and effective solutions.

What “Beyond the Diploma” Means

- 01 Short-term, stackable, industry-recognized credentials.
- 02 Flexible online training tools.
- 03 Work readiness credentials.
- 04 A pathway built on competence, performance, and results.





HRCAP's Credentialing Tools

HRCAP equips participants with trusted, industry-recognized credentials, from foundational skills to certifications in healthcare, IT, trades, and business, helping them demonstrate real-world abilities that employers value.

Foundational Credentials:

- ACT WorkKeys
- National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)
- Northstar Digital Literacy Certifications

Industry Credentials (edu2 platform):

- Healthcare credentials
- IT certifications
- Trades & Technical Skills
- Business & Accounting Certifications

Outcome:

Participants gain verification of real-world skills that employers trust.

Aspen Institute's 2Gen Approach

The 2Gen Approach strengthens families by supporting both parents and children across education, work, health, and economic stability—grounded in fair access and family voice.



The nationally recognized Whole Family (2Gen) framework:

- Education
- Workforce Development
- Economic Supports
- Health & Well-Being
- Social Capital

Grounded in:

- Fair Access
- Family voice & choice

How HRCAP Operationalizes 2Gen Approaches into Workforce Development that Leads to Results Beyond the Diploma

Education

- WorkKeys, NCRC, Northstar
- Adult & youth credential programs

Workforce Development:

- Employer-aligned pathways
- Credential training via edu2
- Job placement

Economic Supports:

- Transportation, childcare coordination
- Housing stabilization
- Financial coaching

Health & Well-Being:

- Behavioral health referrals
- Family stability supports

Social Capital:

- Mentoring
- Employer networking
- Community partnerships



Why 2Gen Strengthens Credentialing

- Credentials are more attainable when families receive wraparound support
- Higher training completion
- Reduced crisis interruptions
- Parents show greater confidence
- Children benefit from household stability
- Employers gain reliable, prepared workers



Wraparound Services that Make Training Work

From Q1 results:

- Transportation assistance.
- Clothing & work supplies.
- Digital access & devices.
- Childcare coordination.
- Coaching and case management.
- Housing and financial supports.

Barrier removal = faster participant progress.



YTD Results - Implementation Highlights

- 01 Strong participant engagement.
- 02 Increased enrollment in credential pathways.
- 03 Participants completed assessments and planning swiftly.
- 04 Early wins in job preparation and readiness.





Employer Partnerships Strengthening the Pipeline

- Expanded healthcare, manufacturing, and logistics partners.
- Employers validated credential alignment.
- Increased interviews, job offers, and work-based learning.
- Higher confidence in hiring credentialed participants.
- Work Opportunity Tax Credits.
- Bonding Process.
- V3 Credits for hiring Veterans.

Lessons Learned (2021 – Present)



- 01 Barrier removal accelerates training success.
- 02 Coaching keeps families focused on goals – subject matter expert (specialist).
- 03 Digital literacy improves confidence and job readiness.
- 04 Credentialing pathways strengthen when paired with 2Gen supports (identified pathways with employers based on their needs).

Impact & ROI

- Strong enrollment and completion momentum
- Higher job placement rates
- Increased family income
- More stable households
- Significant return-on-investment for funders and employers

Agency Overview

25+ programs spanning housing, workforce development, early childhood education, youth services, family stability, and emergency assistance.

Key Performance Indicators

Category	Indicator	Actual	Target
Individuals Served	# of Unduplicated Individuals Served	743	642
Households Served	# of Unduplicated Households Served	212	437
Households achieving self-sufficiency	% of households income increase the federal poverty level (2008 or higher)	12%	10%
Employment Outcomes	% of individuals obtaining employment (part-time and/or full-time)	81%	75%
Housing Stability	% of households maintaining housing 6+ months after receiving rental/utility assistance	78%	75%
Education and Youth	# of youth enrolled in a quality ECE and/or youth academic program	641	775
Financial Empowerment	Average amount in savings account for individuals enrolled in a financial literacy course completing at least 1st course hours (asset and financial management)	\$250	\$250
Program Compliance	% of HRCAP programs in compliance with funding source	75%	90%
Checking and Savings Accounts	# of individuals opening a new checking and/or savings account with average opening balance of \$200 or more	1	2
Financial Literacy Awareness	# of individuals receiving financial literacy education	12	8
Homeless Prevention	# of homeless individuals providing access to toiletries, hygiene kits, and shower services	102	94
Eviction Prevention	# of households that avoided eviction due to financial assistance and/or referral service that led to prevention	28	16
Transportation Services	# of units provided to individuals by HRCAP staff/vehicle (minimum of 15 miles recorded in CMS by staff)	31	40
Tax Preparation Services	# of tax returns prepared by HRCAP VITA staff/volunteers	8	15
Collaborative Referrals to Partners	# of referrals made to HRCAP Community Partner (MOU on file)	78	12

