

# Rural Guided Pathways Project Phase 2

Informational Webinar  
November 18, 2024



NATIONAL  
CENTER FOR  
INQUIRY &  
IMPROVEMENT

# Agenda

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- **Welcome**
- **Rural Guided Pathways Project Overview**
  - **Partners & Project Framing**
  - **Phase 2 Technical Assistance**
  - **Rural Pathway Institutes & Curriculum**
  - **Phase 2 Reporting and Goal-Setting**
  - **Selection Process and Phase 2 Launch**
  - **Colleges that Should Consider Applying**
  - **Application Review Criteria**
- **Questions and NCI Contact Information**



# About NCII

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**Authentic, large-scale improvement begins with colleges' rethinking how their policies, programs, and services come together to create the optimal student experience.**

## ***Focus Areas:***

- **Guided Pathways**
- **Student Financial Stability**
- **Connection to Living Wage Employment**
- **Leadership Development**



# Rural Guided Pathways Project Partners



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PHILANTHROPIES



# Rural Guided Pathways Project Overview

**A three-year project (2025-2027) with a national cohort of up to 32 rural community colleges will work with each other — and with community partners in their regions — to implement the guided pathways framework.**

**Participating colleges commit to:**

- **Designing and implementing a better student experience at their colleges.**
- **Collaborating with key stakeholders in their regions to increase economic opportunity and partner on a cross-sector approach to implement guided pathways.**
- **Implementing evidence-based reforms that will address inequities and lead to improved educational and workforce outcomes.**
- **Covering the cost of travel to and dinners at the in-person Rural Pathways Institutes**

<https://ruralguidedpathways.org/>

# What is innovative about this project?

**This project is the first of its kind in two ways:**

- **Rural focus.** It is the first time a pathways institute structure is focused specifically on the needs of rural institutions.
- **Community partners.** It is the first time community partners are deeply embedded in pathways implementation.

# Phase 2 Technical Assistance (2025-2027)

<b>Rural Pathway Institutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Six 2 ½ day institutes - two/year in March &amp; October</li><li>• College team orientations before each institute</li></ul>
<b>Leadership Team Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Led by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program</li><li>• Two in-person session (at institutes) &amp; four virtual sessions</li></ul>
<b>Rural Pathways Coaches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each college assigned an implementation coach</li><li>• One college site visit per year &amp; regular virtual office hours</li></ul>
<b>Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Experts on specific topics at targeted institutes</li><li>• Virtual office hours with colleges</li></ul>
<b>Virtual Consultancies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cross college exploration of specific problems of practice</li><li>• Two or three rounds of the consultancies</li></ul>
<b>Topical Webinars</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two or three webinars per year throughout the project</li></ul>

# Six Rural Pathways Institutes

## **Institute #1**

**March 18-21, 2025**

**New Orleans, LA**

## **Institute #2**

**October 28-31, 2025**

**Louisville, KY**

## **Institute #3**

**March 10-13, 2026**

**Pittsburgh, PA**

## **Institute #4**

**October 27-30, 2026**

**Dallas, TX**

## **Institute #5**

**March 16-19, 2027**

**Atlanta, GA**

## **Institute #6**

**October 26-29, 2027**

**West Coast - TBD**



# Refined Rural Pathways Curriculum

- **Institute 1: Creating & Refining an Institutional Improvement Culture**
- **Institute 2: It's All About the Program**
- **Institute 3: K-12 Summit**
- **Institute 4: Post-graduation Success for Transfer Programs**
- **Institute 5: Workforce/Employer Summit**
- **Institute 6: Identifying Gaps & Next Steps – Evaluating our Culture**

# Phase 2 Reporting and Goal Setting

- **Pathways Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) Reported Three Times**
  - After Institute #1, mid-point (Summer 2026), and before Institute #6
- **CCRC Cross-sector Self-Assessment - Completed Three Times**
  - After Institute #1, mid-point (Summer 2026), and before Institute #6
- **Colleges will Set Goals on Small Number of KPIs and Self-Assessment**
- **NCII will provide a list of all data to be utilized in the project prior to Institute # 1**

# Selection Process and Roll-out

<b>November 18, 2024</b>	<b>Informational webinar (12 p.m. ET)</b>
<b>December 6, 2024</b>	<b>Applications and participation agreements due</b>
<b>January 20 - 24, 2025</b>	<b>Interviews with college finalists</b>
<b>February 10, 2025</b>	<b>Selected colleges announced</b>
<b>February 24, 2025</b>	<b>Orientation for <u>selected</u> colleges (2 p.m. ET)</b>

The application and participation agreement can be found on the project website:  
<https://ruralguidedpathways.org/>

# What colleges should consider applying?

- College that have established the conditions that will enable their institutions to implement — at scale — pathways reforms.
- Ideally, colleges that have already begun the process of laying the groundwork for and/or implementing guided pathways and the underlying practices.
- Some colleges that may be far along in the implementation process that need to delve more deeply on certain areas of the framework.
- Successful colleges will demonstrate that they have the college culture, and the external partnerships needed to advance this work.

# Criteria for Application Review

- **Description of the college service area and student population**
- **Notable national/state student success initiatives and/or regional economic development initiatives**
- **Regional economic mobility opportunities/constraints**
- **Existing college partnerships and/or new opportunities**
- **The college's experience with guided pathways to date including developmental education reforms**
- **The college's readiness to implement guided pathways**
- **The top priorities the college articulates for this project**

# QUESTIONS?

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