

# **Bridges Outcome Indicator Scale**

## *Instructions*

### **Who Is to Be Evaluated**

- Getting Ahead participants

### **Who Is to Conduct the Outcome Indicator Scale**

- aha! Process consultant
- Individual from implementing organization, trained by aha! Process

### **Data Collection**

- Data to come from two sources: participant records, participants
- Data to be collected by implementing organization
- Implementing organization to maintain contact with participants
- Participants paid for participating in study each time they provide data

### **This instrument is divided into the following sections:**

- Stability of Life Indicators
- Quantitative Resource Indicators including six resources: financial, emotional, mental, language, social support, and physical.
- Qualitative Resource including five resources: spiritual, integrity, motivation, role models, and knowledge of hidden rules.

### **When/Frequency**

- Baseline—conducted after completing Module 8.
- Semi-annually from date that Getting Ahead Workgroup ends.

### **Reports**

- Formative: at six months
- Summative: at 12 months

### **General Use**

This form is to be used at least three times, first when collecting baseline data and at six and twelve months following the completion of the Getting Ahead Workgroup.

- Stability of Life Indicators will be collected on all occasions.
- When collecting Baseline Data all six Quantitative Resources will be assessed, but no Qualitative data will be collected.
- At six and twelve months the Quantitative Resources that the Getting Ahead participant planned to develop will be assessed along with any other Quantitative Resources and Qualitative Resources that the participant chooses to add to the study.

### **Instructions for Header**

- Filled out by reviewer
- Assign a code for each participant so that data can be tracked over time
- Identify which resources the participant was planning to build

### **Instructions for Meeting Standards Section**

Information is marked on the line under the headings: No Action, Initiated but Not Achieved, Achieved, and Maintained Over Time (at least one year). In each of these sections are subsections divided by blank lines. It's necessary to provide data in each subsection but not on every line within that subsection. The empty rows at the end of each resource are for other evidence of achievement and are to be filled in by the reviewer.

### **Instructions for Stability of Life Indicators**

The indicators are arranged to capture incremental improvements in housing, income, employment, stress and health, legal issues, safety and violence, family stability, transportation, and social connections. This instrument, used over time, also will record movement toward greater stability.

It's necessary to fill in each section, but not every line in each section. In other words, if the individual has achieved safe, stable housing at 35% of his/her income, it isn't necessary to fill in the next line that records housing at 30% of income. Leaving a line blank in any given section means that the item did not apply—as in the example above [sources: agency records, interview with participant].

### **Instructions for (First Six) Quantitative Resource Indicators**

Work through the form to note the resource(s) that were part of the individual's plan. (These are labeled in the header.) For example, the participant may have made plans to build his/her financial and motivational resources. That should be noted on the "Part of Plan" line. The other resources, while not part of the line, also may be assessed. The resources are interlocking, so it's likely that these resources have been enhanced as well.

It's necessary to respond to each section within each resource, but it isn't necessary to enter data on every line, just those that apply. The items are in a progression that credits incremental change. Prior to conducting the review it will be necessary to ascertain a living wage and Self-Sufficiency Standard for the state [sources: case files, participant interview, staff interview].

### **Instructions for (Last Five) Qualitative Resources**

These resources are harder to quantify and yet play an important role in the transition to stability. Document evidence of improved resources in as much detail as possible. Stories, illustrations, and examples help round out the data on the individual's process of transition [sources: case files, participant interview, staff interview].

**Instructions for collecting baseline data**

- Collect data following the completion of the self-assessment in Module 8.
- The Getting Ahead participant can look at her/his responses to the self-assessment to better respond to the statements in the Outcome Indicator Scale.
- The interviewer will read the Outcome Indicator Scale items and seek to identify observable, tangible evidence for the answers given. Again, the self-assessment in Module 8 will be of assistance in this process.
- Do not address items marked with an asterisk.
- Cover only the first two sections of the Scale including the first six resources. Do not collect qualitative data. Note, when collecting data later in the study (at six and twelve months) the resources that will be covered will be those included in the investigator's plan and any others that the investigator developed that were not included in the plan. In other words, the participant is not expected to build all resources.