Community Impact Summary

Services, Outcomes, and Program Highlights

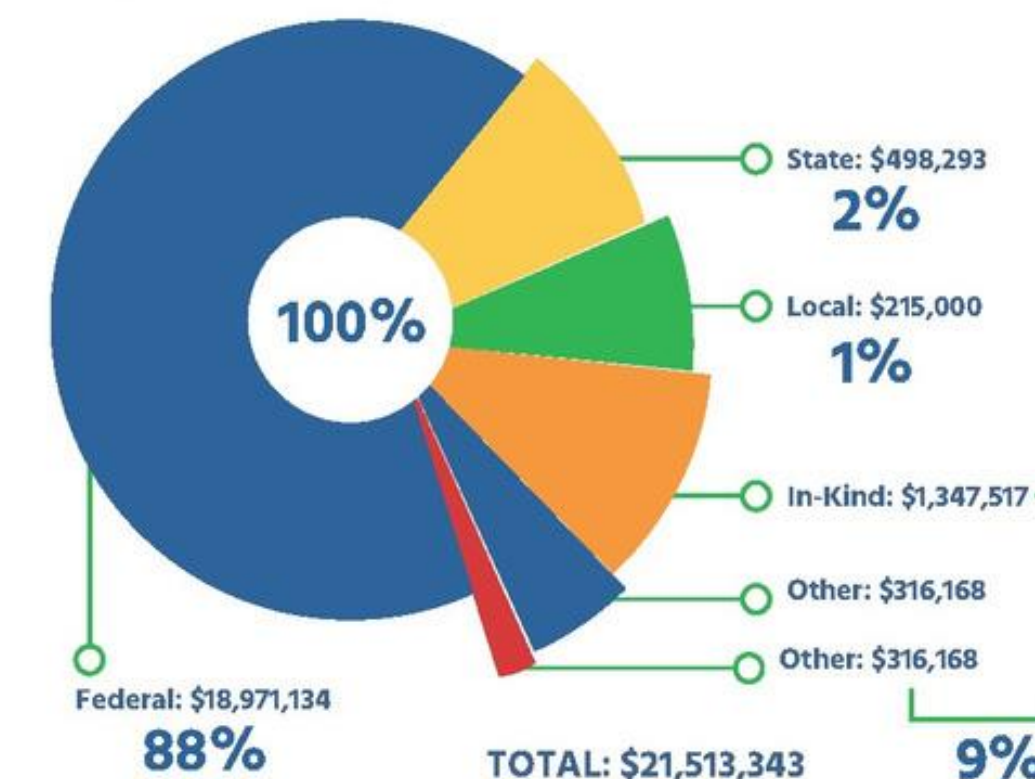


Strategic Priorities Dashboard

Priority Area	Status	Notes
Whole Family Approach	On Track	Filling positions for Chesapeake WFA Innovation Lab.
Data Modernization	In Progress	Aligning data with ACF Priorities and creating internal data portal for staff.
Partnership Collaborations	On Track	Increasing capacity to better capture referrals and the associated services and outcomes.

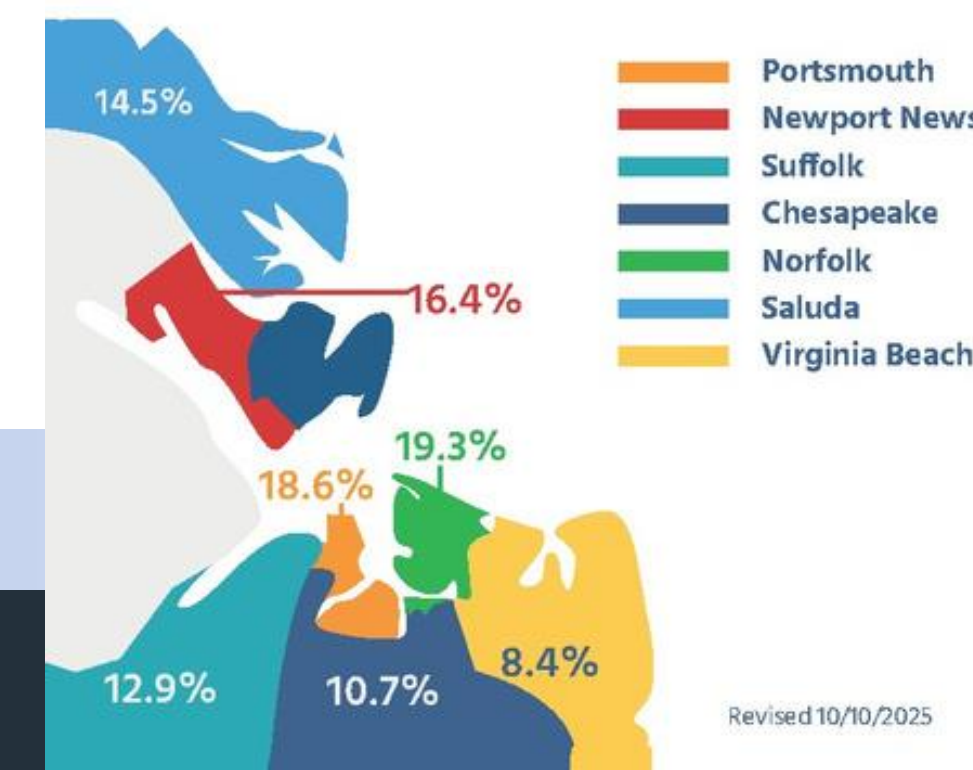
Annual Report Financials

91% of funds go to services
9% of funds go to administrative costs



Economic Conditions & Regional Context

Regional Poverty Rates (2024)



What This Means for Community Action



- Credentials create economic mobility.
- 2Gen strengthens retention, performance, and outcomes.
- Digital literacy and work readiness expand opportunity.
- Coordinated support systems drive lasting change.
- This is how families move toward self-sufficiency.

Call to Action

To the CAP Network:

- 01 Scale credential pathways.
- 02 Expand WorkKeys, NCRC & Northstar integration.
- 03 Strengthen employer partnerships.
- 04 Build Whole Family (2Gen) systems across programs.
- 05 Invest in aspirational working families.
- 06 Create cohorts and trainings based on employer needs.
- 07 Continue to showcase the benefits employers receive by partnering with your organization.
- 08 Meet with employers regularly but keep meetings short and to the point.

THANK YOU!



Scan to connect
and follow up

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**Beyond the Diploma:
Alternative Pathways
Towards Upward
Mobility**

➤➤➤ Agenda

- Community Action Marin (CAM) Overview
- Alternative Pathways
- Workforce Programs at CAM
 - Early Care & Education Pathway to Success (ECEPTS)
 - Workforce Accelerator Fund (WAF)
- Lessons Learned & Workforce Strategy



OUR HISTORY

Founded in 1966, **Community Action Marin** is the county's official anti-poverty agency working to ensure that low-income people have the resources they need to become self-sufficient and thrive.

