

CORD and our Auto Community: Building the Pipeline for College Readiness and for Literacy in K-12 and Adult Populations

Organization(s) Preparing/Submitting Proposal:

Blackhawk Technical College
University of Wisconsin-Rock County
Community Action Program
Wisconsin Literacy, Inc.
K-12 School Districts in Rock County and Stateline Career and Technical Education Academy (SCTEA)

Objectives: (General)

The purpose of this Initiative is to improve literacy among students in K-12, to educate and train teen parents, high school drop-outs, disadvantaged, dislocated, and otherwise low- or no- income adults through the use of a **Career Pathway Model**. The **K-12 literacy** project will include literacy coaches in six elementary schools in Rock County, as well as one high school reading teacher. The **College Readiness** project includes an extension of the current work with high schools, including shared technical education teachers, career coaches starting in designated middle schools, aligned curriculum, Compass Tests, and additional Youth Options/Apprenticeships in the high schools in different career tracks. On the Adult Pathway, ELL, high school drop-outs, and other participants will begin at various stages along a **Pathway**(depending on their skill level), beginning with those with reading levels below 4th grade, students taking Adult Basic Skills/GED, developmental education, and college level work.

The Initiative will be divided into three distinct parts: (1) K-12 literacy and college readiness; (2) ELL and adult basic skills below the 4th grade reading level and employment training; and (3) Blackhawk Technical College adult basic skills through college completion for dislocated workers and financial assistance for UW-Rock County and BTC students. The Initiative will include appropriate participant support services at each level, including case managers, monthly expense stipends for students so they can spend at least 20/hours/week in school, and payment to employers for internship experience. For those students taking college level courses at BTC and UW-Rock County, the Pell Plus Plan will give them an additional need-based scholarship stipend beyond the Pell Grant to assist with financial needs (transportation, child care, food, etc.) with the goal to reduce student debt.

(Measureable Outcomes)

As it relates to K-12 literacy and college readiness, thirty (30) third grade students at each of the designated elementary schools will progress to reading at 3rd grade, and one high school class of (20) will receive remedial reading instruction. Several hundred will take the college placement test in their junior year, and 100 will enroll in the Student Success transcribed course. One hundred and seventy (170) ELL (80 participants) and chronically underemployed (90 participants) will use the services of Literacy Councils and the Community Action Program in adult basic education, training, and part-time employment over three years, and sixty (60) percent will complete a credential, minimally a GED or HSED. These students will then enroll in the BTC Student Success course at college expense.

Another sixty (60) students in specified populations, testing at the highest levels (6.0+ on TABE test), will complete a higher credential, including a certificate, diploma, and associate degree. Five career clusters will be identified for use as part of the **Pathway**, and several tracks within the cluster will be further refined for use, based on student aptitude.

Progress to Date:

Several funding sources are already being used for a limited number of participants. State funds (Dept. Children and Family Services) are currently being used for transitional jobs for sixty teen moms. This CAP grant ends in August. Wisconsin Literacy, Inc., the state umbrella for literacy programs in Rock County, is funded through federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFL), the Department of Public Instruction and state and local grants. Libraries in Janesville and Beloit have begun serving dislocated workers with basic skills computer training courses. Helping with collaboration, the Community Action Program (CAP) and BTC will be sharing the same building by the end of the summer in Beloit. Seven school districts (total of 9) in Rock County, BTC, and UW-Rock County currently meet regularly to discuss collaborative career and technical education (SCTEA). Each school district currently makes an annual contribution to the effort, depending on size. BTC received a Congressional allocation for dislocated workers from Senator Herb Kohl for the current and next academic year and developed the CATE Project (Career and Technical Education), a career pathway for approximately 120 dislocated students, some of whom were enrolled students at BTC and had either completed one year of study or completed a one-year diploma. Thirty-five dislocated workers who tested below the developmental educational level completed a Refresher Academy this spring and will be taking credit courses this summer in one of three tracks, starting June 7, with an integration of basic skills and career and technical instruction, which is known as the I-BEST model. The grant is paying for instruction and/or program fees.

Barriers:

The biggest barrier to a comprehensive Career Pathway Model such as the one being proposed is funding. Creating a pipeline of literate citizens begins early and, if not done then, it is extremely expensive because the support services, education, and training are labor intensive. The second barrier for these students is time on task. For adults who need one to two semesters to advance from significantly below college level to college level, they cannot complete a two-year degree in two years. They may be able to complete a one-year diploma. In a few career cluster areas, a one-year diploma would allow them to earn \$13/hr. The higher wage employment generally requires a two-year credential. Any federal government policy/practice that limits funding to two years for completion is a barrier.

Where federal agencies can help:

The federal government can (1) recognize that it takes enormous financial support and educational resources to tackle illiteracy, chronic and acute un- and underemployment; (2) allow for the use of existing models for College and Career Readiness, such as I-Best/Career Pathways; (3) fund complete wrap-around services for two and one-half to three years; (4) Recognize the important role of all the providers so as to accommodate adult learners that enter or re-enter the educational pipeline at low

literacy levels. These community-based programs save costs through the use of professionally trained volunteer tutors from the community.

Budget:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Personnel				
Wages	1,216,004	1,022,799	1,041,943	3,280,746
Fringes	407,782	329,573	336,275	1,073,629
Total Personnel	1,623,786	1,352,372	1,378,218	4,354,375
Travel	3,500	3,500	3,500	10,500
Supplies	56,750	33,450	33,450	123,650
Equipment	12,000	12,000	12,000	36,000
Participant Support	2,179,500	2,333,000	2,161,100	6,673,600
Other	76,000	76,000	76,000	228,000
Total Estimated Direct Costs	3,951,536	3,810,322	3,664,268	11,426,125
Administration	197,577	190,516	183,213	571,306
Total Estimated Project Costs	4,149,112	4,000,838	3,847,481	11,997,431