

Effective Pathways Committee Meeting

October 29, 2015 / 8:30 am to 10:00 am
Capital Workforce Partners (One Union Place)

Agenda

- 8:30 am Introduction
- Welcome and introductions
 - Goals for the meeting
- 8:45 am Review and Context
- Career Pathways Frameworks
 - Spring 2015 Asset Mapping Report / Discussions
- 9:15 am Defining Committee Roles and Scope
- HOYC Goals and Benchmarks: web-based digital map, recommendations to address barriers and build effective pathways for target populations, other deliverables?
 - Committee activities and approach [focus on sub-populations?]
 - Supports / information needed to achieve goals
 - Schedule of meetings
 - Membership
- 9:50 am Summary and Next Steps
- 10:00 am Adjourn

Handouts

- Mapping Programs for Opportunity Youth
- CCRY Spring Meeting 2015: Career Pathways Discussion and Definitions

Effective Pathways Committee Meeting Notes

October 29, 2015 / 8:30 am to 10:00 am

Participants

William Clark (Workforce Solutions), Paula Gilberto (United Way), Kim Oliver (Capital Workforce Partners), Chanda Robinson (OPP), and Dave Bechtel (Cross Sector)

Introduction

Dave welcomed participants and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. The goal of the meeting is to review the committee's discussions from the spring and develop the scope of work for the committee for 2015-16.

Review and Context

Participants reviewed and discussed the following meeting handouts:

- **CLASP Slides: Career Pathways Discussion and Definitions.** This handout provides background on the changes in out-of-school youth definitions under WIOA and presents the CLASP career pathway framework (which was utilized in developing the HOYC framework). The CLASP framework provides more substance on what the pathway would mean for an individual or an organization compared with the framework developed by Jobs For the Future (which is more conceptual).

The State of Connecticut and each Workforce Development Board (new name for the WIBs) are developing WIOA plans. The plans are due next June. One challenge is that the state plan is supposed to drive the regions' plans, but they are all due at the same time. So far, CWP is the only region to fully implement the new law.

- **HOYC: Mapping Programs for Opportunity Youth.** This document summarized the asset mapping completed in spring 2015 and discussed at Pathways Committee meetings in May and June.

Participants noted that the information in the document was for a point-in-time. For example, OPP's Penn Foster High School Diploma Program has fewer resources this year, which will limit the number of youth who can pursue their high school diplomas prior to enrolling in other OPP career pathway programs like Pathways to Careers. In addition, while organizations such as OPP and Blue Hills have developed programs that encompass multiple phases of the career pathway (e.g., from Recruitment & Engagement to Retention Support), other organizations may be delivering services that address one or two phases (e.g., Enriched Preparation program).

Data on youth needs should drive decisions. For example, if a large number of opportunity youth need to earn their high school diploma, the Collaborative may need to seek more funding for high school completion / GED programs.

Defining Committee Roles and Scope

Participants discussed specific deliverables to complete in 2014-15, starting with the benchmarks from the Aspen plan.

1. **Web-based digital map of career pathway services.** Participants reviewed different potential products. One approach is the conceptual map presented at the June 2015 HOYC meeting, which

uses the Career Pathway framework as the starting point with links to organizations and programs by phase (e.g., Recruitment & Engagement). This product would be more useful for professionals to help in navigating the system. Another approach is a geographic map that shows the location of programs, similar to the Hartford Family Resources Directory (see <http://hartfordgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=c8194f375b6e4b619bee58276747c0b2>) or the New Haven Youth Map (see <http://www.newhavenyouthmap.org/CommunityMap/>). This approach might be more useful for youth seeking programs based on services and locations. Participants noted that the geographic map might be duplicative of several efforts (e.g., City of Hartford, Hartford Public Schools work with six acceleration schools, United Way of CT's new 211 website). It may make more sense to focus on developing the conceptual map.

2. **Recommendations to address barriers and build effective pathways for target populations.**

Participants suggested starting with page 3 of the “Mapping Programs” handout that includes themes from committee meetings last spring. It may be helpful to focus on specific HOYC target populations (i.e., justice-involved youth, young parents, young involved with foster care). A related approach would be to focus on “cross-over” youth: young people involved in multiple system (e.g., justice and foster care). Participants also agreed it would be helpful to take a “deep dive” on specific phases. For example, Recruitment & Engagement goes far beyond the initial connections; youth may first need much support to address barriers before they can take advantage of pathway opportunities. This could be one of the most difficult phases to complete.

