Date: October 2014  
To: Getting Ahead (GA) Providers and Bridges Communities  
From: Philip DeVol and Providers of Evaluations Tools  
Re: Getting Ahead Research, Evaluations, and Mobile Apps

We’ve gone years without a common evaluation tool for GA. Now we have it all—and all at once. That’s good news of course, but it might cause some confusion. So the purpose of this paper is to describe the evaluation instruments and clarify the options. I’m using tables in order to cut down on text. Key elements can be seen at a glance. Within each table is a bit of information about each of the providers, their products, and contact info.

The continued growth of our Getting Ahead communities has sparked several new creative initiatives that can be categorized into five distinctive types of tools for GA communities. I encourage you to investigate the use of these instruments for your agencies and Getting Ahead graduates. Here are the five tools:

1. **St. Joseph County (Indiana) evaluation tool for pre/post feedback on Getting Ahead effectiveness**
2. **Charity Tracker cloud-based shared case management framework with integrated evaluation tools to collect longer-term results for GA participants**
3. **Beacon mobile app—personal support tools for GA grads**
4. **MPOWR web-based case management and community collaboration tools based on 15 areas of life**
5. **MPOWR web-based standalone GA evaluation tools to collect longer-term results for GA participants**

**UPDATE:** Research study to provide evidence-based model (page 6)

There is very little overlap; each of these instruments has a different purpose. These instruments can be used to track results with the following publications: *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World, Investigations into Economic Class in America*, and hold good possibilities for upcoming publications like *Getting Ahead while Getting Out* (designed specifically for reentry after incarceration).

The value of these instruments includes:
- Improvement in design, delivery, and effectiveness of GA
- Reporting to funders and community
- Grant awards
- Ongoing support for GA grads and individuals challenged by resource instability
1. **Evaluation Tool for Pre/Post Feedback on Getting Ahead effectiveness:** GA sites need to be able to demonstrate the effectiveness of the program in order to share with funders and to improve their delivery of the program. This pre/post assessment, which fits the philosophy and purpose of GA, meets that need.

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<th>Instrument</th>
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| Pre/Post Getting Ahead Class Assessment | St. Joseph County (Indiana) Bridges Out of Poverty Initiative | Pre/post feedback available a month after graduation of each GA group  
1. A demographic profile of your class  
2. Percentage of change on 35 items to measure motivation, self-efficacy, content knowledge, self-reflexivity, and hope  
3. Percentage of change on 4 items measuring participants’ perceptions of poverty  
4. A qualitative section demonstrating changes in participants’ goals, dreams, personal strategies for Getting Ahead, and perceptions of self  
5. A 14-point evaluation of class from participants’ perspectives, providing feedback to assist your agency in improving Getting Ahead | $250 per group | Contact: Executive Director  
St. Joseph County Bridges Out of Poverty Initiative  
P.O. Box 1078  
South Bend, IN 46628  
(574) 339-1232 (cell) or  
(574) 246-0533  
SJCBridges@gmail.com  
www.SJCBridges.org |
2. **Charity Tracker PLUS Cloud-Based Evaluation Tools to Assess Getting Ahead Effectiveness**: Track model fidelity, stability, resource development, and ROI (return on investment) elements embedded with case management. Getting Ahead sites need to document and report on the improvement in stability and the development of resources of GA graduates. These two instruments are taken directly from the *Getting Ahead* workbook, as is the stability scale. It takes time to develop stability and resources, thus the need to continue to gather data at incremental time periods, perhaps after six months or annual. The provider offers these GA evaluation tools, in addition to easy-to-use case management and community development and collaboration tools.

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<th>Cloud-Based Evaluation Tools in Case Management Frame</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Instrument</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Charity Tracker PLUS</td>
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<td>Getting Ahead Assessment</td>
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<td>* Modules to assess stability, resource development, ROI items, and model fidelity elements</td>
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<td>Available to all Bridges Charity Tracker subscribers, all-inclusive</td>
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3. **Web and Mobile App Tools for Getting Ahead Grads**: We have long sought to find new and effective ways to continue support for GA grads after they have completed the Getting Ahead sessions. These tools are for personal use and are targeted primarily toward GA grads.

