Bridges to Career Opportunities

IMPACT REPORT

We invite you to view the complete Bridges impact report online: report.lisc.org/lisc-citi-bridges-report/
Bridges to Career Opportunities (Bridges) is a LISC program that helps chronically unemployed and underemployed adults train for, land, and advance in jobs in local growth industries—sectors such as healthcare, construction, and technology—by helping them overcome the roadblocks to success. The majority of Bridges clients are people of color and women, representing the groups facing the highest systemic obstacles to opportunity in our economy.

The Citi Foundation is a major supporter of Bridges, committing $10 million to help 40 community-based organizations deliver the program to thousands of job-seeking Americans over the last three years. With the onslaught of COVID-19, Bridges became a lifeline for those most impacted by the economic fallout of the pandemic. Because of our country’s yawning racial and gender wealth and opportunity gaps, women and BIPOC Americans make up that majority.

In recognition of Citi Foundation’s support, we are sharing the extraordinary journeys of nine people who now have promising careers and brighter financial futures thanks to Bridges.
What is Bridges?

LISC’s Bridges to Career Opportunities (Bridges) program connects unemployed and underemployed people to career and training pathways by taking into account all that can stand in the way of landing, and keeping, a good-paying job. Many adults eager to work are unable to take advantage of traditional training programs due to limited math or reading abilities, or because of financial, childcare, or transportation challenges. Bridges offers services to meet these challenges head-on, so that participants, most of whom are women and people of color, can stay in training, find work, and ultimately earn more.

Through Bridges, participants work with LISC’s network of Financial Opportunity Center® (FOC) partners to ramp up foundational literacy and math skills, get technical training, and pursue certifications for in-demand industries. Participants also receive financial coaching to help manage expenses during training and set long-term goals for stabilizing finances and building assets as they advance in their new careers. With support from the Citi Foundation, 40 FOC partners in 19 cities nationwide delivered Bridges programming over the past three years.
LISC and Citi Foundation work together to connect Americans to good jobs and brighter financial futures.

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6,100 Bridges participants completed training programs

- 4,500 earned an industry-recognized certification
- 3,400 raised credit score
- 3,500 placed in jobs with an avg. hourly wage of $15
- 2,600 increased net worth

The majority of Bridges participants represent groups facing the highest systemic obstacles to opportunity in our economy:

- 78% BIPOC
- 55% Black
- 62% women
Portraits of Impact

Meet some of the people who have promising careers and brighter financial futures thanks to the Bridges program.

See our online report: report.lisc.org/lisc-citi-bridges-report

I’m glad that light inside me is turned back on. I feel like there’s nothing I can’t do.”

MERISSA PICCOLI, BRIDGES CLIENT

I can see the glory at the end of the road. All I got to do is just stretch my hands out and grab it.”

ANDREW PETERS, BRIDGES CLIENT