# Innovative Ways to Use Other Grants to Support Bridges and ICAPS

Illinois Community College Board
Heartland Human Care Services
Lincoln Land Community College
Oakton College

# Purpose of this session....



When looking for more funding, think outside the box!

#### Ask yourself:

- What am I not doing because my current budget isn't big enough?
- What am I not doing because my current budget doesn't allow it?
- What do my students need me to do more of?
- What would help my students take that next step?

# Depending on the answers, identify those funding opportunities.

Many different types of grants are available – Dollar General, Secretary of State, various ICCB grants.

One is the Innovative Bridge and Transitions (IBT) Grant. It has a broad scope of possibilities. The next round of applications is closed but consider whether it would be a good fit for your program or not...next year. And then plan according.

Today, we will hear about 3 different IBT grantees and how they spent their money to fill in financial gaps in their programs.

## Heartland Human Care Services

### How they were creative...a Job Fair

- Our College & Career Pathways team collaborated with our Employment team to host our first career fair on June 14 with 11 employer partners and 38 participants
- Participants included students from our classes, individuals receiving refugee employment services from HHCS, neighborhood walk-ins, referrals from other CBOs
- We provided transportation for some participants who live further away from our Belmont-Cragin location
- Participants were invited to the event early to participate in 1:1 resume development support and a presentation and guided practice session, "How to Shine at a Job Fair"
- Employer partners participated in an "Employer Hour" that included information about the employment journey for new arrivals to the United States, a testimonial from a participant with lived experience as a refugee, and small group discussions
- Employers represented range of pathways including food service and hospitality, social services, transportation/logistics, telecommunications, healthcare

How did the IBT Grant funds help with this?

The IBT grant allowed them to partially fund their Partnership Developer role. The partnership developer led the charge to recruit employer partners for the event, set the schedule, convene a planning committee, etc.



OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 2024

### Marketing for Bridge & ICAPS

- Building relationships internally
  - ► PRM
  - ▶ Auto tech, CNA, Diesel, and other certificate and degree programs
- Focus group about Adult Education
  - ▶ Students, instructors, staff
  - Get clear on the message
- Forward Magazine

### New Marketing Materials

- Rebrand
  - ▶ We are LLCC, not separate
- New materials needed
  - Banner, business cards, flyers,
- Design
  - ► Flyers vs half sheets
  - QR codes
  - Text number
  - Supports that are available to our students

### LLCC Forward Magazine- March 2024



The Community Colleges of Illinois



#### 1. On our campuses, everyone belongs.

We serve the most diverse group of students and communities of any post-secondary option in Illinois. We feel like home, and we open up the

#### 2. We are outcomes-driven.

Our degree and stackable certificate programs help every student forge a clear, personalized path toward their goal, giving them a sense of accomplishment and greater control over their future. Illinois is No. 1 in the nation in terms of its community college students earning bachelor's degrees, and we are the largest provider of public workforce training in the state.

#### 3. We open up access to more rewarding futures.

We make the proven and substantial benefits of higher education available to the greatest number of people by doing whatever it takes to help them succeed: affordable tuition and financial aid counseling, comprehensive student success services and class schedules that allow students to fulfill their family and job responsibilities.

#### 4. We're flexible, innovative and agile.

Even in the most challenging times, we deliver education that's relevant and free of red tape. We meet students where they are and make the most of their prior learning experiences. We can ramp up and re-engineer workforce development programs quickly, helping businesses and government stay ahead.

#### 5. We're dedicated and accountable to our communities.

We return our communities' investment by boosting local education levels and social mobility, developing new generations of local leaders and being a trusted, proactive partner for local economic and civic ambitions. We build individual and collective resilience.

### Forward Magazine-October 2024

# Achieving goals starts with the first step



"The thought of taking the first step when starting something new might be daunting — at least until you actually take that first step," says Parry Mendoza, director, adult education and literacy at Lincoln Land Community College.

