

ELL Workforce Navigator Convening,

Sacramento, November 13, 2018

Lunch Keynote Plenary Session: State/Local Efforts to Connect Resources for ELs

Introduction: Tim Rainey, Executive Director of the California Workforce Development Board

T

- Some make the case to invest in immigrants because people need to have a stake in our prosperity, have a stake in capitalism and free market economy
- CA Workforce: invest in immigrants for different reason: shared prosperity is endgame – we invest in immigrants because it ensures social cohesion, drives economic growth and stabilizes the economy
- State strategic plan: laid out agenda, built on premise that programs have to be driven locally - good programs change lives / from there: shared goals and strategies changes communities and the state of CA

Remarks: David M. Lanier Secretary, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency

- CA perceived as 'home of the resistance' - CA being different, exceptionalism is not a new idea - CA continues to lead
- 8y ago, CA compared to Greece, next failed state - huge challenges in local and national government - leadership of CA governor and policy makers allowed for a reset – coming back to our strength = our people : diversity
- Kicked off this program July 2016 - different context then, but same goals
- CA = nation of immigrants (10M, ¼ of total US immigrant population) = key part of workforce now and in years to come
- More than 6M LEP individuals in CA: great strength + great challenges
- Strengthen services to ELs = strengthen the state's economy
- Gov. Brown committed to immigrant integration and immigrant rights - understands the CA story = story of immigrants
- Success examples:
 - LCFF in public education earmarked for ELLs and underserved populations
 - Earned income tax credit
 - Minimum wage increase (on our way to \$15)
- LWDA

- Invest in immigrants, understand what (language and other) barriers exist. The system needs to account for these barriers, needs more entry points and more support
- Recognize that adult education has traditionally been the entry point for ELs

Panel: Building Partnership to Serve Diverse English Learners *Presenters:* Marcella Ruiz, CDSS; Javier Romero, AEP; Jennifer Hernandez, CLWDA; Tim Rainey, CWDB

Moderator: Ursula Bischoff

Q: Please give some examples of collaboration across different program areas to help better serve ELLs

Jennifer Hernandez:

- Policy level: 15% requirement (workforce boards serving areas with more than 15% English learners need to develop a plan for serving them). First time we had tackled this issue in that form – required a coordinated approach
- Tools developed: directory of Workforce partners
- Supporting each other’s work on the ground: partnering to help train others on what each of our program does: ex webinars (well attended)

Marcella Ruiz:

- Partnerships with legal service providers
- Partnering with LWDA:
 - Policy: work closely with EDD and LWDA to develop aligned policy to bring immigrant advocacy organizations to the table
 - Building capacity of state workforce system and immigrant serving organizations. Workforce can be foreign to CBOs, need professional development on where CBOs can be at the table
 - Direct investment: how do we support nonprofit orgs to be at the table - investment so that CBOs can devote staff time who can become the experts around workforce and collaborate with AJCCs, and Adult Education Program Consortia

Javier Romero:

- AEP Field team process: inclusive process to develop policy and guidance/ diverse stakeholders included
- shared metrics with CDSS
- 5 field team work areas: included CLWDA and CDSS - informs 3 year regional planning process for AEP consortia

Tim Rainey:

- State workforce board developed state strategic plan in 2011 and 2016: collaborative process - common vision for CA & shared prosperity
- Same state partners together - all partners looking at data across funding streams and impact of interventions
- WIOA discretionary funds towards building strategies identified in strategic plan: ex ELL Workforce Navigator Pilot, accelerator fund, hire and train partnerships (ex hospitality)
- Desire to better support work on the ground
- Co-enrollment = opportunity to see different components of systems integrate

Q: Please give examples of how state programs are building trust between immigrants and government programs?

Jennifer Hernandez:

- Intentional about CBOs being at the table in ELL Navigator project, reflective of communities they're working with
- Need to educate partners what workforce system is and does. For example IRC recently developed a community engagement guide that teaches CBOs how to engage with WDB
- Released Pathways to Services policy: push the line on when to ask for work authorization documentation

Marcelle Ruiz:

- Last 2 years of responding to federal policies felt like operating in crisis mode
- For example proposed changes to public charge have a chilling effect, affect mixed status families and will impact social services
- Immigration enforcement - surprising who is impacted: includes native born US Latinos and non-Latino undocumented populations.

Javier Romero:

- Haven't done enough.
- AB2098: opportunity to come up with immigrant integration metrics
- Bigger discussion than metrics: how to connect resources for population served, CBOs - how do we organize ourselves to be successful to achieve the metrics
- Opportunity to connect with Title I, Perkins
- Strong workforce program
- Excited about the future, AB2098 great opportunity for us all

Q: Where do you see opportunities to accelerate this work in the future?

Tim Rainey:

- Working more with CBOs, immigrant rights advocates, organized labor
- Education: helping community understand what the real issues are around immigration (economic opportunity is only part of the reason for immigration, people fleeing violence ...) - combat misinformation, role as govt to tell the truth

Jennifer Hernandez:

- Continuing the conversation within the framework of immigrant integration – hopeful new administration will continue to bring all partners together
- Strong interest from philanthropic partners
- Figure out how to serve undocumented

Marcella Ruiz:

- Continue to align 3 major systems: social services, workforce, adult education
- Significant strain on resources of CBOs - investment of state \$ to build capacity of CBOs, have discussion about what immigrant integration looks like
- A lot of opportunity to advance the conversation
 - Infrastructure in place: long history of integration of refugees/resettlement – this may be an opportunity to scale best practices to immigrant populations

Javier Romero:

- pleased to see adult education at the forefront of this conversation
- Metrics discussion re: AB2098, shared metrics = shared success