

# CREATING INCLUSIVE PATHWAYS TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS

National Association of Counties Research Foundation  
June 21, 2023

Counties for Career Success (C4CS) is a NACo initiative for county leaders committed to streamlining pathways to quality jobs and supporting learners along the way.

[APPLY TODAY](#) for the 8-county cohort!

NACo is seeking applications from **county teams** interested in participating in **free technical assistance and peer learning events**. Teams ideally include 1 member from each of:

- Post-secondary education
- Workforce development
- Human services

Applications due:

JUL  
14

# WEBINAR HOUSEKEEPING



Attendees are automatically placed on mute.



Please use the "Chat" function to share comments, reactions, or resources!



Submit your questions for our panelists via the "Q&A" function.

*\*We will follow up on unanswered questions in an email post-webinar.*

# SPEAKERS



**Rich Fitzgerald**  
County Executive  
Allegheny County



**Dr. Quintin Bullock**  
President  
Community College of  
Allegheny County (CCAC)



**Erin Dalton**  
Director  
Allegheny County Department of  
Human Services



COUNTIES  
FOR **CAREER  
SUCCESS**

# COUNTIES FOR **CAREER SUCCESS**

An initiative for county leaders interested in streamlining pathways to quality jobs and supporting learners along the way.



COUNTIES  
FOR **CAREER  
SUCCESS**

# BACKGROUND

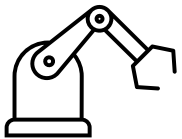
# THE FUTURE OF WORK

COVID-19 **transformed** our understanding of workforce needs, from...

**SYSTEMS**

to

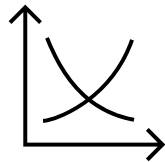
**THE INDIVIDUAL**



Trends in automation



Popularity of remote work



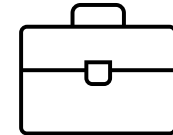
Disparities in education and employment



Economic uncertainty



Disruptions to education



Job loss and career change

→ Workers across the nation have had to **adapt** to new ways of working and **develop new skills** to stay competitive in a changing job market.

# HIGHER EDUCATION



COUNTIES  
FOR CAREER  
SUCCESS

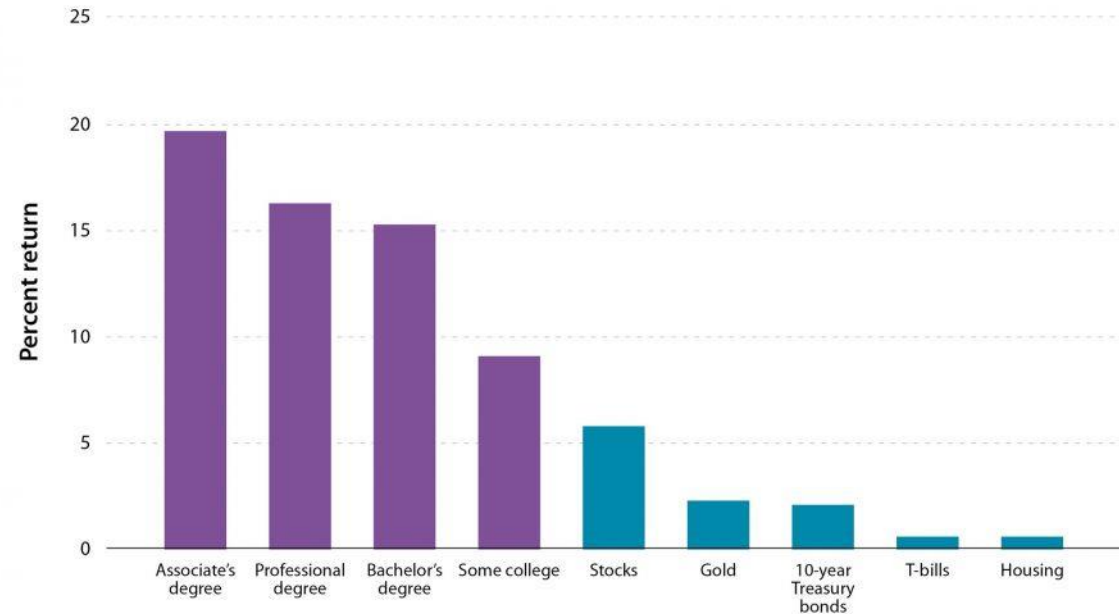
## THE NEED:

According to the Georgetown Public Policy Institute, about **two-thirds of high-quality jobs require education beyond high school** yet only 46 percent of working age adults possess that minimum standard.

## THE VALUE:

### Returns to Education Compared to Other Investments

The average returns to earning a degree are high, and even the returns to starting college and not finishing are still higher than the returns to any other traditional investment.



Source: CPS (2009, 2010–12); Damodaran (2013); Federal Reserve Economic Data (2013); National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) 2012, 2013; National Mining Association (2012); Shiller (2013); authors' calculations.

Note: Sample is civilian, natural-born U.S. citizens. Earnings data come from the CPS (2010–12) and tuition data come from NCES (2012, 2013). Data for other assets reflect real returns between 1928 and 2012. See the technical appendix for a full description of the calculations.



# COUNTIES AS EMPLOYERS



There are over

**3,600,000**

county employees.

