

# National Institute for Work and Learning (NIWL)

FHI 360's National Institute of Work and Learning (NIWL) focuses on two key drivers of individual well-being – education and employment – to improve lives. The beneficiaries of our programs are underserved and at-risk populations, those impacted by poverty, displacement from school or employment, involvement with the justice system, and systemic and institutional inequities. Working with foundations, government agencies, school districts, institutions of higher education, businesses, community-based organizations, and the workforce system, NIWL fosters collaboration among and across sectors through:



Partnership Building



Policy Analysis



Strategic Planning



Program Design



Capacity Building



Produce and  
Disseminate Results



Training and Technical  
Assistance



Research, Monitoring  
and Evaluation

## NIWL'S AREAS OF EXPERTISE INCLUDE:

### Career and College Readiness

NIWL designs, delivers and evaluates programs to prepare all students to make informed choices about education and career pathways.

### ILLUSTRATIVE PROJECT: BRIDGE TO EMPLOYMENT

Bridge to Employment (BTE) is a project sponsored by Johnson & Johnson for 14-18-year-olds from disadvantaged communities. Its goals are to increase equity in education, help students stay in school, excel academically, and elevate their career aspirations. BTE helps young people build solid futures and strives to increase the number of



students who enroll in higher education, as well as increase the number of students interested in pursuing careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Manufacturing, Design (STEM2D) or healthcare sectors.

NIWL works with local partners to design its program to meet the student needs, provides implementation assistance and guidance, and facilitates professional development opportunities for employee volunteers. NIWL prepares resources and educational materials, curates website content, designs online toolkits, lesson plans, tip sheets and lessons learned.

NIWL facilitates communication across the BTE community with forums, webinars, Twitter chats, success stories and best practices. Under NIWL's leadership, Bridge to Employment has been deployed in more than 95 under-resourced communities around the world.

### Workforce Development

NIWL guides organizations that prepare and educate a highly skilled workforce for the 21st century global economy.

#### ILLUSTRATIVE PROJECT: COMPASS ROSE COLLABORATIVE <sup>1</sup>

NIWL leads the Compass Rose Collaborative (CRC), a project funded by the U.S. Department of Labor to improve the education and employment outcomes of young adults, ages 18–24, after involvement in the U.S. criminal justice system. NIWL works with nine sub-grantee organizations in Albany, Baltimore, Boston, Denver, Greater Louisville, Hartford, Los Angeles, Southeast Arkansas, and St. Louis to provide 'wrap around' services to young adults returning to their communities. NIWL provides technical assistance to support the community activities which include employment-focused services, educational services, industry-recognized training, mental health services, transportation assistance, housing placement services, trauma-informed care, conflict resolution, restorative justice practices, legal services, digital literacy, financial literacy and assistance, childcare, and family reunification services. The employment services our sub-grantees provide include work-based learning, occupational skills training, and apprenticeships.

<sup>1</sup> FHI 360's Compass Rose Collaborative program is 100% funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Reentry Program in the amount of \$4.5 million. No other sources of funding support this program.

IMPACT AND RESULTS



Less than **3%** of participants from our 2017 cohort were convicted of a new crime since their program enrollment



More than **70%** have been placed in long-term education, employment, or apprenticeships



More than **70%** have obtained and industry-recognized credential

Research and Evaluation

NIWL enables our partners to use data for decision-making and to deploy evidence-driven strategies to achieve their goals.

ILLUSTRATIVE PROJECT: TIWAHE PILOT EVALUATION

NIWL evaluators have been asked to document the effectiveness of the five-year Tiwahe Pilot Initiative, a pilot program launched by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 2015. The Tiwahe Initiative “provides social services, tribal court, housing, job training and ICWA [Indian Child Welfare Act] funding to six pilot sites for the purposes of developing Tribal level innovative strategies to address child and family social services challenges within their communities with cultural components”. Launched with four pilot sites in 2015 (Spirit Lake Tribe [ND], Ute Mountain Ute Tribe [CO], Red Lake Indian Tribe [MN], Association of Village Council Presidents [AK]), the Tiwahe Initiative expanded to two additional sites in 2016 (Fort Belknap Indian Community [MT] and Pascua Yaqui Tribe [AZ]).

In the Tiwahe Pilot Evaluation project, NIWL evaluators are documenting the Tribal interagency collaboration on social services by addressing this research question: How did the Tiwahe Pilot Initiative influence Native nations’ provision of integrated social services, and what were the impacts of integrated service provision on clients’ health and well-being?

NIWL is collecting qualitative data via in-depth interviews and document review to record the implementation of the Tiwahe Pilot Initiative and analyzing quantitative data on participation in, and outcomes of coordinated social services. The final evaluation report will inform the potential expansion of the Tiwahe Initiative.