

Cradle-to-Career Data and Tools Advisory Board Staff Report

Date Report Issued: September 16, 2026
Attention: Members of Data and Tools Advisory Board
Subject: **Being a Trusted Messenger and the Train-the-Trainer Model (Agenda Item Five)**
Staff Contact: Marykate Cruz Jones, Chief of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

During this meeting, the Data and Tools Advisory Board (DTAB) will receive a presentation modeling what it means to be a trusted ambassador for the California Cradle-to-Career Data System (C2C) and why that role is central to the Train-the-Trainer model. The presentation will also provide an overview of the proposed six-module training model, including its core components.

Requested Action:

This is an informational item. To prepare for this meeting, the Office of California Cradle-to-Career Data System (Office) asked DTAB members to:

- ❖ Reflect on their own commitment made during the July Advisory Board meeting exit ticket activity; and
- ❖ Reflect on their own experience with sharing the Student Pathways Dashboard as requested during the July Advisory Board meeting.

Background:

The California Cradle-to-Career Data System (C2C) was established to provide Californians with access to trusted, actionable data that supports informed decision-making across education, workforce, and social service pathways. Achieving this vision depends not only on developing high-quality data tools, but also on ensuring that communities throughout California understand how to access, interpret, and apply the information available through the System.

Two Advisory Boards play a critical role in this effort by providing ongoing feedback from the perspective of users.

- ❖ The Community Engagement Advisory Board creates strong feedback loops with data users to support evidence-based decision-making, strengthen analytical capacity, and promote equitable access to actionable information.
- ❖ The Data and Tools Advisory Board helps ensure that the C2C's tools and datasets are relevant, user-centered, and designed to provide actionable information that meets the needs of Californians.

As the System continues to expand its reach, Advisory Board members are uniquely positioned to serve as trusted messengers within their communities and professional networks.

Purpose of the Train-the-Trainer Model:

The Train-the-Trainer model is designed to prepare Advisory Board members as trusted ambassadors to confidently engage with communities, uplift the work of C2C, and build data literacy.

The train-the-trainer training model will provide members with a shared foundation of knowledge, presentation resources, facilitation strategies, and ongoing staff support to confidently deliver presentations and participate in conversations about C2C across California.

Rather than creating a single standardized presentation, the contemplated model will equip members with flexible tools, adaptable for different audiences, including community organizations, educational institutions, policymakers, researchers, students, families, and workforce partners.

The intent is to build statewide capacity for community engagement while ensuring that messaging about C2C remains accurate, accessible, and responsive to local needs, while maintaining that C2C is a trusted source of neutral information. Of equal importance, Californians will receive this hands-on instruction and information from a trusted messenger of their own community.

Train-the-Trainer Work Group:

To help the Office develop and guide the work, the Office has convened a work group of five former Advisory Board members. This work group consists of Jason Bogen and Diana Phuong from Data and Tools and Lorenzo Gamboa, EdD, Jackie Nevarez, and Alexis Takagi, EdD, from Community Engagement. The work group met on August 28 and discussed the proposed six-module training model.

Module One: About C2C

- ❖ Understanding C2C's purpose, mission, and public value
- ❖ Explaining what C2C is and what it is not
- ❖ Building confidence by communicating why C2C exists and why it matters

Module Two: Understanding C2C's Data and Tools

- ❖ Navigating C2C tools with confidence
- ❖ Understanding what information is available and how to access it
- ❖ Connecting technical features to practical community use

Module Three: Interpreting Data Through an Equity Lens

- ❖ Interpreting data accurately and responsibly
- ❖ Applying equity-centered and asset-based approaches
- ❖ Understanding privacy and responsible data use

Module Four: Storytelling with Data

- ❖ Translate data into meaningful stories
- ❖ Connect data with lived experience
- ❖ Tailor messages for different audiences

Module Five: Facilitating Community Conversations

- ❖ Facilitate inclusive, productive discussions
- ❖ Respond to common questions and concerns
- ❖ Build confidence addressing sensitive topics

Module Six: Applied Practice

- ❖ Demonstrate confidence facilitating C2C learning experiences

- ❖ Apply facilitation and storytelling skills in authentic scenarios
- ❖ Prepare to independently support community engagement

Member Reflection and Deliberation:

At the September 30, 2026 DTAB meeting, members will build on their reflections from the July Advisory Board meeting, consider what it is to be a trusted messenger, and analyze the proposed train-the-trainer model. Members will be asked the following questions:

- ❖ Given your experience and role as a trusted messenger, does this six-module training model resonate with you?
- ❖ Is there anything that stands out or that is missing?
- ❖ Which modules do you think would matter to you most as you think about your communities and sharing the work of C2C?