



## **North Country Bridges Steering Committee Charter**

The North Country Bridges Steering Committee includes representation from Jefferson, Lewis and St Lawrence Counties. This is a collaborative effort between many sectors in the community, including but not limited to, education, housing, healthcare, faith-based organizations, financial/philanthropy, and graduates of the Getting Ahead program. The Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization (FDRHPO) will facilitate this collaborative as a neutral convener.

Bridges out of Poverty is a framework for professionals and communities to understand poverty by developing accurate mental models to improve relationships and outcomes (see appendix for Bridges Constructs and the roadmap for Launching a Bridges Initiative)

### **MISSION:**

*Empowering individuals to build resources for success in a community where everyone can live well.*

### **VISION:**

Creating community systems that alleviate poverty and improve quality of life for all North Country residents.

### **OVERARCHING GOAL:**

Build awareness, education, and collaborative efforts in the community.

### **CORE INITIATIVES:**

- To bring all classes, races, sectors, and political viewpoints to the table to address all causes of poverty and create sustainable communities
- Expand Getting Ahead workshops to Lewis and St Lawrence Counties (<https://www.ahaprocess.com/solutions/community/getting-ahead/>)
- Support the Staying Ahead program (for Getting Ahead graduates) by helping to connect participants with community resources and build social capital
- Embrace a common language, core constructs, and tools that help overcome barriers associated with poverty
- Foster the role of catalyst, sponsor, administrative, and fiscal agent by sharing supportive services and allocating resources
- Embed Bridges constructs into the community environment where people live, work and play
- Evangelize champions who use Bridges constructs and tools

**MEMBERS:****Healthcare and Community Based Organizations:**

- Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization
- North Country Initiative
- Northern Regional Center for Independent Living
- River Hospital

**Faith-based:**

- Watertown Urban Mission

**Education:**

- Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)

**Financial/Philanthropic:**

- NNY Community Foundation
- Workforce Investment Board

**Housing:**

- Maximizing Independent Living Choices
- Points North Housing Coalition

**Getting Ahead Graduates and Facilitators**

- Graduates
- Facilitators
- Bridges Out of Poverty Trainers

**MEMBERSHIP TERMS:**

- 1 year term with no limit on recurring terms. Renewal is based on level of participation.

**MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:**

- Members are encouraged to participate in bi-monthly meetings
- Community based subject matter experts invited to participate in meetings
- Ensure quality outcomes of project initiatives
- Active participation and engagement in meetings
- Serve as a conduit of information between individual organization and committee
- Share, apply and provide feedback on implementation strategies & meeting concepts
- Ensure sector and tri-county representation is diverse
- Identify opportunities to build social capital for members of all economic classes

**MEETINGS:**

- Will be held every other month (6 meetings per year) for 1.5 hours. The schedule may be adjusted as group and project needs require
- It is expected that each core team member's total time commitment to the committee will be 2-5 hours per month, including meetings, e-mail correspondence, online learning collaborative suggestions, and document review
- 4 of the 6 yearly meetings will be held in Jefferson County; one meeting per year will be held in St. Lawrence County; one meeting per year will be held in Lewis County; when possible, remote access to meetings will be made available

**MINUTES:**

- Minutes will be taken and distributed within two (2) weeks following each meeting
- Minutes will be approved at the next meeting, by a simple majority vote
- If a member is unable to attend a meeting, it is that member's responsibility to review the minutes and contact the committee co-chairs or FDRHPO staff with his/her concern(s) prior to the next meeting

**DECISION MAKING AND WORK PERFORMANCE:**

- The work structure is designed to promote collaboration and efficiency.
- To make decisions, co-chairs of the North Country Bridges Steering Committee will conduct facilitated discussions with the goal of achieving consensus while considering those affected by action items.
- A member of the FDRHPO staff will always co-chair the meetings, but the other co-chair will rotate every year among the three counties (Jefferson, Lewis & St. Lawrence Counties).
- Chairs will be responsible for assisting with agenda development/review, facilitation of meeting discussions as it relates to strategy development, vision, committee/stakeholder engagement.
- Decisions should be clearly stated in the meeting and documented in the minutes. Additional subject matter experts may be invited to participate in discussions.
- The FDRHPO staff will regularly check in with committee members on the status of tasks.
- Committee members are encouraged to inform the agenda topics from month to month.

**REPORTING:**

- Quarterly reports will be provided to the New York State Department of Health.
- The quarterly reports will be shared with ESPRI projects leads.
- The community at large will be engaged through sharing of quarterly reports, identifying opportunities for media, and leveraging Facebook to promote Steering Committee initiatives.
- There will be regular bidirectional communication with Getting Ahead and Staying Ahead programs.
- Identify data metrics for Getting Ahead programs

**AD HOC WORK GROUPS:** will be assembled as deemed necessary by the North Country Bridges Steering Committee as the project progresses.

## Appendix:

### Bridges out of Poverty Constructs

1. Use the lens of economic class to understand and take responsibility for your own societal experience while being open to the experiences of others.
2. At the intersections of poverty with other social disparities (racial, gender, physical ability, age, etc.), address inequalities in access to resources.
3. Define poverty as the extent to which a person, institution, or community does without resources.
4. Build relationships of mutual respect.
5. Base plans on the premise that people in all classes, sectors, and political persuasions are problem solvers and need to be at the decision making table.
6. Base plans on accurate mental models of poverty, middle class, and wealth.
7. At the individual, institutional, and community/policy levels: Stabilize the environment, remove barriers to transition, and build resources.
8. Address all causes of poverty (four areas of research).
9. Build long-term support for individual, institutional, and community/policy transition.
10. Build economically sustainable communities in which everyone can live well.

Source: *Bridges Out of Poverty* Training Supplement, p. 25





# Launching a Bridges Initiative



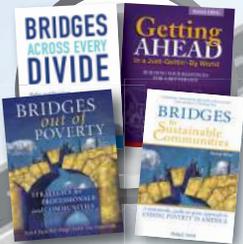
## WHO IS BLAZING THE TRAIL?

The Bridges model is being used in 35 states and 7 countries.

The family of Getting Ahead curriculums is being used in 46 states and 5 countries, with over 65,000 grads.

### 01 Introduction

Introduction to Bridges Out of Poverty model is by conversation, hearing a workshop, reading a book



### 03 Follow-Up

Schedule a gathering for those interested in the Bridges Out of Poverty model

### 02 Workshop

Offer a full day Bridges Out of Poverty workshop

Offer a mechanism to capture contact information for individuals wanting to learn more

### 08 Implementation

Launch Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World classes

Train facilitators

Form community organization collaboratives for Staying Ahead

### 06 Workshop

Offer a Bridges to Sustainability workshop

### 04 Workshop

Offer an Applying Bridges Constructs workshop

### 05 Steering Committee

Form steering committee

Data collection for Getting Ahead

### 09 Meetings

Schedule regular steering committee meetings to plan for ongoing implementation; bring in other sectors to initiative

### 10 Strategic Consulting

Strategically consult with aha! Process consultant

### 11 Updates

Continually update on community work

### 07 Certification

Begin certifying trainers in Bridges Out of Poverty, Bridges To Health and Healthcare, Workplace Stability, College Achievement Alliance, and A Framework for Understanding Poverty

### 12 Presentation

Present a session at national conference

## TAKEAWAYS

Build a community that provides a better life for all residents