WHO WE ARE

- Marin County's Designated **Anti-Poverty Agency**
- Part of a national network of **1,100+ Community Action Agencies**
- Assisting over **7,000 households directly** across the county each year
- 240+ staff working at 10 sites with a \$32M budget
- Listening deeply to **meet the needs** of community
- A healing-centered approach to **well-being for all**

VISION



All of us in Marin have an equal opportunity to live our lives with dignity and respect.

MISSION



We make it possible for people to achieve well-being by providing the vital services they need.

Together, we break down the barriers that get in the way of fair and lasting change in service to better outcomes for all.

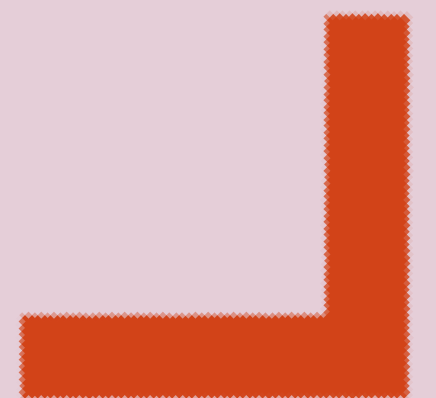
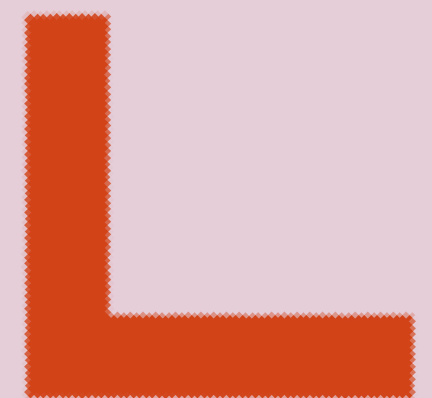
Alternative Pathways

- **Apprenticeship Programs:** This model is a direct path to a professional career and is structured around the philosophy of "earn while you learn."
- **Certificate Programs:** Focused educational or training course, typically shorter than a degree program, designed to teach specific skills and knowledge required for a particular job or professional role.
- These alternative pathways lead directly to **Upward Mobility.**





Early Care & Education Pathway to Success (ECEPTS)



➤➤➤ Early Care & Education Pathways to Success

- The Associate Teacher Apprenticeship Program supports individuals to jump-start their career in ECE while providing support to ensure their success
- Unique blend of practical experience and academic learning
- Community Action Marin serves as the lead partner in Marin County, supporting apprentices at CAM and other agencies



>>> ECEPTS at Community Action Marin

Cohort 1



- January 2023
- 2 Employer Partners
- 10 CAM Apprentices
- 17 Total Apprentices

Cohort 2



- June 2024
- 3 Employer Partners
- 11 CAM Apprentices
- 23 Total Apprentices

➤➤➤ ECE Pathways: Upward Mobility

Associate Teacher

- 12 ECE Units
- Certificate of Achievement, Foundations in ECE

Teacher

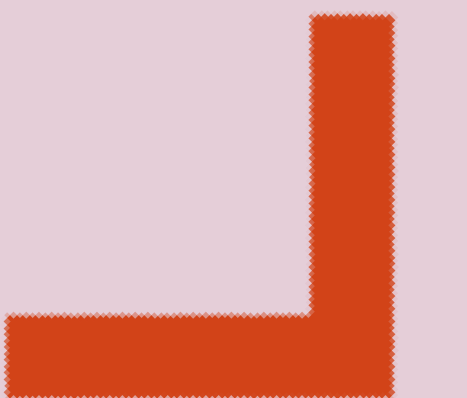
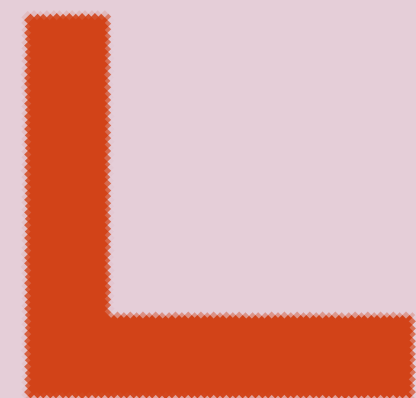
- 24 ECE Units
- 16 GE Courses
- Associate Degree

Apprentices in the program receive pay increases throughout the program





**Workforce
Accelerator Fund
(WAF) 10.0**



Workforce Accelerator Fund 10.0

- Aimed to bridge the gap between workforce programs and quality jobs.
- Prioritized "high-road" strategies—projects that don't just find any job, but focus on positions with upward mobility
- Target Populations focused on the most vulnerable workers, including:
 - English Language Learners (ELL)
 - Individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity
 - Justice-involved individuals
 - Foster youth and disconnected young adults

➤➤➤ Program Overview

Program Enrollment: August 2022- March 2024

- 210 inquiries
- 73 individuals were enrolled
- 55 individuals are currently enrolled
 - 40 WAF participants
 - 15 early childhood educator apprentices (ECEPTS)



Program Outcomes

Employment & Training

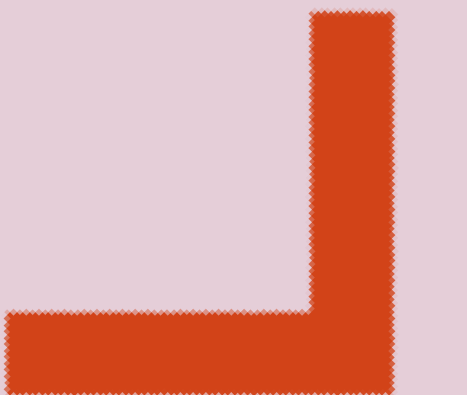
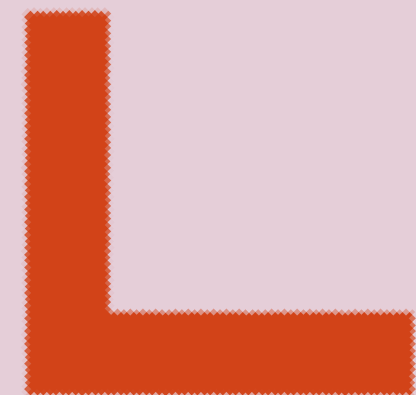
- 42% of individuals enrolled in a training
 - Of the 42% who enrolled in training, 32% successfully completed a training program
- 42% of participants secured employment
 - 15 ECEPTS apprentices gained employment and increased pay
 - 16 WAF participants gained employment

