Bridges to Career Opportunities
Financial Opportunity Center
National Meeting

Best Practices in Sector-Based Adult Education: Setting the Stage

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Setting the Stage

- Bridges to Career Opportunities (BCO) Core Services
- Components of Bridge Services
- Approaches to Contextualized Bridge Models
BCO Model

**BCO Program**

- **Bridge Services**
- **Employment Services**
- **Income Support Services**
- **Financial Coaching and Education**

**Short-Term Outcomes**
- Education
- Financial Well-Being
- Employment

**Long-Term Outcomes**
- Further Credentials
- Financial Well-Being
- Advanced Employment

Follow-up assistance from BCO/FOC
BCO Bridge Services

Assessment
Assessment and criterion level for placement into instruction

Instruction
Basic skills instruction contextualized to industry sector

Outcome
- Skills development
- Documentation of success

Coaching (Basic Skills): Connects academic and career pathways

Assessment
Assessment & criterion level for placement into occupational instruction

Instruction
Career and technical education for industry sector

Outcome
- Employer-recognized credential
- Program completion linked to credential

Coaching (Occupational Skills): Connects academic and career pathways
1. Instruction is designed to:

a. Address an explicit career pathway in a growth sector or industry

b. Include an academic pathway that accompanies the career pathway

c. Teach basic skills that boost math, reading, English, and/or digital literacy:
   - to the level clients need to access community college, vocational training, or other credentialing programs
   - that are contextualized to a specific sector/industry or career path and prepares clients for occupational skills training and “middle-skills” jobs
Bridge Component

d. Based on an industry-specific curriculum that is aligned with a career pathway

e. Enable clients to attain “industry-recognized” credentials that lead to postsecondary credential or degree

f. Have a measurable endpoint (e.g., skill gain, placement test score for next educational program, credential) or clearly defined completion criteria
## Bridge Component

### 2. Assessment

a. Is used to determine client participation and involves the specification of criterion levels on skills assessments or “clearly defined entry criteria”

b. Involves the administration of pre-and post-test skills assessments to clients

### 3. Career Coaching

a. Is provided on an ongoing basis during instruction

b. Connects the academic & career pathways for clients
Contextualized Instruction

- An instructional approach that creates the explicit connections between the teaching of reading, writing, or math on one hand, and instruction in a discipline area on the other.

- Integrates reading, math, writing, and language skills and industry and occupation knowledge.