



COLORADO EQUITABLE ECONOMIC MOBILITY INITIATIVE

**TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC RELIEF
AND RECOVERY PRESENTATION**

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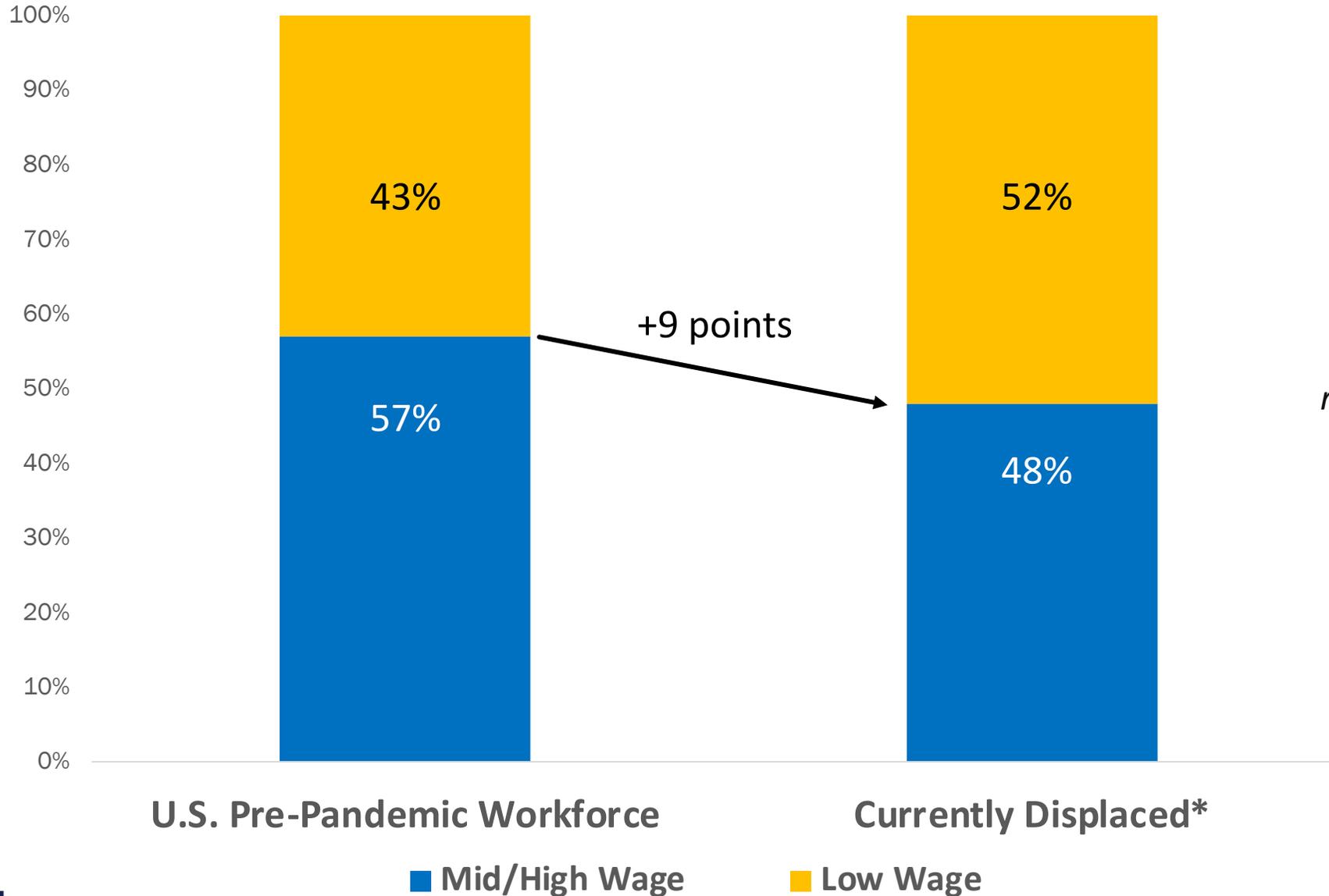
THE COLORADO EQUITABLE ECONOMIC MOBILITY INITIATIVE (CEEMI)

CEEMI is a 501c3 public, private, and philanthropic partnership to scale effective, rigorously evaluated postsecondary and workforce development programs, unlocking opportunity for Coloradans in or near poverty.

