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NAEPDC

News, Views, and Clues

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Are You Applying for Moving Pathways Forwards?

If you are applying for the Moving Pathways Forwards Technical Assistance grants from OCTAE, the work we have been doing with a number of colleague organizations might be helpful.

The **draft (Beta)** version of the framework that is a product of that work can be found at www.clasp.org/issues/postsecondary/pages/alliance-for-quality-career-pathways

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Here is background and an explanation.

Over the past two years, education and workforce practitioners and state agency staff from ten states have worked with CLASP (the Center for Law and Social Policy) in the Alliance for Quality Career Pathways. The purpose of the Alliance has been to develop a framework to define quality career pathway systems, pathways, and programs. The framework includes system-focused **criteria and quality indicators** and a set of cross-system career pathway participant **metrics**. NAEPDC has served on the National Advisory Group to the Alliance.

State ABE Programs and partners applying for the *Moving Pathways Forward* Technical Assistance opportunity offered by the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) and managed by Kratos Learning and Abt Associates and may want to consider using the Alliance framework to address work plan elements in the *Moving Pathways Forward* application: vision/goal for career pathways, policy, professional development/technical assistance, data systems and evaluation, participation in national career pathway initiatives, and partnerships.

In brief, the Alliance framework outlines six **criteria** for quality career pathway **systems**:

1. Commit to a Shared Vision and Strategy
2. Engage Employers and Integrate Sector Strategy Principles

3. Collaborate to Make Resources Available
4. Implement Supportive Local/Regional Policies
5. Implement and Integrate Evidence-Based Practices and Processes (specifically for local/regional systems)
6. Use Data and Shared Measures

The Alliance also defines the **essential features** and **functions** of career **pathways and programs**.

Features:

1. Well-connected and transparent education, training, credentialing, and support service offerings (often delivered via multiple linked and aligned programs);
2. Multiple entry points including for those with limited education, English, skills, and work experiences (i.e., ABE bridges); and
3. Multiple exit points at successively higher levels leading to family supporting employment and aligned with subsequent entry points.

Functions:

- a. Participant-focused education and training;
- b. Consistent and non-duplicative assessments of participants' education, skills, and assets/needs;
- c. Support services and career navigation assistance; and
- d. Employment services and work experiences.

The Alliance framework also contains a menu of **career pathway participant metrics** for use by partners across education and workforce development systems to measure the effectiveness of their programs in achieving better results for pathway participants. The metrics are divided into three sets: interim, education/training outcomes along the career pathway, and labor market outcomes.

The Alliance for Quality Career Pathways 1.0 Framework will be released in June 2014 and will provide a blueprint for quality state and local/regional systems as well as a self-assessment tool to guide partners in a continuous improvement process. CLASP anticipates an Alliance Phase II starting in June 2014 (pending funding) in which a network of state and local/regional career pathway partnerships will commit to building quality systems using the Alliance framework. CLASP is on the advisory group for the *Moving Pathways Forward* initiative and is confident that these two initiatives will complement and reinforce each other.

While the Alliance 1.0 Framework is in the final phase of development prior to release, the executive summary of the Beta (draft) Framework can be found at www.clasp.org/issues/postsecondary/pages/alliance-for-quality-career-pathways. If you would like further information, please contact Vickie Choitz at vchoitz@clasp.org.

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http://naepdc.org/news_views_clues/nvc_home.html

Keep up the good work. Let me know when we can help.

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