

Braided Funding Worksheet

This tool is designed to help Accelerating Opportunity colleges develop an effective braided funding strategy to support their integrated career pathways. **The worksheet is designed to be used in conjunction with your Braided Funding College Resource Guide.** The worksheet should be used to capture information as your team works through your College Resource Guide; it includes guiding questions designed to help your college assess your current use of each funding source that is included in your College Resource Guide as well as a space to capture next steps for each of these funding sources. You will work with your state lead and coordinator and JFF to develop a braided funding plan using the information from this exercise. This plan will then guide your braided funding efforts over the course of the next year.



Workforce Investment Act Title I – Adults, Dislocated Workers and Youth

Guiding Questions: Use the following questions to engage your team in a strategic planning conversation around this funding stream. Refer to your Braided Funding College Resource Guide for more information.

- Does your college have a strong working relationship with your local workforce agency/WIB? Why or why not? Consider ways in which you can strengthen the relationship further.
- Has your college engaged your local workforce agency/WIB in AO? Are WIA Title I funds being used to support services for students in your AO pathways?
- Is your college on the WIA Eligible Training Provider List?
- Is your college allowed to use WIA Title I Youth funds for Individual Training Accounts to pay for program fees for eligible students?
- How many students at your college are accessing WIA core, intensive, and training services?
- How many additional students are eligible, but are not receiving services? Are there students who are eligible but are not completing the application process? Are they students who are eligible but are not aware or have not begun the eligibility screening?

Notes:

Barriers: Use your responses and notes from the guiding questions above to identify potential barriers and challenges to successfully implementing and better utilizing this funding stream to support AO programs and students.

Goals & Next Steps: Please develop a series of detailed action steps for this funding stream for the next 12 months. Use the information you discussed in the guiding questions and barriers sections above to develop a strategy to better utilize this funding stream to support AO programs and students. Examples of next steps include the following: Contacting your local workforce agency/WIB to discuss AO and the pathways available at your college; working with your local workforce agency/WIB to determine the eligibility of AO students for ITAs and other services; working with your local workforce agency/WIB to develop a standardized referral process for AO students.

Needed Assistance: Describe any guidance or assistance from your state AO team and/or JFF to better utilize this funding stream and successfully implement your next steps.

Wagner-Peyser Act (Employment Service)

Guiding Questions: Use the following questions to engage your team in a strategic planning conversation around this funding stream. Refer to your Braided Funding College Resource Guide for more information.

- Does your college have a strong working relationship with their local ES office? Why or why not? Consider ways in which you can strengthen the relationship further.
- Has your college engaged your local ES office in AO? How are Wagner-Peyser funds being used to support services for students in your AO pathways?
- Does the local ES office have a strong referral process in place with your college?
- How many students at your college are accessing core and intensive services?
- How many additional students are eligible, but are not receiving services? Are there students who are eligible but are not completing the application process? Are they students who are eligible but are not aware or have not begun the eligibility screening?

Notes:

Barriers: Use your responses and notes from the guiding questions above to identify potential barriers and challenges to successfully implementing and better utilizing this funding stream to support AO programs and students.

Goals & Next Steps: Please develop a series of detailed action steps for this funding stream for the next 12 months. Use the information you discussed in the guiding questions and barriers sections above to develop a strategy to better utilize this funding stream to support AO programs and students. Examples of next steps include the following: Contacting your local ES office to discuss AO and the pathways available at your college; working with your local ES office to develop a standardized referral process.

Needed Assistance: Describe any guidance or assistance from your state AO team and/or JFF to better utilize this funding stream and successfully implement your next steps.

Perkins – Vocational Education Basic Grants to States

Guiding Questions: Use the following questions to engage your team in a strategic planning conversation around this funding stream. Refer to your Braided Funding College Resource Guide for more information.

- In what ways are Perkins funds used to pay for career and technical education programs at your college?
- How are Perkins funds being used to support your AO programs and students? If Perkins funds are not being used to support your AO programs and students, is there an opportunity to do so?
- Are Perkins funds being used for direct scholarships for special populations at your college? Have they been used for this purpose in the past?

Notes:

Barriers: Use your responses and notes from the guiding questions above to identify potential barriers and challenges to successfully implementing and better utilizing this funding stream to support AO programs and students.

