

Action Group Themes

Creating a Vibrant Hartford: *Adult Learning as a Pathway to Change*

Theme 1: Barriers to Access/ Addressing Stereotypes

- More courses to learn technical skills (computers, nursing, other) and that offer certificates and diplomas to recognize completion
- More adult learning opportunities that are free or low cost
- ESOL Classes- Expand opportunities- address the barriers to improve participation and attract those in need of the service.
- Transportation- van service and other alternative transportation
- Address barriers to participating in adult learning such as language, racism/stereotyping, income, age, and barriers faced by stay-at-home moms.
- Culturally appropriate addiction, trauma, and domestic violence services in native language (in partnership with immigrant community groups)
- Goal setting workshops for immigrants
- Make it easier to become a citizen

Theme 2: Accreditation/Licensing

- Job skills and life skills: standards, competencies, quality- any course, anywhere gets learner to goal “all spokes make the wheel,” enable different pathways to success, different definitions of success- community college, CSUs, workforce development
- Build comprehensive life skills within ESL a) financial literacy b) drivers classroom training c) information about adult learning opportunities
- Devise a way for accreditation and education from other countries to be recognized here

Theme 3: Coordination of Services/Opportunities

- More information about adult learning opportunities (including FAQs) so people know what's available
- Create "network" of service providers- continuum of learning; make it easier for user to navigate to their end goal; map assets available, providers can access user history to improve coordination, "learner web"- shared plan for a client, case conferencing
- Comprehensive directory of services by specific type of service
- Encourage professional and trade organizations to reach out to immigrant groups.
- To get more information about adult learning opportunities, work with agencies and service providers
- Develop a plan to get more info about adult learning opportunities and present to Department of Education and others, using key stakeholders to help open doors.
- Create an Adult Learning Action Team to make accessible to all Hartford residents literacy, job training, and enrichment opportunities based on the needs of the community
- Insure that training being offered fits with jobs/skill sets needed by employees

Theme 4: Supporting Formal/Informal Networks

- Create message of value of life long learning- use marketing "I want to be part of..."
- Organizing community exchange to utilize and recognize individual skills (exchange may include a system of bartering)
- Work with neighborhood organizations and others to access neighborhood needs for adult learning opportunities
- Develop a community hub and cultural/learning center for people together, community networking, finding learning resources, present isolation, celebrate different cultures, have dialogues, and more