

Overview of the Moving Pathways Forward Project

Project Background

To meet the need in the U.S. for a better skilled and credentialed 21st century workforce, career pathways has emerged as a promising approach for increasing the number of individuals who gain the skills and academic and industry-recognized credentials needed for work in high-demand occupations. In April 2012, the U.S. Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services issued a joint policy memorandum¹ in which each agency acknowledged the need for better alignment of education, training, and employment services among public agencies to facilitate the delivery of career pathways services.

Building upon the successes and lessons learned from earlier federal and state investments in career pathways, the [Moving Pathways Forward: Supporting Career Pathways Integration](#) project funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) assists states in advancing career pathways systems to transition low-skilled adults to postsecondary education and employment. The project provides technical assistance to states to further integrate adult education into broader career pathways systems development at the state and local levels. The project addresses barriers to the implementation of cross-system policies that support transitions for adult learners into postsecondary education and employment. *Moving Pathways Forward* supports state and local activities to create career pathways systems involving business; career and technical, adult, and postsecondary education; and workforce and economic development. Additionally, the project provides an information service to better connect all stakeholders to career pathways resources and activities through the Career Pathways Exchange.

Technical Assistance Services for States

The *Moving Pathways Forward* project provides technical assistance services to assist states in accelerating the development and implementation of their career pathways systems. States have access to resources and guidance to support their work on addressing key components of career pathways systems, including:

- Cross-agency Partnerships and Industry Engagement;
- State Vision of a Career Pathways System and Communications about this Vision;
- Alignment of Policies and Programs;
- Education, Training, and Support Services;
- Professional Development and Technical Assistance;
- Data Systems and Evaluation; and
- Funding and Sustainability.

The project provides two forms of technical assistance to states:

1. Intensive Technical Assistance to selected state inter-agency teams. These state teams, representing adult, career and technical, and postsecondary education; workforce and economic development; and business, are guided by state coaches and subject matter experts in expanding their existing career pathways system components or developing new system components. Assistance is provided through telephone conferences, webinars, site visits, and email. Participating states include: Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

2. General Technical Assistance to states not receiving intensive technical assistance. The project team offers virtual mentoring support to states to examine their current activities in career pathways implementation and identify priority components of career pathways systems for further development.

¹ See: http://cte.ed.gov/docs/RPOS_2012/Joint_Letter_Career_Pathways.pdf

Career Pathways Exchange

The Career Pathways Exchange is an information service that consolidates and distributes career pathways-related information, events, and resources from federal and state agencies and a growing list of partner organizations. The Career Pathways Exchange streamlines information from multiple outlets to facilitate a deeper national dialogue on career pathways systems development and implementation. Subscribers can select to receive email digests targeted to their specific areas of interest related to career pathways. To subscribe to the Career Pathways Exchange or complete a partner organization interest form, visit:

<http://lincs.ed.gov/programs/movingpathways/career-pathways-exchange>.

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