Outcomes & Impact

- 2 individuals are working towards getting their GED
- 11 individuals enrolled in English Language classes
- 10 individuals enrolled in College of Marin Early Education classes
- 7 individuals secured housing



Workforce Strategy



➤➤➤ Lessons Learned from ECEPTS

- Refining Our Model for Greater Impact
 - Transition from hand-holding to skill-building
 - Strengthened orientation & college partnership/matriculation
 - Assessed key skills as part of interview process
 - Improved mentor onboarding & commitment process



Key Components of Workforce Programs

Program
Design

Cohort Model

Peer to peer
learning

Partnerships

Employers

Educational
Institutions

Funding

Braiding

Key Components of Workforce Programs

Program
Operations

Recruitment

Criteria

Onboarding

Employers

Educational Institutions

Training

Soft Skills

Digital Literacy

Supportive
Services

Basic Needs



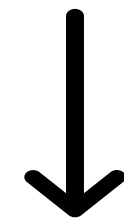
**Kristopher Budi, Senior
Director of Economic Justice**

Kbudi@camarin.org



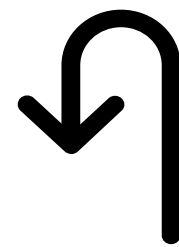
SNAP E&T 50-50 Program

USDA-FNS



State

50%



Using agencies' non-federal funds up front to cover program costs

Social Enterprises

Community Action Agencies

Community Colleges

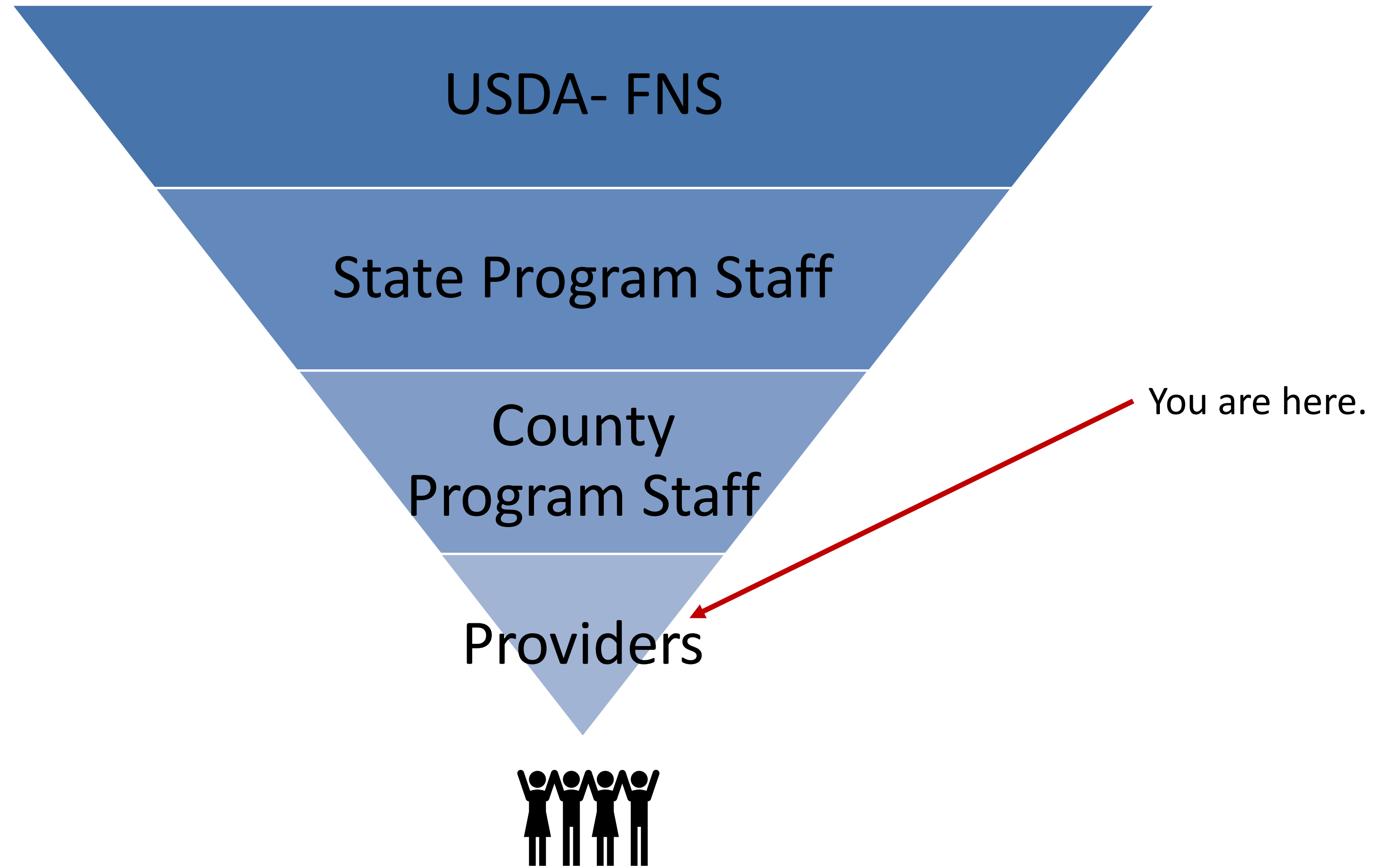
Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) provides flexible funding to each state to operate SNAP Employment & Training (SNAP E&T) programs

State **contracts** with third-party providers to provide SNAP E&T services

Note: States may also contract with an **Intermediary** to support program administration.