Participants noted several issues to address in developing recommendations:

- a. Policy / regulatory barriers. Through a focus on cross-over youth, the committee can identify policy issues that limit effective pathways. For example, enrolling young parents in WIOA can put their TANF benefits at risk. Even college classes may not qualify under JFES criteria.
- b. Referrals to programs. OPP met with DCF about increasing the number of referrals to OPP’s pathway programs. Currently OPP has to conduct outreach to identify youth, while DCF may send a young person to Asnuntuck Community College without *any* supports (leading many to drop out).
- c. Ownership and coordination across partners. The United Way has completed the first phase of its strategic directions for the next three years. One key area is financial security, and connecting people to services in a more integrated way. How can the Opportunity Youth and career pathway work inform the United Way’s partnerships and efforts? How can key funders and initiatives align their agendas? Who is the lead agency in implementing different components of the career pathway system? What components will different agencies “own” and be accountable for? There is no one entity that is responsible for opportunity youth; it requires braided accountability and ownership.
- d. Multiple exit points. Consider where organizations can add value at the different exit points, and make it easy for youth to re-attach when they are ready for further education/career advancement. Youth may need to work for a period of time before taking a next step in their careers. Organizations can also help youth identify the acquired and transferrable skills learned at many entry-level jobs (e.g., fast food, retail, service).

3. **Opportunity Youth Toolkit.** Participants discussed identifying and/or developing tools and resources as part of the committee's work that could eventually form a toolkit. Different resources and tools could be included as part of the online digital map.

Next Steps

1. Dave will email the full CLASP report to committee members (shared at the spring 2015 meetings).
2. The next committee meeting is **Wednesday, December 2, 10:00 am to 11:30 am, at the United Way Knox Board Room** (first floor). Dave will send an invite to all committee members.

SHARED VISION, STRONG SYSTEMS

June 2014



**Alliance for Quality
Career Pathways**

a project of CLASP

Framework Version 1.0
Executive Summary

Shared Vision, Strong Systems:

The Alliance for Quality Career Pathways Framework Version 1.0 Executive Summary

What is the Alliance for Quality Career Pathways?

The Alliance, or AQCP, is a partner-driven, CLASP-led initiative funded by the Joyce Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, and the Greater Twin Cities United Way. The Alliance's goal is to help state and local/regional partnerships strengthen their career pathway systems.

In 2012, CLASP invited 10 leading career pathway states—**Arkansas, California, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oregon, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin**—to join Phase I of the Alliance (2012-2014). CLASP and the Alliance partners jointly developed and provided consensus support for the Alliance for Quality Career Pathways Framework 1.0, which establishes a common understanding of quality career pathways and systems.ⁱ

The Alliance framework* provides a clear set of criteria and indicators for what constitutes a quality state and local/regional career pathway system, as well as metrics to assess participant progress and success. The framework is designed to help career pathway partners continuously improve their systems. It also can serve as a collaborative, comprehensive strategy for policymakers and funders to align and enhance their investments, technical assistance, and guidance for building, scaling, and sustaining career pathway systems. In Phase II (2014-2015), the Alliance will focus on implementing the framework and sharing lessons with the field.

What is Different About the Career Pathway Approach? It is a paradigm shift in how we prepare people for work and lifelong learning. It reorients existing education and workforce services from myriad disconnected programs to a structure that focuses on the workforce needs of employers and on

The *career pathway approach* connects progressive levels of education, training, support services, and credentials for specific occupations in a way that optimizes the progress and success of individuals with varying levels of abilities and needs. This approach helps individuals earn marketable credentials, engage in further education and employment, and achieve economic success. Career pathways deeply engage employers and help meet their workforce needs; they also help states and communities strengthen their workforces and economies.

Career pathways operationalize the career pathway approach and include three essential features and four functions (see pages 2-3 below).

individuals in need of education and training to be successful on their career paths. This approach focuses on systems change to provide clear transitions, strong supports, and other elements critical to the success of participants. When implemented fully, service providers align their programs and services, employers and industry representatives deeply engage, and participants seamlessly earn credentials and access career-focused employment. In some communities, the career pathway approach includes an explicit focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities in education and employment while at the same time increasing diversity in employers' talent pipelines. Still other communities have merged the sector strategy approach with a career pathway approach in order to meet the needs of both workers/job seekers and employers.

ⁱ Learn more about the Alliance, access the complete 1.0 Framework, and request the companion self-assessment tools at www.clasp.org/careerpathways. To join the conversation on Twitter, use #AQCPPathways.