→ Counties understand the importance of and have a **vested interest** in post-secondary education and workforce development.

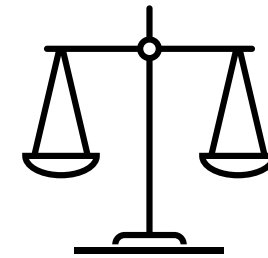
**Counties for Career Success (C4CS)** is a NACo initiative for county leaders committed to **streamlining pathways to quality jobs and supporting learners along the way.**

*...with particular focus on:*



**CROSS-SYSTEMS  
COLLABORATION**

and



**EQUITY**



COUNTIES  
FOR **CAREER  
SUCCESS**

# C4CS COHORT

# THE COHORT

From each county, **3 core leaders** – **1 from each sector:**



Representative from **post-secondary education**

*e.g., Presidents, deans of community colleges or career technical education institutions*



Representative from **workforce development**

*e.g., Directors of workforce development boards or representative workforce non-profits*

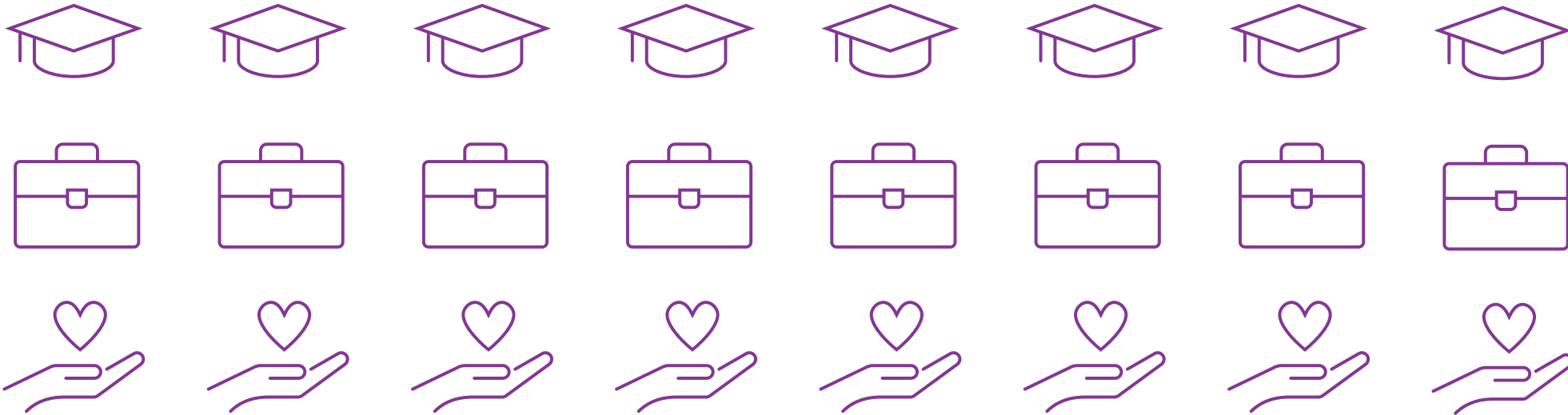


Representative from **human services**

*e.g., Directors, managers or coordinators of county human services agencies*

# THE COHORT

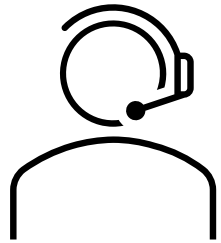
Across 8 counties, **24 total core leaders:**



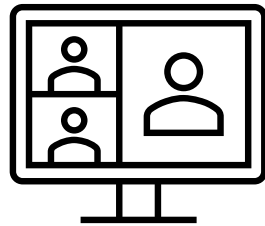
participating in technical assistance and peer learning.

# COHORT COMMITMENTS

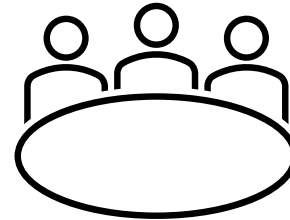
12-month commitment (from August 2023 to August 2024) to participate in:



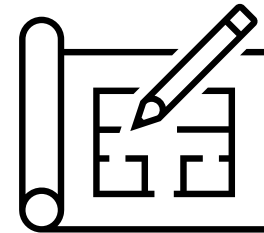
12 monthly  
**technical assistance**  
calls



4 virtual  
**peer exchanges**



2 in-person  
**convenings**



Developing a  
county-specific  
**action plan** for  
improving student  
outcomes

# COHORT APPLICATION



## **SECTION 1:** Contact Information



*Information about the 3 cross-sector leaders from your county.*



*\*Additional stakeholders are also welcome to participate in activities, but there should be 3 core members of the cross-sector team.*



## **SECTION 2:** County Information

*Brief description of the unique socioeconomic and demographic context of your county.*



## **SECTION 3:** Cross-systems Collaboration

*4 short answer questions about the existing infrastructure for cross-systems collaboration in your county and how you plan to leverage the C4CS peer learning activities to support students.*



## **SECTION 4:** Letters of Commitment and Support (OPTIONAL)

*2 signed letters: (1) of commitment to cohort activities and (2) of support from county board or commissioner.*

**APPLY TODAY!** Applications due **Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

# THANK YOU!

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