Providers **use their own non-federal funds** to cover 100% of costs upfront to deliver SNAP E&T services, **then receive up to 50% reimbursement** through the state (or intermediary).

SNAP E&T Ecosystem

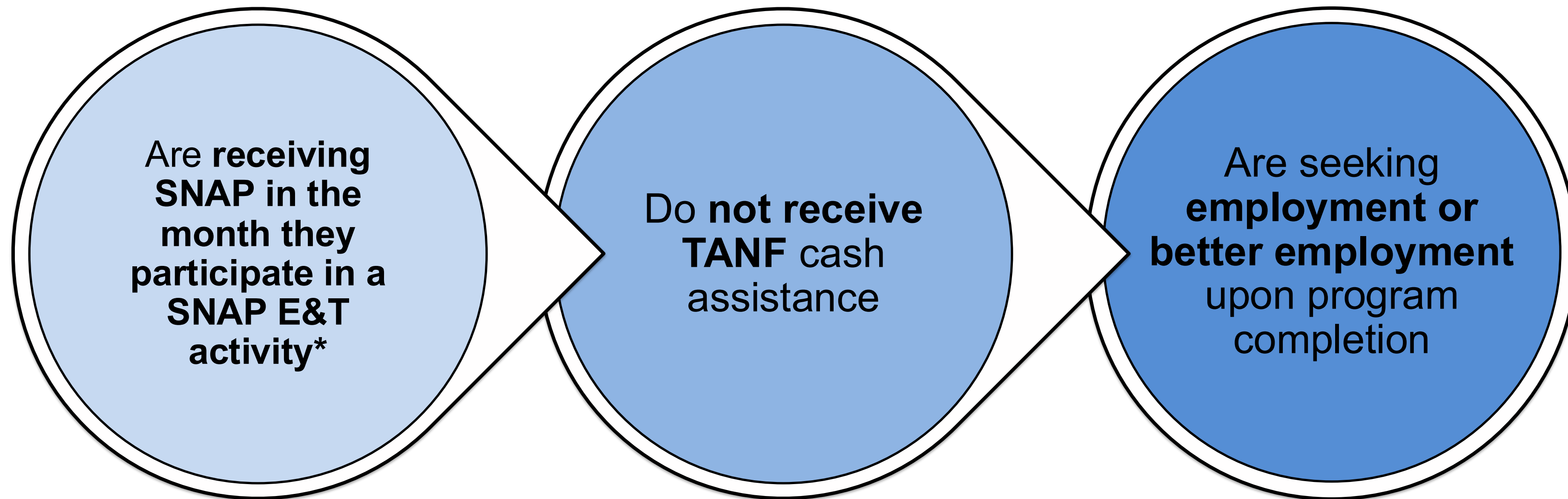


Third-Party Partnership (TPP)

- Contracted with the SNAP agency to deliver E&T services
- E&T services are provided by third parties, including Community Action Agencies
- Admin and program expenses provided with non-federal funding can be reimbursed up to 50%
- Reimbursement funds are flexible and can be used for additional reimbursement
- Expands ability to reach and support SNAP population

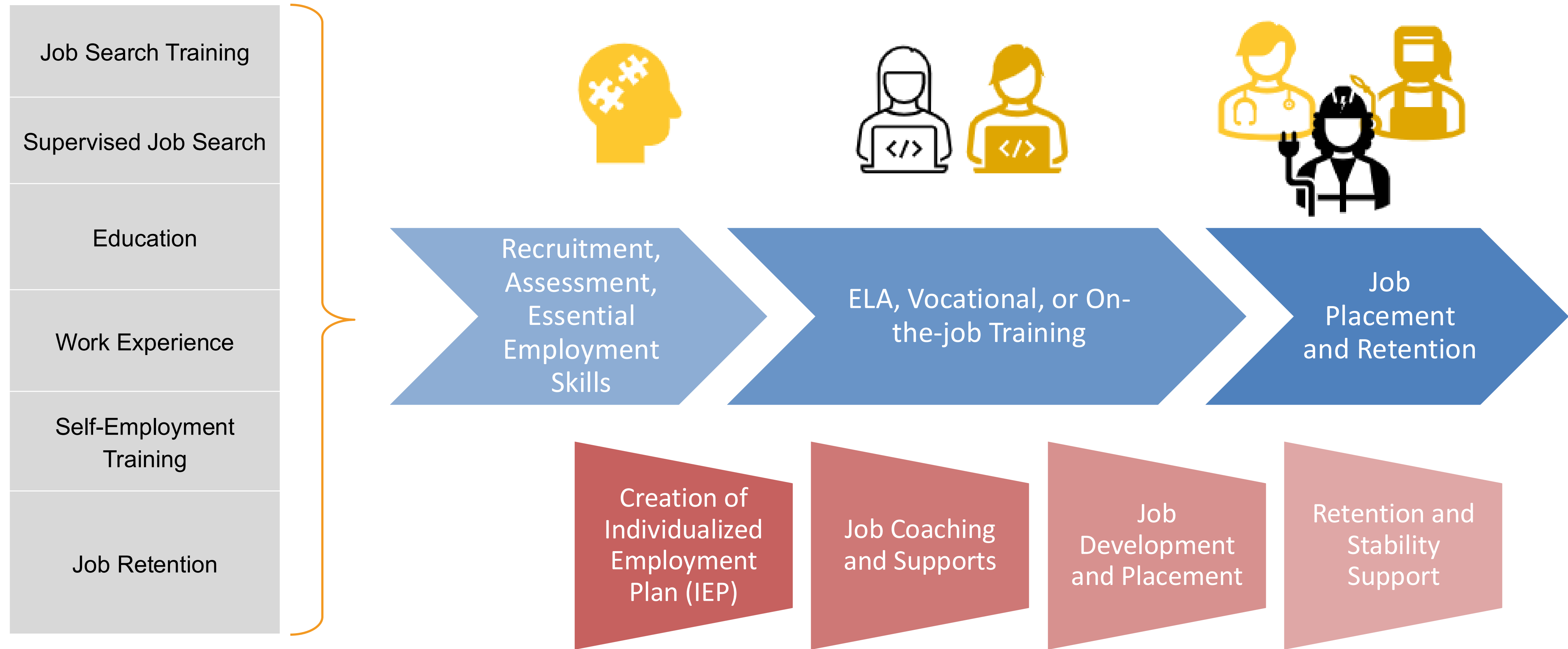


SNAP E&T Participants



*Participants enrolled in Job Retention Services may continue participation without SNAP eligibility.

