Getting Ahead and Staying Ahead One Cohort at a Time

Building Awareness, Community, and Human Capital Throughout San Bernardino County

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Workshop Objectives

- **Strengthen access to resources, services and program offerings**/structures throughout San Bernardino County.

- **Build awareness** to strengthen human/social capital within the community.

- Discuss **successful outcomes** preventing human exploitation among local government.

- Describe **new Future Mission**: Moving forward
Poverty and Getting Ahead

San Bernardino County

POVERTY
Poverty Awareness

Bridges Out of Poverty Certification Training
Planning How to Get Ahead

- Met with Executive Team
- Presented an initial plan
  - No funding
- Adjusted plans
  - Added a budget
- Graduates participated in future Cohorts
- WEX job assignments
Planning the Cohort

- 12-16 week program
- Average class size
- Meet weekly
- Break bread together
- Books/Materials
- Supplies
- Weekly Check-in
- Link resources
Getting Ahead Curriculum

WEEKS 1-4

WEEKS 5-8

WEEKS 9-12

WEEKS 12-16

RESOURCE FAIR
1. Are you familiar with Ruby Payne Bridges out of Poverty and the Getting Ahead in a Just Getting-By World curriculum?
2. Do you have a Getting Ahead in a Just Getting-By World model in your county or agency?
3. Do you recognize gaps in linking resources and communication with those we serve in our communities?
Getting Ahead Investigators

- Mainly single parents (1-6 children)
- 10 years working with children and providing parenting classes for a non-profit
- 12 years working in a dry cleaners providing great customer service
- Warehouse experience
- No work experience prior to Work Experience (WEX) program
- No driver’s license/no vehicle
- Lack of (safe) housing
- Most organized
- Best survivors
Challenges with Being Under Resourced

- Getting connected with the right resource
- Understanding what resources are needed
- Being able to communicate needs
- Hidden rules
- Registry of language
Cohort One – Confidence Building
Cohort January 2019

Nine participants enrolled in the program. Of those:

- Five (5) participants got a county job and is no longer on aid.
- One (1) participant got a county job and is still on aid.
- One (1) participant got a job, not sure if still on aid.
- One (1) participants started their own business during the cohort, not sure if still on aid.

Using the data from this cohort, it can be stated that job attainment outcomes stand currently at 80 percent for the January 2019 Getting Ahead Cohort.
Cohort September 2019 – Building Trust

Performance, Education & Resource Centers
21 participants enrolled in the program.

1. Two (2) participants obtained jobs prior to the start of the cohort.
2. One (1) participant obtained a county job during the cohort.
3. Two (2) participants obtained a county job and is no longer on aid.
4. One (1) participants obtained a job during the cohort, not sure if still on aid.
5. One (1) participant moved out of state for a job and family support.

Using the data from this cohort it can be stated that job attainment outcomes stands currently at 33 percent for the 2020 Getting Ahead Cohort.
Cohort March 2020 – New Future Stories
Two cohorts with 27 participants enrolled in the program. Of those:

1. Two (2) participants obtained jobs prior to the start of the cohort.
2. Five (5) participants got a county job and is no longer on aid.
3. One (1) participant got two part time jobs and is still on aid.
4. One (1) participants obtained a job during the cohort, not sure if still on aid.

Using the data from this cohort it can be stated that job attainment outcomes stands currently at 32 percent for the 2020 Getting Ahead Cohort.
Needed Resources

- Court/Legal
- Child-care
- Medical
- Behavioral/Mental Health
- Safe Housing
- Stable Transportation
- Witness Protection
- Agency Communication
- Counseling
- Homeless Assistance
- Parenting Classes
Identified Change in Investigators

- Greater ability to access needed resources
- Found value in themselves
- Not too late to pursue dreams
- Improved parenting skills
- Changed the “woe” is me mentality
- Worth fighting for
- Gained courage
- New educational interests
- Recognize every minute is a new opportunity
- Everything is possible
Building Social Capacities

- Positive self-concept development
- Sound decision-making
- Problem-solving
- Social bonding/bridging
- Planning for the future
Community Challenges

Do they really hear what are needs are? Is anyone paying attention?

Overall safety
- Parks
- Gas stations
- Laundry mats

Bus routes

Access to resources
Future Mission: Always Moving Forward

“Changes in persons to bring about skills and capabilities that make them able to act in new ways.”

- Sir Partha Sarathi Dasgupta
1. Questions regarding the cohorts or investigator experiences?
2. Any ideas to share of great work in relation to working with individuals to change their mindset with goals towards long-term sustainability?
3. Any suggestions on how we San Bernardino County could better collaborate or link needed resources with our community?
4. Any final thoughts to share?
Thank you for Sharing in our Journey