Goals & Next Steps: Please develop a series of detailed action steps for this funding stream for the next 12 months. Use the information you discussed in the guiding questions and barriers sections above to develop a strategy to better utilize this funding stream to support AO programs and students. Examples of next steps include the following: Contacting your system office to discuss your state's five year Perkins plan and allowable uses of funds; contacting your college's Perkins lead to discuss the use of Perkins funds at the college and alignment with AO pathways.

Needed Assistance: Describe any guidance or assistance from your state AO team and/or JFF to better utilize this funding stream and successfully implement your next steps.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Guiding Questions: Use the following questions to engage your team in a strategic planning conversation around this funding stream. Refer to your Braided Funding College Resource Guide for more information.

- Does your college have a strong working relationship with your local TANF provider? Why or why not? Consider ways in which you can strengthen the relationship further.
- Does your college have a strong referral process in place for eligible students?
- How many students at each college are accessing TANF services?
- How many additional students are eligible, but are not receiving services? Are there students who are eligible but are not completing the application process? Are there students who are eligible but are not aware or have not begun the eligibility screening?
- How can your college use AO programs to help meet the performance requirements found in your state's TANF plan?

Notes:

Barriers: Use your responses and notes from the guiding questions above to identify potential barriers and challenges to successfully implementing and better utilizing this funding stream to support AO programs and students.

Goals & Next Steps: Please develop a series of detailed action steps for this funding stream for the next 12 months. Use the information you discussed in the guiding questions and barriers sections above to develop a strategy to better utilize this funding stream to support AO programs and students. Examples of next steps include the following: Contacting your local TANF provider to discuss AO and the pathways available at your college; working with your local TANF provider to determine the eligibility of AO students; working with your local TANF provider to develop a standardized referral process for AO students.

Needed Assistance: Describe any guidance or assistance from your state AO team and/or JFF to better utilize this funding stream and successfully implement your next steps.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T)

Guiding Questions: Use the following questions to engage your team in a strategic planning conversation around this funding stream. Refer to your Braided Funding College Resource Guide for more information.

- Has the state completed its application for SNAP E&T funds? If so, how will these funds be used to support AO pathways? What is the timeline to begin using these funds to finance AO pathways?
- Some states have developed processes to claim reimbursement for expenses incurred by non-profit organizations under contract to the state agency operating SNAP.
 - a. Does Illinois have a process for claiming reimbursement?
 - b. Is your college under contract to the Department of Human Services? Has your college received reimbursements from DHS?

Notes:

Barriers: Use your responses and notes from the guiding questions above to identify potential barriers and challenges to successfully implementing and better utilizing this funding stream to support AO programs and students.

Goals & Next Steps: Please develop a series of detailed action steps for this funding stream for the next 12 months. Use the information you discussed in the guiding questions and barriers sections above to develop a strategy to better utilize this funding stream to support AO programs and students. Examples of next steps include the following: Contacting the system office for an update on the SNAP E&T application process; contact DHS to determine if the state has developed a process to claim reimbursement for expenses by nonprofit organizations under contract to DHS.

Needed Assistance: Describe any guidance or assistance from your state AO team and/or JFF to better utilize this funding stream and successfully implement your next steps.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Guiding Questions: Use the following questions to engage your team in a strategic planning conversation around this funding stream. Refer to your Braided Funding College Resource Guide for more information.

- Does your college have a strong working relationship with the local Community Action Agency (CAA)? Why or why not? Consider ways in which you can strengthen the relationship further.
- If so, what services are provided to students (vocational skills training, scholarships, GED assistance, case management, support services, etc.)?
- Does your college have a referral process in place with the local Community Action Agency?

Notes:

Barriers: Use your responses and notes from the guiding questions above to identify potential barriers and challenges to successfully implementing and better utilizing this funding stream to support AO programs and students.

Goals & Next Steps: Please develop a series of detailed action steps for this funding stream for the next 12 months. Use the information you discussed in the guiding questions and barriers sections above to develop a strategy to better utilize this funding stream to support AO programs and students. Examples of next steps include the following: Contact your local CAA to discuss AO and the pathways available at your college; working with your local CAA to determine the eligibility of AO students for CSBG services; working with your local CAA to develop a standardized referral process for AO students.

