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Coalition Working Group 3 Braided Funding

Working Group Goals:

- Introduce and gain understanding of the challenge
- Discuss best practices here and elsewhere- gather list of places/initiatives to research
- Generate list of who else needs to have input
- Create a schedule for next meetings and prep work to create a proposed plan of action to address the challenge

Champions:

- Heather Gresham, BECWIB
- Larry Christ, LiteLab
- Rupa Shanmugam, SoPark Corporation

Braided Funding Challenge:

Workforce development resources are comprised of public and private monies. The public resources are often limited by regulations and defined, restricted uses and in the private sector there is room for improvement given cases of high turn-over, high costs of a new hire, limited upskilling resources, etc. Understanding these various sources of funds, their intended use, audience and eligibility criteria is critical to ensuring the dollars are maximized to allow the maximum number of individuals and companies to benefit.

Along with identifying the funds and population served, it is essential to identify where the “gaps” exist and what opportunities there are to adjust accordingly through waivers, MOU’s and pilot programs. This work should identify impact opportunities to better coordinate and align public and private resources to assist future and current employees to obtain better paying jobs including overcoming barriers like transportation, childcare, and other necessities.

Next Steps:

- Arrange meeting with Rhode Island representatives and NYS DOL representative Elizabeth de Leon Bhargava to discuss RI success and application in NYS
- Gather existing data on public funding streams into WNY – with a focus on the ALICE population eligibility
- Survey employers to gather data on private sector resources spent on training and in what areas