



## ■ TRACK C: INCREASING FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY THROUGH SUCCESS IN THE LABOR MARKET

Presenters in this track will discuss efforts to learn about strategies to promote family economic security through employment, job retention and advancement among welfare recipients, low-wage workers and hard-to-serve populations. This track features a plenary session and four breakout sessions exploring future steps in programming and research, the use of training and connecting to businesses as strategies to support advancement, transitional jobs and providing employment services to hard-to-serve populations.

Session	Plenary	Breakout #1	Breakout #2	Breakout #3	Breakout #4
<b>Session Name</b>	<i>The Future of Employment, Retention and Advancement: How Do We Move Forward?</i>	<i>Training as an Employment Retention and Advancement Strategy for Low-Income Individuals</i>	<i>Transitional Jobs and Subsidized Employment for Retention and Advancement</i>	<i>Connections to Businesses: A Path to Improved Retention and Advancement?</i>	<i>Employment Strategies for the Hard-to-Serve</i>
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	Wednesday, June 2 3:15–4:45 p.m.	Wednesday, June 2 1:30–3:00 p.m.	Thursday, June 3 10:15–11:45 a.m.	Thursday, June 3 4:00–5:30 p.m.	Friday, June 4 10:15–11:45 a.m.
<b>Room</b>	<i>Presidential Ballroom</i>	<i>Presidential Ballroom</i>	<i>Presidential Ballroom</i>	<i>Presidential Ballroom</i>	<i>Presidential Ballroom</i>
<b>Moderator</b>	Howard Rolston	Karin Martinson	Charles Brown	Frieda Molina	Richard Hendra
<b>Speaker 1</b>	Jared Bernstein	Cynthia Miller	Dan Bloom	Juan Salgado	David Butler
<b>Speaker 2</b>	Gordon Berlin	Mike Collins	Mindy Tarlow	James Vander Hulst	David Wittenburg
<b>Speaker 3</b>	Rucker Johnson	Ricardo Estrada	Amy Rynell	Mona Cross Sowiski	Tina Bloomer
<b>Speaker 4</b>	Marilyn Edelhoch		Elizabeth Lower-Basch		Deborah Santiago

The track opens with a plenary session that will highlight a number of critical issues related to employment, job retention and advancement. Howard Rolston (Abt Associates) will moderate *The Future of Employment, Retention and Advancement: How Do We Move Forward?*, which will consider key lessons from the Employment Retention and Advancement (ERA) project and related research and discuss future directions for programs and research.

- Jared Bernstein (Office of the Vice President) will offer an overview of the labor market for low-wage and low-skill workers as context for the discussion.



- Gordon Berlin (MDRC) will present key lessons learned from the ERA project, the UK ERA project and related research.
- Rucker Johnson (University of California, Berkeley) will describe future directions for employment retention and advancement research.
- Marilyn Edelhoach (South Carolina Department of Social Services, retired) will reflect on lessons learned through participation in the ERA project from a practitioner's perspective and discuss ideas for future research and program needs.

To explore the effects of human capital development strategies on job retention and advancement in greater detail, the breakout session ***Training as an Employment Retention and Advancement Strategy for Low-Income Individuals*** will highlight approaches being used to increase engagement and completion in such programs. Moderated by Karin Martinson (Abt Associates), this session will juxtapose research findings around training as a strategy for employment retention and advancement research with practitioners' perspectives on the role that training can play.

- Cynthia Miller (MDRC) will discuss lessons on increasing participation in education and training from the ERA, UK ERA, Work Advancement and Support Center (WASC) and Opportunity NYC projects.
- Mike Collins (Jobs for the Future) will provide a practitioner's perspective on promising state and community college strategies that integrate basic skills education and training to lead to postsecondary credentials and degrees valued in the labor market.
- Ricardo Estrada (Instituto del Progreso Latino) will discuss career pathways programs and their ability to help individuals secure employment and advance in specific occupational sectors.

The breakout session ***Transitional Jobs and Subsidized Employment for Retention and Advancement*** draws on lessons from recent evaluations of transitional jobs models to discuss future directions in program design, implementation and evaluation. Moderated by Charles Brown (Office of Management and Budget), this session will also highlight opportunities under the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund and the potential of publicly-funded jobs.

- Dan Bloom (MDRC) will discuss the transitional jobs context, including findings from recent transitional jobs and related program evaluations.
- Amy Rynell (National Transitional Jobs Network) will offer an overview of publicly-funded jobs as a strategy to reduce poverty.
- Elizabeth Lower-Basch (CLASP) will describe new opportunities to support subsidized employment and transitional jobs programs using the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund.
- Mindy Tarlow (New York City Center for Employment Opportunities) will offer a practitioner's perspective on operating a transitional jobs program for particularly vulnerable populations.



Strategies for working with businesses to improve worker retention and advancement will be explored during the breakout session ***Connections to Businesses: A Path to Improved Retention and Advancement?*** This moderated panel will focus on how employment programs can make successful connections to businesses.

- Frieda Molina (MDRC) will moderate the discussion and provide an overview of connections to businesses drawing on research from ERA, WASC and other related studies.
- Juan Salgado (Instituto del Progreso Latino) will outline an approach to creating linkages with businesses to promote retention and advancement goals.
- James Vander Hulst (Western Michigan TEAM) will discuss his experiences leading a local employer-driven workforce development model.
- Mona Cross Sowiski (Springboard Forward) will describe the “Engaged Employment” approach and how it engages businesses to work with its clients.

The breakout session ***Employment Strategies for the Hard-to-Serve*** considers what we have learned about serving populations facing greater barriers to work, including persons with disabilities and English Language Learners. Richard Hendra (MDRC) will moderate and set the stage for this session using findings from analyses of subgroups within the ERA project.

- David Butler (MDRC) will discuss research lessons from programs serving individuals with mental health barriers to employment.
- David Wittenburg (Mathematica Policy Research) will describe best practices in providing employment supports for people with disabilities.
- Tina Bloomer (Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges) will describe efforts to ensure that hard-to-serve clients are eligible to receive needed services by engaging and working with various employment services programs.
- Deborah Santiago (Excelencia in Education) will discuss findings from an evaluation of the Department of Labor’s Limited English Proficiency and Hispanic Worker Initiative.