We focus on:

- **Effective, intensive programs:** Scaling evidence-based workforce development programs for learners to unlock opportunity.
- **Equity:** Focus especially on systemic barriers to access and opportunity, including learners of color, learners in poverty, and learners with barriers to employment.

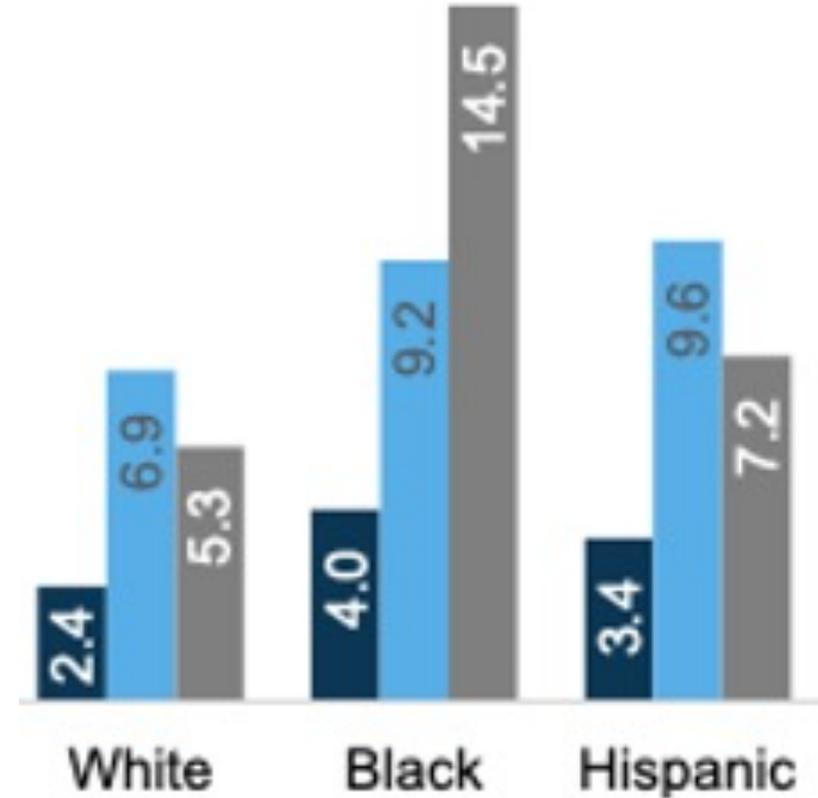
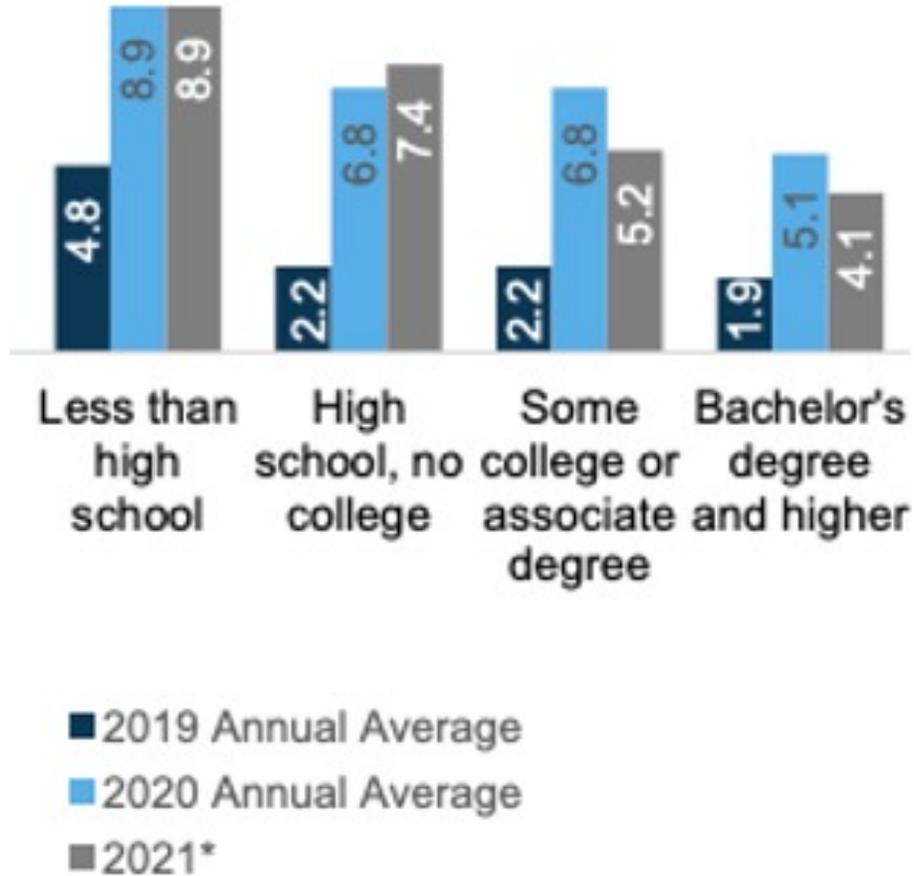
LOW WAGE WORKERS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY PANDEMIC