Why Do We Need Career Pathways? The career pathway approach is not simply a new model; it is a new way of doing business. And a new way of doing business is necessary to make any significant progress on the daunting education and skill challenges we face as a nation, including: tens of millions of adults with skills too low to succeed in education or work; millions of youth who are disconnected from school and work and who face a dire future without better opportunities; poor and worsening college completion and credential attainment rates; and our persistent challenge in meeting employers' need for skilled workers. Today's education and workforce development systems were designed for different times when credentials were not required for nearly two-thirds of jobs and lifelong learning was typically avocational—not a key ingredient to individual economic security and global competitiveness. These systems were not built to provide all workers with seamless pathways and, despite good intentions, have shortcomings and disconnects that often block the road to educational and economic success.

The career pathway approach is increasingly gaining momentum. More than a dozen states have adopted it, and many more are eagerly exploring implementation. Public and private funders have supported the career pathway approach through numerous initiatives that include financial investments, technical assistance, regulatory guidance, and evaluations from the federal departments of education, health and human services, labor, and transportation.ⁱⁱ Foundation-funded supportive efforts include the Ford Foundation's *Bridges to Opportunity*, the Joyce Foundation's *Shifting Gears*, and the multi-funder *Breaking Through* and *Accelerating Opportunity* initiatives.

Alliance Definitions & Conceptual Model

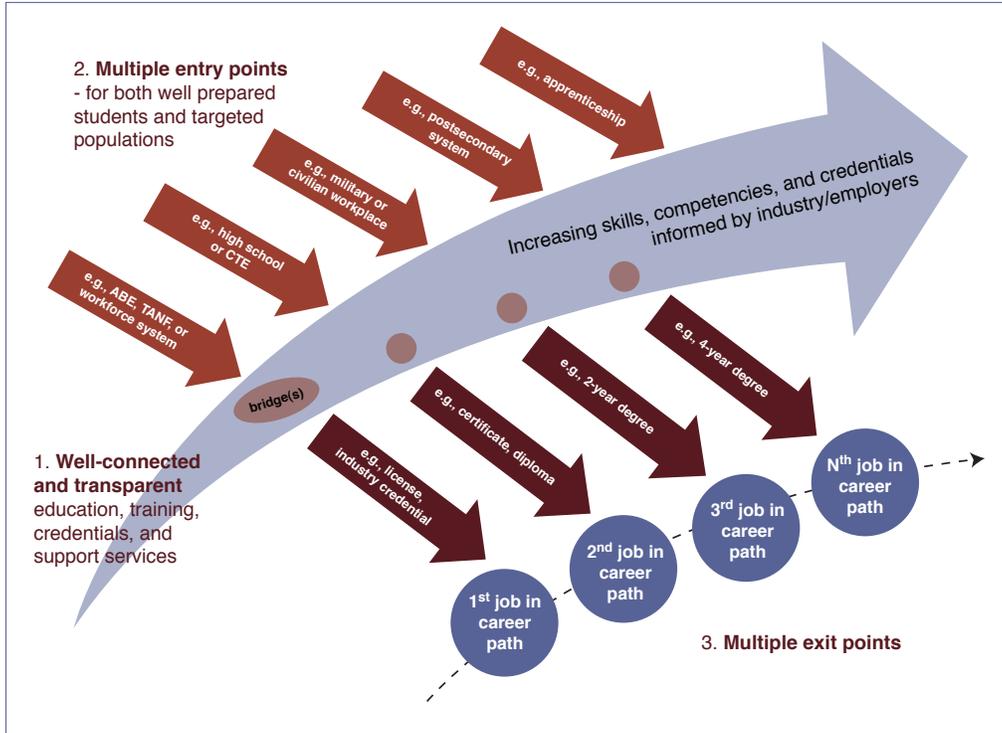
The **career pathway approach** connects progressive levels of education, training, support services, and credentials for specific occupations in a way that optimizes the progress and success of individuals with varying levels of abilities and needs. This approach helps individuals earn marketable credentials, engage in further education and employment, and achieve economic success. Career pathways deeply engage employers and help meet their workforce needs; they also help states and communities strengthen their

workforces and economies. This approach is not simply a new model; it is a way to transform systems.

