



**BRIDGE
TO BENEFITS**
Another Way Children's Defense
Fund Helps Strengthen Families

Become a partner with

BRIDGE TO BENEFITS

Is your Adult Basic Education program interested in helping families find resources that can improve their economic stability? Are your staff and volunteers already spending considerable time trying to identify family resources that address health, food insecurity, and economic needs? If so, we invite you to become a Bridge to Benefits (B2B) partner. Being a partner is easy, **free**, and it provides important benefits to your students.

As a partner, you can:

SCREEN

families to determine potential eligibility for work support programs and tax credits that can help them become financial stable such as SNAP, MN Health Care Programs, Energy Assistance and WIC.

CONNECT

families to organizations that can help one-on-one in completing applications and ensuring successful enrollment in the programs for which they may be eligible.

NAVIGATE

the website as a one-stop shop for learning about public programs. The site is constantly updated to reflect program changes.

GENERATE

data reports that show how many families you screen and how many appear eligible for each of the work support programs. These reports can be used for grant reports demographic information and other purposes.

RECEIVE

a username and password that allows all of this functionality and more. You can receive free training on how to use the website to meet family needs.

Interested? It's simple to become a partner!

Call or email Stephanie Hogenson at (651) 855-1175 or email shogenson@childrensdefense.org. We will establish a username and password for you to use when screening families so your data can be tracked and you can access the e-mail referral option. We will also arrange training for you, your staff, and volunteers so you can see all the functions of the Bridge to Benefits website. And it's all FREE!

Integrating Bridge to Benefits in ABE Programs

Bridge to Benefits can be utilized within Adult Basic Education settings in many ways. Several Adult Basic Education Programs across the state have integrated Bridge to Benefits into their services for clients in different ways. Below are some examples of how ABE programs across Minnesota are using the tool to connect their clients with resources. As a partner, CDF-MN will help your program determine the best process for integrating the tool into the work you're already doing with clients.

Bridge to Benefits screening can be integrated into the student orientation process. Metro North ABE and St. Paul ABE does this by providing some time during orientation sessions to provide students with the opportunity and information to use the screening tool.

Screening can be done on an individual basis during meetings or appointments with ABE program staff. Trained staff can walk them through the screening tool and refer them to application assistance organizations for assistance with completing the application process.

In addition to integrating Bridge to Benefits into their orientation sessions, the ABE program in Detroit Lakes uses the screening tool in their programming at the county jail.

Screening could be emphasized during special projects, events or presentations by integrating screening opportunities or information into ABE program hosted events or information sessions presentations in the community.

The Benefits of Using B2B in ABE Programs:

Clients get connected to resources that promote financial stability and workforce participation.

ABE staff learn more about programs and resources available.

Families get connected directly with the places to go to apply and organizations that can help.

ABE Programs can integrate the screening in their intake process by completing the screening with them or providing the information and resources (flyer, computer space) to complete it themselves.