Needed Assistance: Describe any guidance or assistance from your state AO team and/or JFF to better utilize this funding stream and successfully implement your next steps.

Social Services Block Grant (SSBG or Title XX)

Guiding Questions: Use the following questions to engage your team in a strategic planning conversation around this funding stream. Refer to your Braided Funding College Resource Guide for more information.

- Does your college have a strong working relationship with the local community-based organizations providing SSBG services? Why or why not? Consider ways in which you can strengthen the relationship further.
- If so, what services are provided to students (employment support, case management, family support services, etc.)?
- Does your college have a referral process in place with the local CBOs providing SSBG services?

Notes:

Barriers: Use your responses and notes from the guiding questions above to identify potential barriers and challenges to successfully implementing and better utilizing this funding stream to support AO programs and students.

Goals & Next Steps: Please develop a series of detailed action steps for this funding stream for the next 12 months. Use the information you discussed in the guiding questions and barriers sections above to develop a strategy to better utilize this funding stream to support AO programs and students. Examples of next steps include the following: Contact your local CBOs providing SSBG services to discuss AO and the pathways available at your college; working with your local CBOs to determine the eligibility of AO students for SSBG services; working with your local CBOs to develop a standardized referral process for AO students.

Needed Assistance: Describe any guidance or assistance from your state AO team and/or JFF to better utilize this funding stream and successfully implement your next steps.

TRIO Student Support Services

Guiding Questions: Use the following questions to engage your team in a strategic planning conversation around this funding stream. Refer to your Braided Funding College Resource Guide for more information.

- Is TRIO SSS funding being used to support students in each of your AO pathways? Why or why not?
- Will your college reapply for TRIO SSS funding for the next round? Will TRIO SSS funds be strongly aligned with your AO pathways for the next round of funding?

Notes:

Barriers: Use your responses and notes from the guiding questions above to identify potential barriers and challenges to successfully implementing and better utilizing this funding stream to support AO programs and students.

Goals & Next Steps: Please develop a series of detailed action steps for this funding stream for the next 12 months. Use the information you discussed in the guiding questions and barriers sections above to develop a strategy to better utilize this funding stream to support AO programs and students. Examples of next steps include the following: Contact the TRIO administrator at your college to determine how TRIO SSS funds are used at the college (academic tutoring, course selection and financial aid assistance, transition assistance, financial literacy, grant aid); contact the TRIO administrator at your college to discuss how TRIO SSS funds align with the needs of your AO students; work with the TRIO administrator to determine eligible students.

Needed Assistance: Describe any guidance or assistance from your state AO team and/or JFF to better utilize this funding stream and successfully implement your next steps.

Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants

Guiding Questions: Use the following questions to engage your team in a strategic planning conversation around this funding stream. Refer to your Braided Funding College Resource Guide for more information.

- Is your college serving students with documented disabilities in AO pathways?
- Does your college have a strong working relationship with your local Vocational Rehabilitation providers? Why or why not?
- Is there a strong referral process in place with your local Vocational Rehabilitation providers?

Notes:

Barriers: Use your responses and notes from the guiding questions above to identify potential barriers and challenges to successfully implementing and better utilizing this funding stream to support AO programs and students.

Goals & Next Steps: Please develop a series of detailed action steps for this funding stream for the next 12 months. Use the information you discussed in the guiding questions and barriers sections above to develop a strategy to better utilize this funding stream to support AO programs and students. Examples of next steps include the following: Determine the number of AO students currently accessing Vocational Rehabilitation services; contact your local Vocational Rehabilitation service providers to discuss AO and the pathways available at your college; working with your local Vocational Rehabilitation service providers to develop a standardized referral process for eligible students.

Needed Assistance: Describe any guidance or assistance from your state AO team and/or JFF to better utilize this funding stream and successfully implement your next steps.

Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career Training (TAACCCT)

Guiding Questions: Use the following questions to engage your team in a strategic planning conversation around this funding stream. Refer to your Braided Funding College Resource Guide for more information.

- Are funds from the IGEN Career Pathways TAACCCT grant being used to support AO pathways at your college? If not, why? How can you work toward better alignment?