The career pathway approach can benefit a wide variety of participants, including those who are younger or older, traditional or nontraditional, and on an academic or occupational path. This approach is especially beneficial for more vulnerable populations, whose educational and career success is more often impeded by disconnects between systems and limited access to integrated services. **Career pathways** operationalize the career pathway approach and include three essential features and four functions (see figures 1 and 2 below). The essential features include:

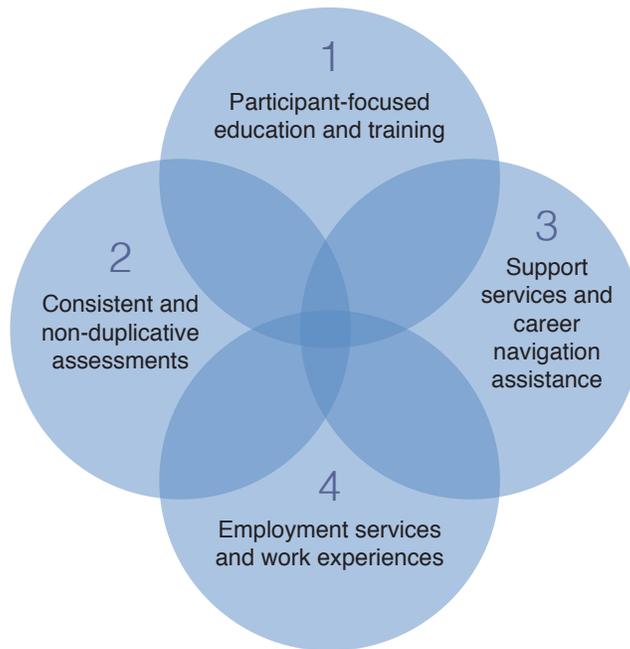
- 1) **Well-connected and transparent** education, training, support services, and credentials within specific sectors or cross-sector occupations (often delivered via multiple linked and aligned programs).
- 2) **Multiple entry points** that enable well-prepared students, as well as targeted populations with limited education, skills, English, and work experiences, to successfully enter the career pathway. Targeted populations served by career pathways may include adult education or other lower-skilled adult students, English Language learners, offenders or ex-offenders, high school students, disconnected or “opportunity” youth, some former military personnel, un- or under-employed adults, or others.
- 3) **Multiple exit points** at successively higher levels that lead to self- or family-supporting employment and are aligned with subsequent entry points.

Figure 1: Three Essential Features of Career Pathways



The four essential functions of career pathways—and any programs linked and aligned within the pathway—include:

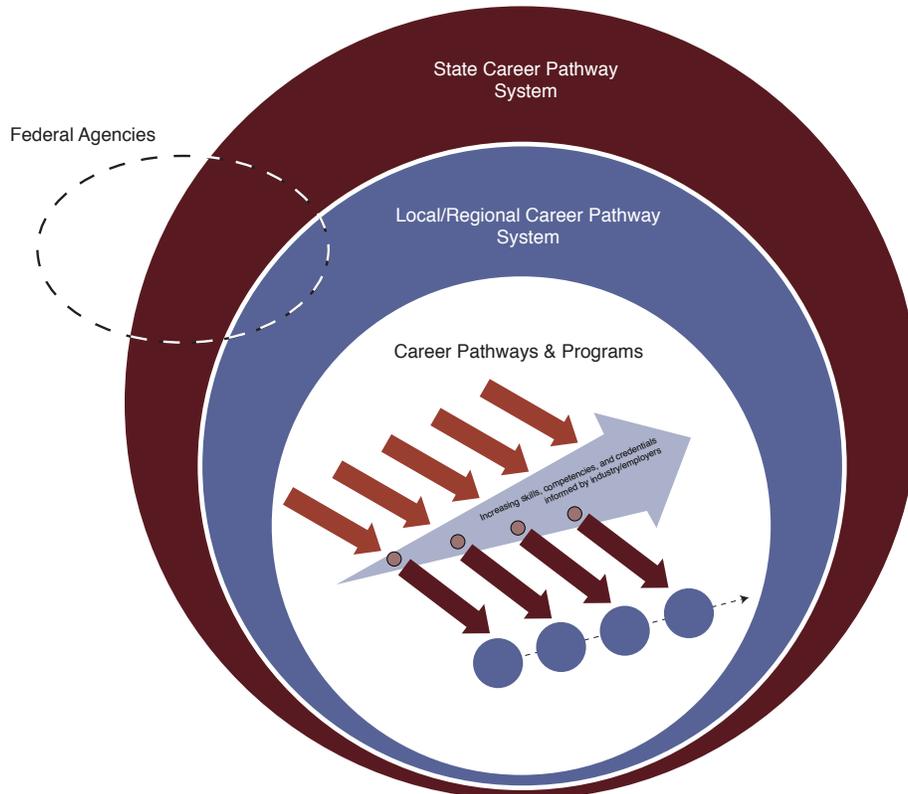
Figure 2: Four Essential Functions of Career Pathways and Programs