### Getting Ahead Mobile App and Web-Based Conferencing

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| GA App, daily personal support for GA grads’ stability and resource development | Beacon Voice, LLC | Daily personal support for GA grads as they track the development of stability and the 11 Bridges Resources Features include: Trend lines for each stability indicator and resource. Identify social connections, local supports, and websites. Identify immediate action to be taken. Document using stories and photos. | Free to GA graduates | Contact Beacon Voice: sam@beaconvoice.com  
www.beaconvoice.com  
To order: Google Play |
| Getting Ahead Network Conference Room | Moderators: David Walker, Amber Werner, and Michelle Wood | Getting Ahead Network has online conference room where GA graduates can meet for conversations. | Free                  | Contact: davidwalker@oneroadsupport.org  
A new initiative, in the experimental phase, to bring GA grads from across the country together |
4. **MPOWR Web-Based Case Management and Community Collaboration Tools**: Some Getting Ahead sites and Bridges communities may want to offer case management services for GA grads and/or use data systems to build community collaboratives.

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<td>MPOWR “Full Case Management System”</td>
<td>SupplyCore, Inc.</td>
<td>MPOWR is a comprehensive participant-centered community case management system that facilitates inter-agency client assessment, goal setting, and resource coordination for all areas of life. Growing community collaborations and statewide initiatives will require the maturity, flexibility, and proprietary HIPAA-compliant data sharing Release of Information model available only through MPOWR, which also can provide data-integration services to coordinate with existing data systems.</td>
<td>$50 per user per month (Additional $600 one time agency set-up fee, and $600 annual agency maintenance fee)</td>
<td>Contact Brooke Saucier, manager of Partnership Programs (who will be at the Bridges Conference), to schedule a demo and get a full pricing scenario for your planned coalition. <a href="mailto:brooke.saucier@supplycore.com">brooke.saucier@supplycore.com</a> (815) 997-1660 Also see MPOWR website at: <a href="http://www.mpowr.com">www.mpowr.com</a></td>
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<td>MPOWR Standalone “Getting Ahead Module” with Stability Scale</td>
<td>SupplyCore, Inc.</td>
<td>MPOWR Standalone GA Module will provide MPOWR and non-MPOWR GA sites all they need to run and monitor GA classes, including: 1) A GA Classroom Module to record attendance 2) A Demographics Tab to record participant demographic information 3) An 11 Resources Tab to monitor participant progress in development of 11 resources 4) A GA Assessment Tab to record GA class assessments at standard intervals, compiling scores from 11-resource sub-tabs and graphing results 5) 5-point Stability Scale 6) Standard Reports to report on local, regional, and national GA data; shared with aha! Process will be deidentified data (unlinkable) and aggregated data will be shared with users.</td>
<td>$200 per GA class (Additional $400 one time GA site set-up fee)</td>
<td>Contact Brooke Saucier, manager of Partnership Programs (who will be at the Bridges Conference), to schedule a demo and get a full pricing scenario for your planned coalition. <a href="mailto:brooke.saucier@supplycore.com">brooke.saucier@supplycore.com</a> (815) 997-1660 Also see MPOWR website at: <a href="http://www.mpowr.com">www.mpowr.com</a></td>
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* See book [Bridges to Wholeness: Using MPOWR, a data-driven collaborative model for addressing poverty and related social issues; available through aha! Process.](#)
UPDATE: Research Study to Provide Proof of an Evidence-Based Model

We’re happy to report that we have undertaken the first step toward establishing Getting Ahead as an evidence-based model. Philip DeVol has contracted with Dr. Beth Wahler of Indiana University to conduct a study of the effectiveness of Getting Ahead in a Just Getting’-by World. Twenty-seven sites offering 67 Getting Ahead groups are already engaged, with the expectation that more sites will be added.

Included in the study is be an examination of (1) how GA investigators benefit from participating in GA, (2) to what extent some GA investigators benefit from the classes more than others (and why), and (3) what pieces of the curriculum and learning experience GA investigators found most helpful.

Many thanks to the research team that is assisting Dr. Wahler. Thanks also to the Getting Ahead sites participating in the study.

Watch the website for updates and more information as it unfolds.