** “Displaced” refers to workers who lost their jobs during the pandemic, and whose jobs have not yet recovered.*

Source: Brookings Institute, July 2021

COLORADO UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

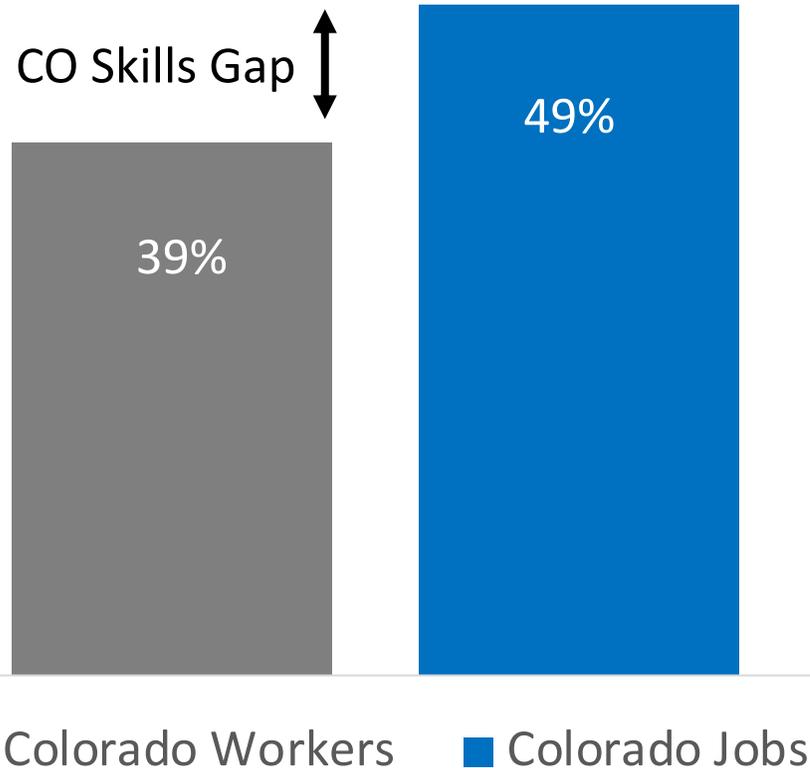


* 2021 twelve-month average, September 2020 to August 2021.

Source of data and charts: Colorado Legislative Council Economic & Revenue Forecast, September 2021

MIDDLE SKILLS GAP BETWEEN COLORADO WORKERS AND JOBS

49% of CO jobs require more than a high school equivalency, less than a 4 year degree
But just 39% of CO workers are at this “middle skills” training level



*Example: Colorado’s IT Sector has 30,000 unfilled cybersecurity and coding jobs, at an average salary **over** \$100K.*

Colorado IT sector: 77% White, 3% Black.