Career pathways and programs are at the “heart” of and ideally are supported by strong career pathway systems, as well as a “feedback loop” between state career pathway systems, local/regional systems, and federal agencies (see figure 3 below). A **career pathway system** is the cohesive combination of partnerships, resources and funding, policies, data, and shared performance measures that support the development, quality, scaling, and “dynamic

sustainability”ⁱⁱⁱ of career pathways and programs for youth and adults. A career pathway system is an overarching framework and is not couched within any one public education, workforce, or other system; however, one of these systems may take the lead on developing the career pathway partnership. The value of a career pathway system is that it connects and aligns all other related public systems to one another and to private and nonprofit partners.

Figure 3: Career Pathway System



Alliance Criteria and Indicators for Quality Career Pathway Systems

A quality career pathway system is one that *performs well* as measured by how many targeted participants achieve expected outcomes (see next section on participant metrics). Additionally, quality systems *intentionally operate like a system*, provide services and achieve outcomes *at scale*, and are *sustainable* over time. Based on currently available evidence and their wealth of wisdom from the field, the Alliance partners agree that the following criteria and indicators can be used by career pathway partners to assess the quality of and continuously improve their career pathway systems.^{iv} With the exception of criterion 6, all of these criteria and indicators are applicable to both state and local/regional career pathway partnerships.^v

CRITERION 1: COMMIT TO A SHARED VISION AND STRATEGY for industry sector-based career pathways for youth and adults and for building, scaling, and dynamically sustaining career pathway systems.

Summary of Indicators include: Public, private, and nonprofit partners build and maintain a system that supports the essential features and functions of quality career pathways and programs; adopt a shared strategy and commit their agencies/organizations to carrying out specific roles and responsibilities; embed shared definition of career pathway approach and key related concepts into their own strategic plans and policies.

CRITERION 2: ENGAGE EMPLOYERS AND INTEGRATE SECTOR STRATEGY PRINCIPLES to ensure multiple employers, business associations, and labor unions are partners in creating demand-driven career pathways.

Summary of Indicators: Employer, business associations, and/or labor partners make demonstrated investment in building, scaling, and sustaining the career pathway system; labor market intelligence informs development and ongoing relevance of career pathways; partners integrate sector strategy principles including a focus on regional in-demand occupations, focus on “dual customers” of workers/job seekers and employers, system change and alignment, and engaging multiple employers.

CRITERION 3: COLLABORATE TO MAKE RESOURCES AVAILABLE by identifying, prioritizing, and leveraging resources for career pathway systems, partnerships, and programs.

Summary of Indicators: Designated staff convene and support the career pathway system with adequate human and technology capacity; partners make available necessary resources, tools, infrastructure, and time to support practitioners in providing the essential features and functions of career pathways and programs; partners leverage and coordinate existing and new federal, state, and/or private/philanthropic resources.

CRITERION 4: IMPLEMENT SUPPORTIVE POLICIES for career pathway systems, pathways, and programs.

Summary of Indicators: Partners provide clear and consistent guidance on cross-system alignment and the allowable use of resources to support career pathways; partners adjust existing or adopt/implement new policies and internal structures to remove barriers and to facilitate the development and implementation of career pathway systems, pathways, and programs.

CRITERION 5: USE DATA AND SHARED MEASURES to measure, demonstrate, and improve participant outcomes.⁵

Summary of Indicators: Partners develop their capacity and provide data to support the use of longitudinal cross-system data, including data collected by community-based career pathway programs as well as educational institutions; partners evaluate how well the career pathway system is performing and support continuous improvement efforts.

CRITERION 6: IMPLEMENT AND INTEGRATE EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES AND PROCESSES (specifically for regional/local career pathway systems).

Summary of Indicators: Partners engage in continuous improvement process in order to develop and integrate a set of evidence-based practices and processes that optimize career pathway participant success; partners provide and measure the effectiveness of the essential features and functions of career pathways (see section on definitions and conceptual model).

Alliance Career Pathway Participant Metrics

Why Do We Need Career Pathway Metrics? The purpose of the Alliance participant metrics is to provide a shared set of outcome metrics that can be used jointly by partners to measure career pathway participant progress and success. These metrics differ from existing measures in that they: (a) focus specifically on the performance of career pathways—not on state-level or institutional-focused performance results; (b) measure participant outcomes in the context of career pathway progression as opposed to the source of the funds (career pathways often “braid” together multiple sources of funds); and (c) include “milestone” metrics to measure the progress of and provide credit for serving underprepared participants.

