

Challenges and Lessons Learned: Moraine Valley Community College

The most challenging aspect of the WBF 2.0 Project was limited staff assigned to perform administrative functions, case management, and direct service during the two-year grant period. This challenge was addressed by co-enrolling WBF 2.0 participants in other MVCC grant programs. By co-enrolling participants, additional college staff assisted WBF 2.0 participants with their educational and occupational goals. This also provided WBF 2.0 participants with wraparound support services to address needs such as employment and job readiness. This challenge became one of the most successful aspects of the WBF 2.0 project. The cross-campus collaboration strengthened relationships and internal systems were developed that will remain in place after the grant ends.

Another challenging component of this grant was deciding how to market the WBF 2.0 Project and identifying a target audience. The MVCC internal steering committee offered strategies to identify students most likely to need assistance and supportive services from the WBF 2.0 Project. This challenge was addressed during year one of the grant and we were able to develop a strategic approach for targeting low-income, low-skilled participants on campus.

During the two-year grant period, any challenges that arose were resolved. The leadership at Moraine Valley Community College and the League for Innovation in the Community College provided consistent feedback, prompt responses to concerns, and flexibility regarding innovative programming that produced successful results despite initial resistance and uncertainty.