Services: Component Alignment



Wrap-Around Supports:

Comprehensive Case Management

Case management is a required SNAP E&T element and is a set of services to guide and support participants as they engage with an E&T program.

- Skills and employability assessments
- Individualized service plans
- Progress monitoring
- Coordination with other service providers
- Programmatic and participant documentation and reporting



Wrap-Around Supports:

Participant Reimbursements

Participant reimbursements are supportive services that are **reasonably necessary** and directly related to **participation in a SNAP E&T component**.

- Dependent Care
- Transportation
- Tuition, Books, Supplies
- Clothing, Uniforms
- Personal Safety, Tools

States can determine what services are allowable and may cap the amount that can be reimbursed.



Eligible SNAP E&T Funds

TPPs are eligible for reimbursement on **non-federal funds** used to provide E&T services to eligible participants.

Examples of **Eligible Non-Federal Funds**:

- ❑ State, County, City Funds
- ❑ Private Donations
- ❑ Foundation Grants
- ❑ Business Revenue (social enterprises)
- ❑ Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)



Organizational Capacity

Potential TPPs need to determine whether they have the capacity to meet state and local SNAP E&T requirements.



Financial stability, reliable funding sources, sound/adaptable financial procedures



Good record on federal or other publicly funded grants/contracts



Staff, data reporting, processes in place to meet program/contract requirements

Contact Us!

If you have questions about becoming a SNAP E&T provider, feel free to reach out!

Brandon Anaya

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Any Questions?



Tools and Resources

Funding Opportunity

Under this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), DOL will award grants through a competitive process to eligible public or private non-profit organizations or Tribal entities to provide pre-apprenticeship occupational skills training, education, and job placement services to opportunity youth. YouthBuild prepares participants for quality jobs in various industry sectors and includes wrap-around supportive services such as assistance in transportation, childcare, and housing. YouthBuild programs must offer participants construction training and hands-on experiences building affordable housing for their community. Programs may also include a Construction Plus component, providing vocational training in additional high-demand industries.

General Information:

- **Award Ceiling:** \$2 million
- **Expected # of Awards:** 57
- **Closing Date for Applications:** March 2, 2026

Eligible Applicants:

- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)
- Special district governments
- Independent school districts
- City or township governments
- Private institutions of higher education
- State governments
- County governments
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)



Scan to
learn more:



tinyurl.com/YouthBuildFunding

Funding Opportunity

Advancing Workforce Mobility

Through Credential Transparency
+ Skills Validation



Education Design Lab



Walmart*

Scan to learn more:



tinyurl.com/EduDesignLab

This initiative will invest in a portfolio of projects that make workers' skills and credentials more visible, trusted, and transferable. We're looking for grantees who will use credential transparency and skills validation to expand economic mobility for workers who have been excluded by education and workforce systems which prioritize degrees, especially STARs (individuals Skilled Through Alternative Routes).

Grant Details:

- **Total Fund:** \$3.5 million
- **Total # of Awards:** 7-12 awards across multiple tiers, subject to availability of funds and quality of proposals
- **Grant Levels:**
 - Explore (Up to \$250,000)
 - Demonstrate (Up to \$400,000)
 - Scale (Up to \$600,000)
- **Application Deadline:** February 20, 2026
- **Notification of Awards:** March 13, 2026

Eligibility:

- U.S.-based nonprofit or governmental organizations that are ready to advance credential transparency and skills validation.
- Multi-organization partnerships and collaboratives are encouraged. One eligible organization must serve as the lead applicant.

Collaborative on Economic Mobility

NEW NCAP WEBPAGE!!!

Explore the new Collaborative on Economic Mobility (CEM) Webpage!

You can find tools and resources related to CEM key focus areas and sign up for our Fresh Finds Newsletter here!

CEM Key Focus Areas:

