Thank you for participating in the National Convening: Jobs Data for Evidence-Based Policy and Practice earlier this month! This report is intended to provide a summary, session recordings, and links to upcoming events.

Leaders from across government understand the critical need to further use timely data to better understand local labor markets, outcomes, and demographic and geographic disparities to inform policy and program development and gauge which interventions or strategies work – and for whom. While the recession and jobs crisis has made this need evident, the resources and capacity states, localities, universities, and others have at hand are not always proportional.

More than 500 individuals participated over the course of the two-day Convening, signaling not only the critical need to tackle the most urgent jobs crisis our country has faced in decades, but also your commitment to bring your skills to the table to consider solutions. Thank you!

We also want to build on the momentum that has been generated by the convening. If you have ideas about products, classes or partnerships that you want to propose, email us at info@coleridgeinitiative.org or Lsullivan@naswa.org. And mark your calendars for the next National Convening: March 2-3, 2022.

**Plenary Presentations -- Wednesday, March 3**

Day 1 of the Convening saw nearly 400 unique attendees from local, state, and federal government, along with university and other researchers, non-profit organizations, and philanthropic partners, come together to discuss strategies to address the jobs crisis with evidence and data, learn about what has been done to date, and perhaps most importantly, determine what is next.

*Recordings and more information on the four sessions from Day 1 are available here:*

[National Convening Panels: Day 1]
Targeted Group Discussions -- Thursday, March 4

On Thursday, participants were asked to take a more active role, and the response was incredible! In Session One and Session Two, moderators provided a brief overview and outlook of two data products: the Illinois Unemployment to Reemployment Dashboard and the Kentucky Multi-State Postsecondary Dashboard. Participants also had an opportunity to review a recently released NASWA survey: Evidence Building Capacity in State Workforce Agencies - COVID-19 Pulse Survey. Participants then dispersed into groups by geographic region to discuss their state and/or region’s potential approach to the application of data products like those mentioned, and the next steps to get there.

In Session Three, moderators provided a brief overview of the training environment which has made data products like those mentioned possible before regional groups generated robust discussions on possibilities for future trainings and keys to successful training outcomes.

In the session overviews below, “Key Survey Results” and the “Survey Snapshot” refer to the short closing survey completed by participants in each regional group during that session. Highlights and recommendations capture other important information discussed in the regional groups.

Session 1: Unemployment to Reemployment Portal: Next Steps

Moderators: Diana Barrett, Indiana Department of Workforce Development, and Dr. George Putnam, Illinois Department of Employment Security

Key Survey Results:

- There is great interest in data that can understand outcomes for specific subgroups.
- Data sharing is the most important challenge to be addressed.

Survey Snapshot:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Populations:</th>
<th>Next Steps:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Race/Ethnic Subgroups 73%</td>
<td>• Common Data Agreements 47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Formerly Incarcerated 68%</td>
<td>• Awareness and Buy-in 44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Educational Attainment 59%</td>
<td>• Training &amp; Capacity 36% (tie)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• TANF, SNAP, WIOA 57% (tie)</td>
<td>• Data models 36% (tie)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Challenges:
- Data sharing 70%
- Funding 33%
- Buy-In 21%
- Training 15%

Highlights and recommendations from group discussions:

- Include program participation across programs, e.g., WIOA, TANF, SNAP, and others, to help elucidate the big picture: outcomes, economic mobility, and barriers to success.
- Explore the possibility of a more granular look at claimant data, through zip codes, opportunity zones, Census blocks, etc., particularly to focus on high impact claimant subgroups and help inform local services and needs.
Session 2: Education and Cross-State Workforce Flows: Next Steps

Moderators: Dr. Jessica Cunningham, Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), and Lesley Hirsch, New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development

Key Survey Results:

- There is great interest in data that can understand outcomes for specific program participants or demographic subgroups.
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) outcomes are seen as a priority.

Highlights and recommendations from group discussions:

- Increasing information about student backgrounds – financial and otherwise – will improve the tool to address inequity.
- Investment in understanding outcomes for additional industry-recognized credentials, apprenticeships, work-based learning, etc., as well as the impact of support services such as SNAP and TANF, will help students and policymakers make more informed decisions.
Session 3: Training and Curriculum: Next Steps

Moderators: Pam Gerassimides, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), and Dr. Nathan Barrett, Coleridge Initiative

Key Survey Results:

- Staff capacity is critical.
- Develop a single non-disclosure agreement for access to data during training classes.

Highlights and recommendations from group discussions:

- Buy-in from decision-makers is key.
- Provide a greater variety of training options, while maintaining the core offering.

Specific types of trainings desired:

- Data literacy for decision-makers
- Governance models and research projects
- Refresher courses and iterative courses that are project-based
- Data management and data quality management
- The role or potential role of artificial intelligence/machine learning in projecting outcomes
- Short-term skills-based courses and targeted training for specific skill-level trainees

Upcoming Events

April 1, 2021: Webinar on upcoming Applied Data Analytics Training in Tennessee. Open to all states.
Register: [https://coleridgeinitiative-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEsf-utrk5sGNVzkWja68bOM4yV06zGF5dH](https://coleridgeinitiative-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEsf-utrk5sGNVzkWja68bOM4yV06zGF5dH)

April 7, 2021: Webinar on upcoming Applied Data Analytics Training in California. Open to all states.
Register: [https://coleridgeinitiative-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvfuihqTwoHdLxLdyO5rlyGFzs6ffoneWA](https://coleridgeinitiative-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvfuihqTwoHdLxLdyO5rlyGFzs6ffoneWA)

September 24, 2021: Southern Regional Education Board Workshop, Atlanta, GA. Open to states in southern region.
Register: Contact Susan Lounsbury ([susan.lounsbury@sreb.org](mailto:susan.lounsbury@sreb.org))