



Strengthening Working Families Initiative

Generations Advancing Together through Education (GATE)

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. (ABCD)

ABCD GATE strives to help Boston parents of young children participate in job skills training so they can enter full-time jobs that pay a living wage and provide benefits. To accomplish this goal, GATE pairs childcare vouchers with training opportunities and supports staff in helping participants define career goals, overcome obstacles, and persist in the program. So far, **75 percent of GATE participants have obtained employment after completing their training.**



Banking and finance



Health care



Information technology

Building evidence



153 participants received training



75% of participants who completed job training obtained employment



70% of participants completed job training



98% of participants received support services, including childcare navigation assistance

Carla's SWFI story

Carla enrolled in the medical office administrator training offered by Boston Career Institute, a GATE training partner. She was dedicated to her studies, traveling more than an hour each way on public transportation to attend daily classes in Brookline. After completing an internship at a local health center, Carla was hired in November 2019 by her internship site as a front desk administrator, where her Spanish language ability is an asset. This is a full-time job that pays \$36,000 per year with good benefits. She has continued her work on the frontlines throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and is happy she can help her community during this time. She is saving money to purchase a home that she and her son can call their own.



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Looking ahead

ABCD plans to maintain the GATE model—bundling training and childcare vouchers with wraparound support services—as a pillar of workforce development programming. GATE serves as a unique bridge for parents, allowing them to access job training and career development while ensuring that their children receive care and education. By partnering with training vendors, childcare providers, and our local childcare resource and referral agency, GATE can be the difference in helping student-parents complete training and find jobs. ABCD can help even more participants by expanding the program to include more industries and stakeholders, and by identifying funding for training scholarships and childcare vouchers.

Kelly's SWFI story



Kelly identified early on that in addition to earning a certification and getting a job as a certified nursing assistant (CNA), she wanted to work on boosting her self-esteem while in her training program. Kelly did just that. Through coaching conversations with her GATE Support Services Navigator and Kelly's hard work and dedication in the classroom, Kelly began to believe in her own abilities and potential. She completed her training in excellent standing and was able to pass the state exam on the first try. She obtained employment as a CNA within weeks of completing the program. This accomplishment, and her new capacity to help improve her family's financial situation, gave her the self-confidence to begin working toward a long-term goal she had identified while in the program—becoming a medical interpreter. With her learning ability and motivation, the GATE staff are confident she will reach that goal.

Key partners

- Childcare Choices of Boston supports GATE clients in finding childcare subsidies and placements.
- JVS Boston works with GATE to train participants as CNAs and pharmacy technicians.
- Boston Career Institute works with GATE to train participants as medical office administrators, medical assistants, dental assistants, and hospital central services technicians.
- The Asian American Civic Association works with GATE to train participants in banking and finance.

