

## Workforce Development Research Project - Quarterly Update

July 2024

### Learning Community

- The monthly Learning Community met twice in June. On June 3<sup>rd</sup> UMaine project team member, Mary Lou Ciolfi, a national *Reframing Aging* facilitator, presented on ageism and offered resources from the [National Center to Reframe Aging](#) for ideas on updating language and images for program communications.
- The UMaine team has instituted monthly poll quizzes on topics of interest to workforce development. The quizzes are sent by email and link to the online LC for answers and additional information on the topic. The project team will also send links to monthly discussion topics for the online LC.
- At the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City of New York Department for the Aging's presented details of its *SilverCorps* program. You can view their PowerPoint [here](#). Other programs will present in upcoming months.
- At the July 29<sup>th</sup> LC meeting we will discuss how programs manage and track participant transitions between program phases (e.g., training → volunteering) and “graduation” into permanent employment.

### Advisory Committee

- The focus of the past two months of Advisory Committee work has been providing feedback on the WFD participant survey. The AC members offered extremely helpful feedback and suggestions to the research team, all of which was captured, reviewed, and incorporated as possible. A final version will be sent out to Committee members and other project partners.
- Individual AC members have offered their expertise on various topics and the research team will reach out over the summer, particularly as the data collection instruments for the upcoming program site visits are finalized. Thank you, AC members, for your ongoing assistance. The next meeting is **Tuesday, Sept 17, 2024, at 1:00 pm ET.**

### Research Activities

- A final draft of the participant survey is now available. The research team has submitted the survey to UMaine's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for approval. The survey launch is presently scheduled for September. The team will work with two grantee sites to pilot the survey with a few current program participants prior to full launch.
- All current and former program participants are eligible to take part in the survey, either via paper or online. The survey covers a range of topics including motivation for joining the program, experiences with onboarding, volunteering, training, and transfer to employment. Demographic questions will help us understand participant experiences across various populations and groups.
- Program participants will be recruited for the survey by program directors. Those who submit the survey will receive a \$25 Visa gift card.

### Site Visits

- Porter-Leath (Memphis, TN) and The HAP Foundation (Illinois) will host the research team's site visits this August and September. The site visits are an opportunity for the researchers to understand the programs from an in-the-field perspective. Over the 3-year research project, all programs will have site visits.
- Host programs will assist in recruiting program participants and partners for focus group conversations.
- A 1-page overview of the site visits can be viewed [here](#). Please reach out to the research team if have questions.

### Other

The research team will be at the AmeriCorps Seniors Summer Convening in Baltimore at the end of July. If you'll be there, please find us and say hello! We have a poster presentation and a breakout session for WFD grantees. We hope to spend time with WFD and AmeriCorps Seniors staff while on-site!

Contact Project Director, Mary Lou Ciolfi, with any questions, comments, or requests

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