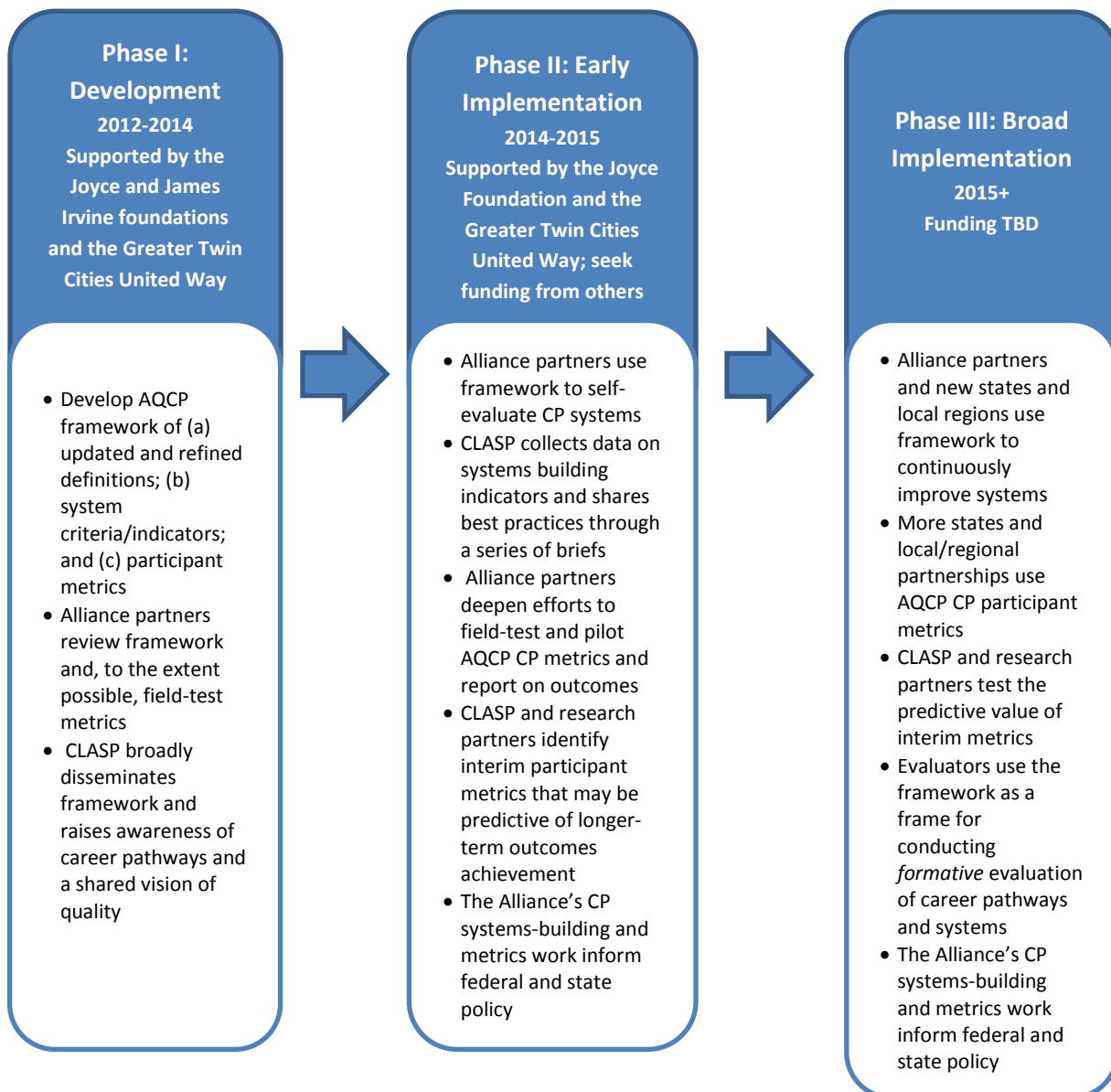


The goal of the Alliance for Quality Career Pathways is to help state and local/regional career pathway partnerships improve their systems (partnerships, policies, funding/resources, and data/measures) to strengthen, scale, and sustain quality career pathway systems. The Alliance framework and self-assessment tools are valuable resources to that end. CLASP envisions three phases in the Alliance, as depicted in figure 1 below. Phase I will be completed in June 2014 with the release of Alliance Framework Version 1.0. AQCP Phase II will be launched in July 2014. Expectations for Alliance partners in Phase II are described on the next page. If you are interested in participating, please contact: Judy Mortrude, Director, AQCP, CLASP at jmortrude@clasp.org.

Figure 1: Phases of the Alliance for Quality Career Pathways



Alliance Partner Activities in Phase II:¹

1. **Complete either the state or local regional self-assessment tool** (whatever is most appropriate for your level of partnership) and include specific examples of how you are meeting each indicator. Submit the completed self-assessments to CLASP by the end of 2014. CLASP will analyze the results and write a series of briefs on best practice themes that emerge, such as how partnerships are leveraging/aligning/braiding funds, barriers, policy recommendations; or how partnerships are aligning/linking data sets to longitudinally track participants, barriers, policy recommendations. CLASP will confer with Alliance partners and funders regarding what topics would be most useful. These briefs will highlight Alliance partners' good work for a national audience and help inform the field.
2. **Continue field testing and piloting the Alliance participant metrics**, to whatever extent the partnership is able. CLASP can provide some technical assistance on use of the metrics.
3. **Share brief updates on your career pathway efforts and use of the Alliance framework and tools** with CLASP and Alliance partners through quarterly communications (conference calls and/or through emails). Alliance partners may provide **peer technical assistance** on a voluntary basis.
4. **Optional: Potential small Alliance meetings** attached to other existing meetings like the National Council for Workforce Education (NCWE) to connect with peers (agenda would be determined by Alliance partners and facilitated by CLASP).

Note: We will be hosting an optional Alliance meeting at the National Council for Workforce Education (NCWE) annual meeting in October 2014. NCWE has graciously offered meeting space for Alliance partners on October 29, 2014, the day before the NCWE meeting in Pittsburg, PA. Please hold the date and set aside travel funds; CLASP will be in touch with details.

Optional Research Project: The Predictive Value of Interim Career Pathways Metrics

CLASP has been facilitating an additional optional career pathway participant metrics research opportunity in which Alliance partners may want to participate. This project is funded by the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education at the U.S. Department of Education through the National Center for Innovation in Career and Technical Education (NCICTE). CLASP is partnering with NCICTE and Tim Harmon (Workforce Enterprise Services, Inc. or WES) to test the predictive power of interim metrics for career pathway participants. The multi-phase study will assess the relationships of the Alliance framework interim metrics to education, training, and labor market outcomes. NCICTE, WES, and CLASP will first develop a logic model that demonstrates how interim/progress metrics could be used to predict pathway education and training outcomes and labor market outcomes (building from but possibly adding to the Alliance interim metrics). Researchers will then select a set of interim and outcome metrics, collaborate with Alliance states to collect and report data for each metric, and conduct analyses to test the predictive power of each of the selected interim metrics. Participating Alliance states would receive stipends for participating in the study. Please contact Manuela Ekowo if you are interested in learning more: mekowo@clasp.org.

¹ Alliance partners may want to consider joint fundraising with CLASP for these activities.