For many, a learning opportunity from LLCC Adult Education and Literacy is the first step to a wide range of opportunities. Classes are offered in Springfield, Jacksonville, Beardstown, Taylorville, Litchfield and Hillsboro. Online options are available as well.

Classes include GED\* preparation, tutoring (English language, reading and math), English language skills and conversation tables, and career exploration and preparation to earn a college certificate or degree. "These classes are all free and open to anyone in our communities."

think about and discover what their goals are, both short-term and long-term. Through career exploration as well as our transitions classes that accompany workforce training like CNA and automotive technology, it's not just about completing one class. As LLCC students, they have access to resources to help support them in continuing on to career training or earning an

Mendoza wants those who are thinking about coming in for that first step to know that they are not alone. "Individual situations are unique, but others here may be going through something similar. We care about students and their success. We teach, but we also encourage, build camaraderie in the classroom and help connect students with college and local resources for wrap-around support."





English language learning class on LLCC's main campus in Springfield

#### All the resources are here

Dafne Pfeifer came to the United States from Chile by herself at the age of 20 to learn English. She started out in St. Louis, but because of the large Spanish-speaking community there, she was not progressing in learning English as she had hoped.

She met a family from Chile that lived in Springfield, visited a few times and decided to move. Once in Springfield, she started working as a cashier at Panda Express and was eventually promoted to general manager and trainer. Pfeifer worked during the day and took English language learning classes at night.

"I met amazing people at LLCC," she says. "You see all ages at the college. It's a welcoming and nice place to be." For the past four years, Pfeifer has been working at Illinois Healthcare and Family Services. This fall, she came

back to LLCC to begin earning a degree in human services. She offers encouragement for others. "If you really want it, you can do it. Keep coming back. LLCC has everything you need. All the resources are here," Pfeifer says.

"LLCC not only gave me the opportunity to succeed, but also friends and family. I met my best friend and maid of honor in my English class. She's from Saudi Arabia. Neither of us had family here, but we have been family to each other ever since. Teachers start as teachers, but also become family."



#### Never too late

Josh Stephens worked in the trucking industry for 25 years, driving nearly 3 million accident-free miles across the United States and Canada.

"I regretted not getting my high school diploma," he says. "After deciding to get out of the trucking business and selling my truck, I decided that it was the time to get that

He adds, "I would recommend LLCC's GED" prep class to anyone, no matter what age they are. If you have the ambition to get through, you will. And you might be able to

get through it more quickly than you think."
Stephens found earning a State of Illinois High School
Diploma to be a huge weight off his shoulders and believes
it was an important example to set for his kids.
With his experience and now his diploma, his

nstructor helped connect him to his next opportunity teaching in LLCC's truck driver training program. Stephens says, "I enjoy teaching and helping others, and seeing the progression they make."

#### Start here at LLCC

Interested in taking that first step? Adult education and literacy registration and orientation are ongoing throughout the year, and classes start every eight weeks.

"We have a great team," adds Mendoza. "We're here and ready to help guide and offer personalized assistance to help you reach your goals.

www.llcc.edu/adult-ed

### Examples



# Take the first step

offers FREE classes and supports to help you take the next step.

#### **Supporting You**

Get the help you need to succeed. LLCC offers support services to adult education students to help them succeed in the classroom.

- · Mental health counseling.
- · SMTD bus passes, for eligible participants.
- Access to the LLCC Library & events.
- Accessibility accommodations.
- Flexible classes to fit your schedule.
   Beardstown | Jacksonville | Hillsboro | Litchfield
   Springfield | Taylorville
- In-person classes Day or evening.
- Blended Classes consisting of in-person meetings, remote homework and online activities.
- Online Guided by an online instructor, students meet and complete activities online.

Learn more at www.llcc.edu/adult-ed, call us at 217-786-2349 or text 217-635-3247.