When Should Career Pathway Metrics Be Used? A prerequisite for using the Alliance participant metrics is a suite of well-developed career pathways that have fully established the three essential features (see section above on Alliance definitions and conceptual model). Also, partners will need access to the necessary data and to aligned data systems that use consistent terms and definitions. Since these prerequisites are still under development in many career pathway systems, the Alliance participant metrics will be piloted in Phase II of the initiative (see the full framework for a more detailed discussion).

CLASP and the Alliance partners discourage funders and policymakers from using these metrics for performance accountability until these prerequisites are in place; until that time, they should be used only to provide technical assistance to help partners improve their career pathways and systems.

Which Participants Should Be Measured? Before using career pathway participant metrics, partners must make a major decision: which participants should be included in each metric? Self-selected Alliance partners that meet the prerequisites will pilot the following definitions in Phase II of the Alliance:

1) ***Career pathway participant:*** An individual who has enrolled in and is attending specific courses or activities or is receiving services (or combinations thereof) that have been designated as specific entry points for a career pathway.

2) ***Career pathway leaver:*** A career pathway participant who is no longer enrolled in pathway courses, services, or activities and has not reenrolled in pathway courses, services, or activities for a period of at least one year. Career pathway leavers include:

- a. participants who attained one or more of the interim outcomes (group A below) or pathway education and training outcomes (group B below) attainable in a career pathway prior to leaving the pathway; and
- b. participants who did not attain one of these interim or pathway outcomes prior to leaving the pathway.

3) ***Career pathway credential completer:*** A career pathway participant who attained one or more of the pathway education and training outcomes (group B below) attainable in a career pathway prior to leaving the pathway. These outcomes include marketable credentials as designated by the local/regional career pathway partnership, such as a license, industry certification, certificate, diploma, or degree. Career pathway credential completers include:

- a. participants who have left the career pathway after attaining one of the above credentials; and
- b. participants who are still enrolled in career pathway courses after attaining one of the above credentials, with the goal of attaining *further* credentials.

Proposed Alliance Career Pathway Participant Metrics. The Alliance menu of metrics includes three types of measures. Partners must map the appropriate metrics to specific career pathways; not all metrics will be used in all career pathways.

Group A: Interim Outcomes

Identify important progress steps or momentum points along the career pathway that may be attained prior to the pathway's final outcomes.

- A.1. Educational level gains
- A.2. High school diploma or equivalency attainment
- A.3. Developmental/remedial education completion
- A.4. College-level pathway course completion
- A.5. College-level math or English course completion
- A.6. Retention in pathway coursework in subsequent term
- A.7. Pathway credit accumulation 1 (12 semester or 15 quarter college credits)
- A.8. Pathway credit accumulation 2 (24 semester or 30 quarter college credits)
- A.9. Earnings progression

Group B: Education and Training Outcomes (Along the Pathway)

Identify the primary education and training results for the career pathway, including licenses and industry credentials, certificates, diplomas, and degrees.

- B.1. Pathway license, industry certification, or apprenticeship certificate attainment
- B.2. Pathway certificate and diploma attainment
- B.3. Pathway Associate degree attainment
- B.4. Pathway Associate degree attainment or transfer to 2- or 4-year institution

In general, the metrics in Groups A and B would apply to career pathway participants who attain one of these outcomes or who left the career pathway prior to attaining one of these outcomes.

Group C: Labor Market Outcomes

Identify the primary labor market results for the career pathway to measure the progression in employment and earnings over time for participants.

- C.1. Initial employment
- C.2. Employment in targeted industry sector
- C.3. Subsequent employment retention
- C.4. Initial earnings
- C.5. Earnings change
- C.6. Subsequent earnings

In general, the Group C metrics would apply to career pathway participants once they left the career pathway (became career pathway leavers).

Next Steps

With anchor funding from the Joyce Foundation, the Alliance for Quality Career Pathways will continue into Phase II through 2015. In this phase, Alliance partners at the state and local/regional levels will implement the framework by self-assessing their career pathway systems to better understand strengths and areas for improvement. Alliance partners will also make progress on using the participant metrics in their systems. CLASP will share learnings with the field. For more information on the Alliance and the 1.0 Framework, see www.clasp.org/careerpathways.