Notes:

Barriers: Use your responses and notes from the guiding questions above to identify potential barriers and challenges to successfully implementing and better utilizing this funding stream to support AO programs and students.

Goals & Next Steps: Please develop a series of detailed action steps for this funding stream for the next 12 months. Use the information you discussed in the guiding questions and barriers sections above to develop a strategy to better utilize this funding stream to support AO programs and students. Examples of next steps include the following: Contact the TAACCCT lead at the college to determine the level of overlap between TAACCCT pathways and AO pathways; Review college level data to determine how many eligible students are accessing TAACCCT programming and identify any gaps in service or underutilization.

Needed Assistance: Describe any guidance or assistance from your state AO team and/or JFF to better utilize this funding stream and successfully implement your next steps.

State and Federal Benefits for Service Officers, Veterans, and Their

Survivors and Dependents: *These funding sources include the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP), and Survivors & Dependents Assistance.*

Guiding Questions: Use the following questions to engage your team in a strategic planning conversation around this funding stream. Refer to your Braided Funding College Resource Guide for more information.

- Does your college obtain veteran status information at intake?
- Does your college obtain survivor or dependent information at intake?
- Does your college have a referral process for veterans?

Notes:

Barriers: Use your responses and notes from the guiding questions above to identify potential barriers and challenges to successfully implementing and better utilizing this funding stream to support AO programs and students.

Goals & Next Steps: Please develop a series of detailed action steps for this funding stream for the next 12 months. Use the information you discussed in the guiding questions and barriers sections above to develop a strategy to better utilize this funding stream to support AO programs and students. Examples of next steps include the following: Contact student intake and assessment services at your college to determine the information collected upon intake; Review college level data to determine how many students are eligible for benefits and identify any gaps in service or underutilization.

Needed Assistance: Describe any guidance or assistance from your state AO team and/or JFF to better utilize this funding stream and successfully implement your next steps.

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

Guiding Questions: Use the following questions to engage your team in a strategic planning conversation around this funding stream. Refer to your Braided Funding College Resource Guide for more information.

- Is your college using MAP funds to support AO students? Why or why not?
- Do students receive assistance throughout the scholarship application process? If so, what does that look like?

Notes:

Barriers: Use your responses and notes from the guiding questions above to identify potential barriers and challenges to successfully implementing and better utilizing this funding stream to support AO programs and students.

Goals & Next Steps: Please develop a series of detailed action steps for this funding stream for the next 12 months. Use the information you discussed in the guiding questions and barriers sections above to develop a strategy to better utilize this funding stream to support AO programs and students. Examples of next steps include the following: Review college level data to determine how many eligible students are accessing scholarship funds through MAP and identify any gaps in service or underutilization.

Needed Assistance: Describe any guidance or assistance from your state AO team and/or JFF to better utilize this funding stream and successfully implement your next steps.

Illinois Student Assistance Commission Scholarships & Grants

Guiding Questions: Use the following questions to engage your team in a strategic planning conversation around this funding stream. Refer to your Braided Funding College Resource Guide for more information.

- Is your college using ISAC funds to support AO students? Why or why not?
- Do students receive assistance throughout the scholarship or grant application process? If so, what does that look like?

Notes:

Barriers: Use your responses and notes from the guiding questions above to identify potential barriers and challenges to successfully implementing and better utilizing this funding stream to support AO programs and students.

Goals & Next Steps: Please develop a series of detailed action steps for this funding stream for the next 12 months. Use the information you discussed in the guiding questions and barriers sections above to develop a strategy to better utilize this funding stream to support AO programs and students. Examples of next steps include the following: Review college level data to determine how many eligible students are accessing scholarship funds through ISAC and identify any gaps in service or underutilization.

Needed Assistance: Describe any guidance or assistance from your state AO team and/or JFF to better utilize this funding stream and successfully implement your next steps.

Exploring Additional Funding Strategies: Brainstorm around additional funding strategies to support AO programs and students. Refer to Section III of the Braided Funding Memo for more information and examples. Examples include:

- Redirecting existing funds
- Partnerships with community-based organizations
- Employer tuition reimbursements
- Fee waivers
- Self pay options
- Applying for federal grants (TAACCCT, H1B, College Access Challenge Grants, etc.)

Ideas & Next Steps: