Resources for Further Exploration

Want to dig deeper into the themes explored throughout Better Together: Forging Partnerships for Equitable Economic Recovery? These resources are a great place to start.

Partnering to Reach New Learners

CBO-to-Credential Typology

Northwest Education Access’s slides and website

Urban Institute Evaluation of Opportunity Works and Opportunity Works Infographic (featuring NWEA) This quasi-experimental evaluation conducted by the Urban Institute in three Opportunity Works sites (including Seattle) found large, consistent, positive effects on participants’ postsecondary enrollment and increased connection with either education or employment about one year after program entry. Specifically, Opportunity Works participants were twice as likely to enroll in college and 25 percent more likely to be in either education or employment. Postsecondary results were even greater for young men of color, who were nearly six times as likely to enroll in college.

MI-BEST slides and website

The United Way’s ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) research

MI-BRIDGES Benefits Access Platform
Building a Lifelong Learning System: A Roadmap for Cities (featuring Hartford)

Using the specific examples of Chicago, Phoenix, and Hartford, this report describes the lifelong learning ecosystem as it exists and recommends specific steps that cities can take to develop a lifelong learning system. The cities in this report were chosen based on their different geographic and demographic attributes, and the presence of unique education and training resources to support adult workers.

Kresge BOOST initiative (featuring Hartford)

The BOOST initiative connects people with low incomes to critical human services supports and educational and career pathways to advance social and economic mobility.

Resources from Prior Sessions
   Episode 1
   Episode 2

Discussion Questions

These questions come from JFF’s Ecosystem Partnership Tool, which was designed to help strengthen partnerships, guiding educators and other actors in the ecosystem through an inquiry and strategic planning process. We invite you to explore the full tool here: www.jff.org/ecosystem-partnership-tool

1. What populations in your community are facing the greatest disparities to access and success in learning and working? At what point in the continuum of learning and working (entry, connection, progress, advancement) are they facing they greatest barriers/disparities?

2. Which organizations within your community or state are you currently working with that you believe could help you address these disparities? (e.g. could be a K-12 school, university, health and human services agency, workforce development board, faith-based organization, chamber of commerce, economic development agency)?

3. Which organizations within your community or state are you not currently working with that could be viable partners for addressing the key challenges you’ve identified (e.g. a K-12 school, university, health and human services agency, workforce development board, faith-based organization, chamber of commerce, economic development agency)?

4. Why have you not yet established a partnership with these organizations (example barriers may include misalignment with mission, low priority, capacity constraints, competitor, poor relationship, politics)?