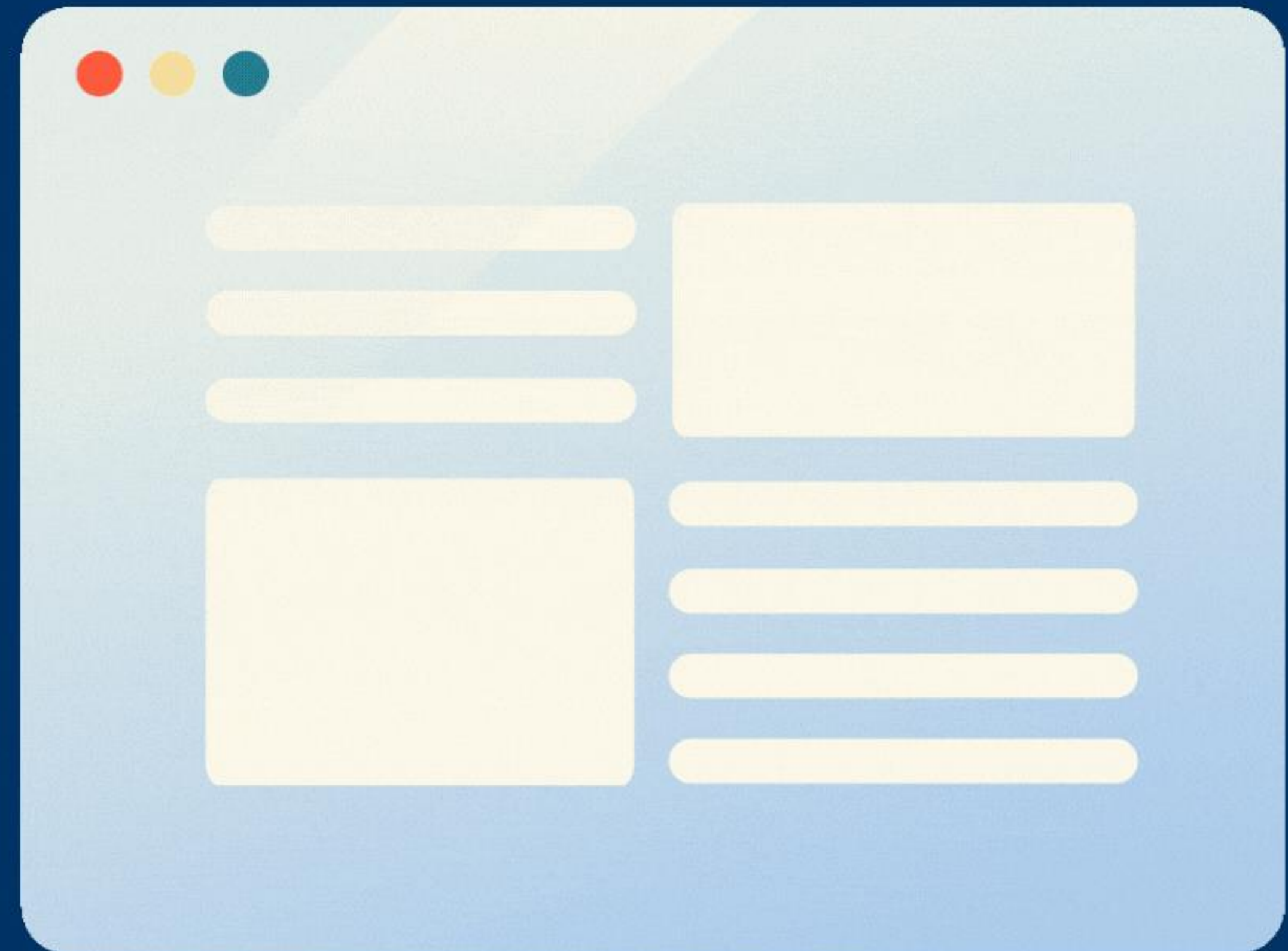
WHOLE FAMILY APPROACH

HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION

COMMUNITY ASSET BUILDING

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
& ORGANIZATIONS



tinyurl.com/lookatCEM



PRE-APPRENTICESHIPS WEBINAR COMPANION GUIDE



APPRENTICESHIP WEBINAR COMPANION GUIDE

This guide is designed to accompany the webinar Workforce Development focusing on Pre-Apprenticeships as pathways to economic mobility shaping a brighter future not only for individuals but

In today's rapidly evolving job market, workforce development is not just about filling job vacancies, it's about creating new opportunities that drive long-term economic growth. By investing in workforce development, we can empower individuals to:

- **Increase Earning Potential:** Skilled workers can improve financial stability.
- **Enhance Job Security:** In-demand skills provide job market stability.
- **Contribute to Community Prosperity:** A skilled workforce drives growth and strengthens local economies.
- **Break Cycles of Poverty:** Access to quality training leads to upward mobility.



This guide is designed to accompany the webinar Innovative Approaches to Workforce Development focusing on Registered Apprenticeships as pathways to economic mobility. This resource is designed to deepen your understanding of Registered Apprenticeships and provide you with additional resources to support your next steps, whether you're launching a program, expanding an existing program, or exploring how Registered Apprenticeships can strengthen your Workforce Development program goals.

What is a Registered Apprenticeship?
A Registered Apprenticeship is an industry-vetted, structured, work-based learning model that combines on-the-job training (OJT) with related instruction (RI). These programs are registered with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) or a State Apprenticeship Agency, ensuring they meet specific quality standards.

Feature	Registered Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship	Pre-Apprenticeship
Registration	Registered with DOL or State Apprenticeship Agency and abides by 23 established standards	Any apprenticeship that is not formally registered with DOL	Not necessarily registered
Wage	Paid employment	May be paid a stipend, starting hourly wage, or unpaid	May be paid a stipend, starting hourly wage, or unpaid
Credential	Nationally recognized credential upon completion	May or may not lead to credential, but not always nationally recognized	May or may not lead to credential, but not always nationally recognized
Duration	Typically 1-5 years depending on chosen industry	Typically 1-5 years depending on chosen industry	Shorter term, often a few weeks to months
Purpose	Provides industry-vetted, paid job training that leads to full occupational proficiency while earning a portable, nationally recognized credential	Offers structured, paid or unpaid job training to prepare individuals for skilled careers, potentially leading to industry-recognized credentials	Foundational program designed to prepare individuals to enter and succeed in Registered Apprenticeships

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR SERIES

Dive deeper into apprenticeship pathways with the Workforce Development webinar series!

Explore action steps, strategies, and resources to strengthen your understanding and implementation of Pre-Apprenticeships and Registered Apprenticeships through this two-part webinar series and accompanying companion guides from the Collaborative on Economic Mobility.

EXPLORE MORE HERE!



<https://tinyurl.com/WORKFORCE-DEVELOPMENT1>





Agency Context

Organizational Capacity

Bucks County Opportunity Council (BCOC) is a local Community Action Agency located in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. They serve over 56,000 people annually through five program areas including: Housing, Weatherization, Food, Income Tax Preparation, and Economic Self-Sufficiency. The annual budget is approximately \$15 million which consists of 67% public funding and 33% from private and other funding sources. The work is led by a 21-person tripartite Board of Directors and a 17-person leadership team including a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Financial Officer (CFO), three Directors (Development, Compliance, and Client Services), six Housing Site Supervisors, and six Managers (Human Resources, Volunteer and Community Connections, Self-Sufficiency Program, Food Program).