- ⁱ The Alliance 1.0 Framework also has been informed by a National Advisory Group, which includes the following individuals: **Judy Alamprese** and **Karen Gardiner**, Abt Associates; **Debra Bragg**, Office of Community College Research and Leadership; **Mary Clagett**, Jobs for the Future; **Kim Green**, National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium; **Gary Hoachlander**, ConnectEd California; **Lennox McLendon**, National Council of State Directors for Adult Education; **Israel Mendoza**, Consultant; **Darlene Miller**, National Council for Workforce Education; **Deborah Mills**, Center for Occupational Research and Development; **Nan Poppe**, Consultant; **Ann Randazzo** and **Valerie Taylor**, Center for Energy Workforce Development; **Brandon Roberts**, Working Poor Families Project; **Bob Sheets**, Consultant; and **Mala Thakur**, National Youth Employment Coalition. **Eric Seleznow**, currently the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration, served on the National Advisory Group in his former position as State Policy Director at the National Skills Coalition.
- ⁱⁱ Federal investments include but are not limited to the Department of Labor’s 2010-2011 Career Pathways Institute and Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grants; the Department of Education’s *Advancing Career and Technical Education in State and Local Career Pathway Systems*, *Technical Assistance to Build State Career Pathway Systems*, and Experimental Sites Initiative to test Pell grants for shorter-term training; and the Department of Health and Human Services’ *Health Professions Opportunity Grants* and *Innovative Strategies to Improve Self-Sufficiency*. Supportive federal guidance includes the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education’s guidance on using adult education funds to support integrated education and training and the 2012 joint letter of commitment to career pathways from the departments of education, health and human services, and labor.
- ⁱⁱⁱ “Dynamic sustainability” means not only continuing the career pathways, programs, and system beyond initial development but also supporting their adaptation and continuous improvement over time based on experience, new information, data, and outcomes. In some cases, it may mean discontinuing career pathways and programs that are no longer in demand.
- ^{iv} This executive summary includes a summary of the indicators; see the [full Alliance framework](#) for the specific indicators.
- ^v The Alliance framework is aligned with the federal *Six Key Elements of Career Pathways* framework. *Six Key Elements* provides steps career pathway partners can take to begin building a career pathway system; the Alliance framework provides key performance indicators partners can use in a continuous improvement review.
- ^{vi} This criterion and the indicators build on and are consistent with the Workforce Data Quality Campaign’s (WDQC) policy agenda: see <http://www.workforcedqc.org/resources-events/resources/wdqc-policy-agenda>. CLASP is one of the national partners in the WDQC.



**Alliance for Quality
Career Pathways**

a project of CLASP

WIOA

GAME
PLAN

for
low-
income
people

CLASP

CCRY Spring Meeting 2015

Prep-slides Career Pathways Discussion and
Definitions

Out-of-School Youth Definition

WIA	WIOA
<p>OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH.—The term “out-of-school youth” means—</p> <p>(A) an eligible youth who is a school dropout;</p> <p>or</p> <p>(B) an eligible youth who has received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent but is basic skills deficient, unemployed, or underemployed.</p>	<p>The term ‘out-of-school youth’ means an individual who is—</p> <p>(i) not attending any school (as defined under State law);</p> <p>(ii) <i>not younger than age 16 or older than age 24</i>; and</p> <p>(iii) one or more of the following:</p> <p>(I) A school dropout.</p> <p>(II) A youth who is within the age of compulsory school attendance, but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter.</p> <p>(III) A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is a <i>low-income individual</i> and is— (aa) basic skills deficient; or (bb) an English language learner.</p> <p>(IV) An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system.</p>

Out-of-School Youth Definition

WIA	WIOA
<p>OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH.—The term “out-of-school youth” means—</p> <p>(A) an eligible youth who is a school dropout; or</p> <p>(B) an eligible youth who has received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent but is basic skills deficient, unemployed, or underemployed.</p>	<p>(V) A homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e–2(6))), a homeless child or youth (as defined in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))), a runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677), or in an out-of-home placement.</p> <p>(VI) An individual who is pregnant or parenting.</p> <p>(VII) A youth who is an individual with a disability.</p> <p>(VIII) A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.</p>

Encourages Implementation of Career Pathways

The term “career pathway” means a combination of rigorous and high-quality education, training, and other services that—

(A) aligns with the skill needs of industries in the economy of the State or regional economy involved;

(B) prepares an individual to be successful in any of a full range of secondary or postsecondary education options, including [state- and federally-registered] apprenticeships

