

# The District's Career Pathways Task Force

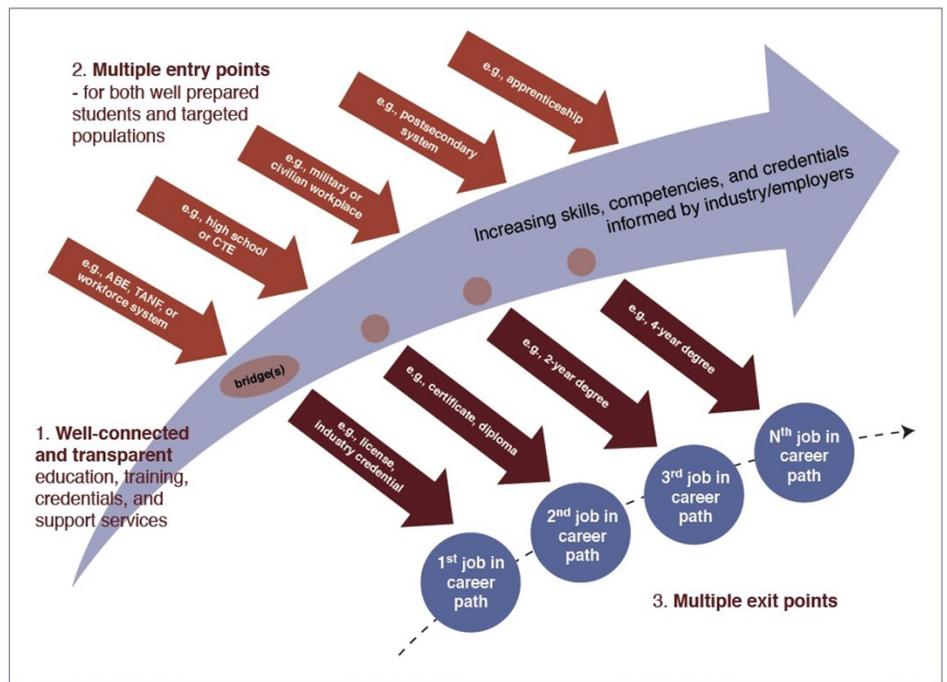
The Career Pathways Task Force is working to streamline education, training, and workforce systems to increase educational attainment and employment outcomes for District residents. There are 60,000 District residents without high school diplomas or GEDs and even higher numbers with low literacy and numeracy levels which are significant barriers to finding and keeping employment. The Task Force is working to align programs and services through a Career Pathways model which is a best practice in workforce development throughout the country.

## The **Task Force**:

- ◆ Convened by the WIC in December 2014 due to a recognized need for a system change and mandated by DC Council
- ◆ Comprised of leadership from 13 District Agencies, Education Organizations, and Training Providers
- ◆ Submitting a Strategic Plan to the Council on September 30, 2015 and will continue to meet for three years to ensure successful implementation
- ◆ Has strong support from education and workforce stakeholders in the District to implement Career Pathways

## The essential features of a Career Pathways System:

- Multiple entry and exit points to encompass job seekers of all education, training, and experience levels
- Education programs that address the needs of the population (Adult Basic Education, ESL, GED/High School Equivalency, etc.)
- Training Providers which offer industry-recognized credentials
- Support services and case management for participants to help them progress along the pathway and reduce barriers
- As participants gain skills, education, training, and competencies, they move forward in the sector career path (Image from CLASP)



## Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Career Pathways

The work that the Career Pathways Task Force is seeking to accomplish goes hand in hand with the changes and improvements called for in [WIOA](#). This includes **building strong partnerships** between education, workforce, and human services entities. The **integration of services** ensures the participants' needs are met, eliminates duplication of services, and supports efficient expenditures of resources. Career Pathways are **based on sector partnerships** with businesses to ensure job-seekers are trained in **high-growth industries**. The Career Pathways Task Force Plan will inform portions of the broader WIOA State Plan that is due to the Department of Labor in March 2016.

Please contact Jeanna Fortney, Career Pathways Coordinator at the WIC at [Jeanna.fortney@dc.gov](mailto:Jeanna.fortney@dc.gov) or 202-671-1554 if you have questions.