BUCKS COUNTY OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL



Agency Context

Organizational Capacity

North East Community Action Corporation (NECAC) is a Community Action Agency, a Rural Local Initiatives Support Corporation (Rural LISC) grantee, and a NeighborWorks chartered agency located in Bowling Green, Missouri. The service area spans across 12 counties in Northeast Missouri, including three counties that are part of the metropolitan statistical area adjacent to St. Louis, as well as nine rural counties. The agency's annual budget is approximately \$26 million. This includes over 30 different funding sources, including a mix of both state and federal funding. NECAC is governed by a 30-person volunteer Board of Directors which includes three representatives from each of the 12 counties in the service area. The representatives from each county

include an Elected Official Representative, a Civic Interest Representative, and a Low-Income Representative. The agency has approximately 95 full-time staff and 100 part-time staff. The management team is comprised of 10 individuals including the President/CEO, Deputy Director of Housing Development Programs, Finance Operations Director, Personnel Officer and Assistant Deputy Director, Executive Secretary and Office Manager, Public Relations Officer, Information Technology (IT) Operations Director, Rent Assistance Programs Director, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Operations Director, and Weatherization Director.

Service Delivery

NECAC operates over 60 different programs across the areas of Community Service, Housing Development, and Community Health. Programs within the area of Community

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Spotlight On: Economic Mobility in Action

Collaborative on Economic Mobility Case Study Series

This series of case studies highlights innovative economic mobility initiatives transforming communities across the country. Discover the journeys of local Community Action Agencies as they work toward lasting economic mobility.

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EXPLORE THE CASE STUDIES TODAY

Each Case Study Explores:

PARTNERSHIPS

FUNDING

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SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WEBINAR SERIES



Discover how Community Action Agencies can reimagine and strengthen strategic partnerships to deepen trust and align goals for lasting community impact.

Unlock your potential and advance economic mobility by exploring this two-part webinar series with supplemental companion guides from the Collaborative on Economic Mobility.

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Promising Practices for Building & Sustaining Strategic Partnerships 1

BUILDING & REIMAGINING ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIPS

Re-imagining What Partnerships Can Be

Partnerships can extend far beyond the familiar when we broaden the circle of who we consider as potential partners and reframe partnerships as relationships that contribute to building a connected community of support. This network can be fostered with diverse partnerships such as community colleges, hospitals, public health departments, small and large businesses, trade unions, cultural organizations, and alumni associations to actively support and amplify each other's shared community goals. These partnerships can bring valuable resources like funding, support, job training opportunities, and spark program innovation. Re-imagining your existing and future partnerships encourages both partners to think beyond their own scope and work towards change that will benefit the entire community.

Building on Established Partnerships

Don't start from scratch! Your Community Action Agency (CAA) likely has a network of existing partnerships. The key is to strategically expand and deepen these connections to pursue innovative economic mobility initiatives.

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Promising Practices for Building & Sustaining Strategic Partnerships 2

STRENGTHENING & SUSTAINING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

i Introduction

Whether formed across sectors, within the community, or among other mission driven organizations, strategic partnerships are built on shared values, trust, and commitment to collective impact.

But building these partnerships is just the first step. Sustaining these partnerships requires you to go deeper in your relationship with your partners and build a shared sense of purpose that drives you to adapt and innovate. This ongoing effort is what transforms simple connections to collaborations that are capable of driving impact.

It is through nurturing and strengthening these relationships that partnerships can unlock their full potential and create lasting change.

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FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT WEBINAR COMPANION GUIDE

This webinar companion guide highlights best practices for Community Action Agencies to further develop innovative financial empowerment programs and integrate them into other human service programs.

This companion guide outlines strategies that both public and private Community Action Agencies can take advantage of to help individuals and families achieve financial success!

CHECK OUT THE GUIDE TODAY!



<https://tinyurl.com/FINANCIAL-EMPOWER1>

ADVANCING ECONOMIC MOBILITY THROUGH FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

i Introduction

A stable financial foundation is fundamental for upward economic mobility. Financial stability allows individuals and families to fully benefit from programs that support employment, education, housing, health, and overall well-being. Financial stability is more than simply getting by day to day; it is about being able to sustain a household for months and years to come. Long term financial stability depends on both financial knowledge and access to affordable financial products and services. These services can help individuals and families to plan and prepare for financial emergencies and setbacks to ensure that financial goals and outcomes are not only achieved but also maintained.

Financial empowerment strategies are designed to help individuals and families build the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed financial decisions. These strategies include financial education and coaching,



supportive policies and practices, and improved access to safe and affordable financial products such as affordable banking, credit unions, and savings accounts. By reimagining the approach to financial empowerment, Community Action Agencies can implement integrated services to help individuals and families manage finances, reduce debt, improve credit scores, build



TURNING IDEAS INTO IMPACT: IMPLEMENTING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO ADVANCE ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Part 1 - April 15th Part 2- May 20th

2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT/12:00pm MT/11:00am PT

Advancing economic mobility requires Community Action leaders to implement innovative solutions to address complex challenges. This two-part webinar series explores practical strategies for transforming innovative ideas into measurable community impact. Participants will gain insight and advice from peers in the Community Action network, along with tools and resources to foster innovation, align resources, build capacity to adapt and scale approaches over time.

REGISTER TODAY!



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FRESH FINDS

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The “Fresh Finds” Newsletter is offered quarterly through the Collaborative on Economic Mobility (CEM). Sign up and be the first to know about new tools, resources, and training opportunities!

Are you interested in expanding the capacity of your organization to implement innovative programs and services?

Are you interested in improving outcomes for the individuals, families, and communities in your service area?

Are you interested in learning from the experiences of other community leaders across the country?



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We would love to hear about your experience in today's conference training. Please take a moment to complete the survey.



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