(C) includes counseling to support an individual in achieving the individual’s education and career goals;

(D) includes, as appropriate, education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster;

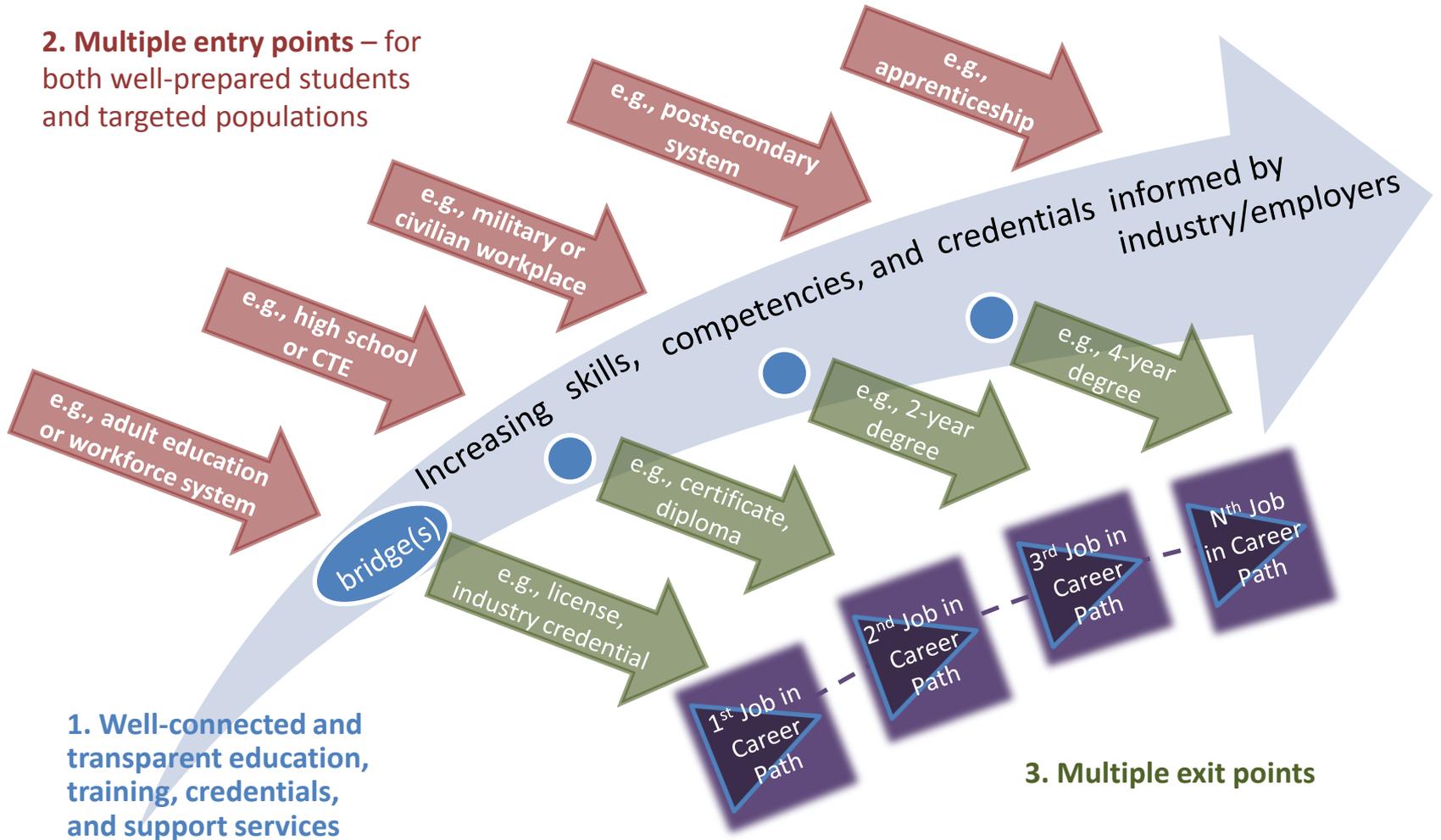
(E) organizes education, training, and other services to meet the particular needs of an individual in a manner that accelerates the educational and career advancement of the individual to the extent practicable;

(F) enables an individual to attain a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and at least 1 recognized postsecondary credential; and

(G) helps an individual enter or advance within a specific occupation or occupational cluster.

Three Essential Features of Career Pathways

2. Multiple entry points – for both well-prepared students and targeted populations



1. Well-connected and transparent education, training, credentials, and support services

Career Pathway Systems