As of July 2023, the Lincoln Land Community College Adult Education & Literacy program is 48% federally funded in the amount of \$267,644 by the Illinois Community College Board.

The Lincoln Land Community College Adult Education & Literacy program is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Reasonable accommodations for eligible individuals are available upon request. Contact the ADA coordinator at 217-786-2349.

### Examples



The free skills course is designed to help students improve their reading, writing, math and technology skills while still moving forward in

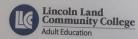
· Classes available in the fall and spring • Locations: Springfield or virtual options available

#### Want to know more?

Call 217-786-2349 or text 217-635-3247 www.llcc.edu/adult-career-pathways

Scan this code to learn more about the upcoming schedule and









Auto Skill Building through LLCC Adult Education and Literacy pairs directly with the Auto Tech Certificate of Achievement program in the LLCC Workforce Institute. The free skills course is designed to help students improve their reading, writing, math and technology skills while still moving forward in their auto tech career. Students who register for Auto Tech this semester will be automatically enrolled in this class. This makes the first semester of Auto Tech FREE!

Classes begin fall 2024. Students can choose between a day or evening cohort to pair with their Auto Tech classes.

#### Auto Skill Building classes are FREE.

Tuition assistance is available for LLCC Automotive Technology first semester students.

Want to know more?

**2**17-786-2489 **2**17-635-3247 www.llcc.edu/auto-skill-building

Aug. 20-Dec. 3 Tue, Auto Tech classes take place
before cohort class.

Cohort

#### Evening Cohort

Aug. 20- Dec. 5 Tue/Wed/Thu. 4:30-5:30 p.m. Auto Tech classes after cohort class.

INSTITUTE at Lincoln Land
Community College

## Questions??

### Adult Ed Resources & Referrals Guide



#### How?

- Innovative Bridge & Transition (IBT) Grant
  - Transitions Collaboration
- 2 FT Transitions Coordinators
  - 1 dedicated to this guide through IBT
  - 1 dedicated to other support services through AEFLA

### Adult Ed Resources & Referrals Guide



#### Why?

- Student-need driven, lack of comprehensive guide before.
- Overly time-consuming to research for individual student needs as they arise.
- Compiled based on:
  - Personal and professional involvement with communities.
  - Local and intentional news consumption.
  - If it helps you or the people in your personal or professional life, it has potential to help your student population.
- Email blasts for time-sensitive resources (ie: warming/cooling centers).
  - Constantly revisiting student lists, connect with data team for that info.

### Categories



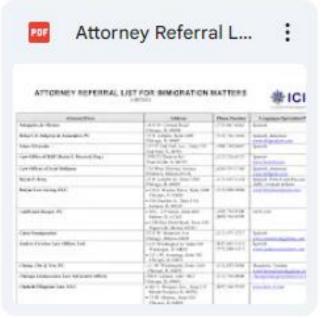
Access & Disability	÷	Childcare	:		Clothing & Furniture	:	Domestic/Partner	:
Employment	÷	Family Literacy	÷		Food Related	÷	Foreign Degree Ev	:
Health Services	÷	Housing	:		Immigration, Refug	÷	Legal	:
LGBTQ+	÷	Oakton College Re	÷		Scholarships & Fin	:	Technology	:
Test Preparation	÷	Time Management	÷	E	Transportation	:	Veterans	:
Weather Related	:							

### Inside a Folder













Quiero contactar a este abagado/organización:



### Replicate It!



- Google Workspace
- Microsoft Teams
- LMS "sandbox"
  - Blackboard
  - D2L/Brightspace
  - Canvas
- Website (Weebly, Wix, etc.)
- Old school
  - Organize & file resources/flyers in a cabinet
  - Store on a flashdrive

### Contact



If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact us!

Tiffany Olson tolson@oakton.edu

Laura DeMerle <a href="mailto:ldemerle@oakton.edu">ldemerle@oakton.edu</a>



Itri Papanikolla ipapanikolla@oakton.edu