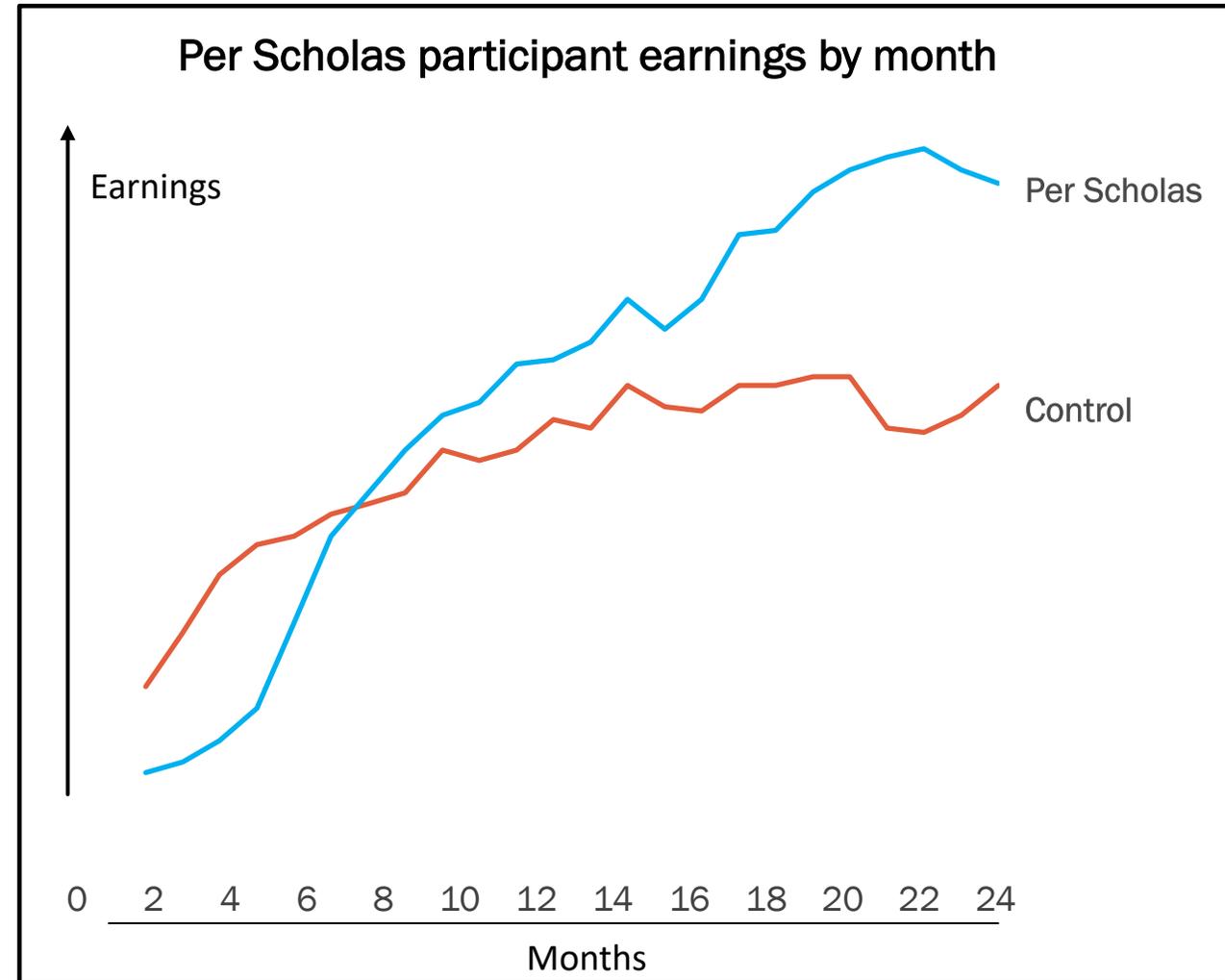
Meanwhile, at the start of pandemic, over 300,000 Coloradans of working age were below poverty, more than 2X as likely to be Coloradans of color.

How do we unlock opportunity for them?

Sources: National Skills Coalition, 2020, Denver Post, 2021, Colorado Center on Law and Poverty, 2020

EXAMPLE: PER SCHOLAS WORKFORCE PROGRAM (ACTIVATE IT IN COLORADO)

- Intensive, **tuition-free IT bootcamp**, 15 to 18 weeks, with **additional supports** (resumes, job placement).
- Over **85% served in poverty**, over **85% learners of color**.
- **Two rigorous evaluations found it increases annual earnings 20% to 30%, for at least two years after random assignment** (this understates impact – post-training earnings for graduates are 4X pre-training earning).
- **Activate IT delivers Per Scholas in Denver (one of 17 cities)**



Sources : Arnold Ventures/EvidenceBasedPrograms.org, 2020 & PPV randomized evaluation & Impact Study 2010

THE CHALLENGE, THE MOMENT, THE OPPORTUNITY

- Others in the same evidence tier (Project Quest, Year Up, several others).
- **None of these programs are funded at scale by the public sector, anywhere.**
- Other local Colorado models have deeply promising emerging evidence and are ready to have their impact more rigorously measured, and scale.
- We have the raw ingredients to systematically increase equity and economic mobility, but **our workforce ecosystem hasn't fully connected these pieces.**
- In deploying remaining ARPA funds next session, **the legislature has an opportunity to fundamentally change this in Colorado.**
- This could include a rigorous evidence standard for some remaining ARPA funds.



EXTRA SLIDES

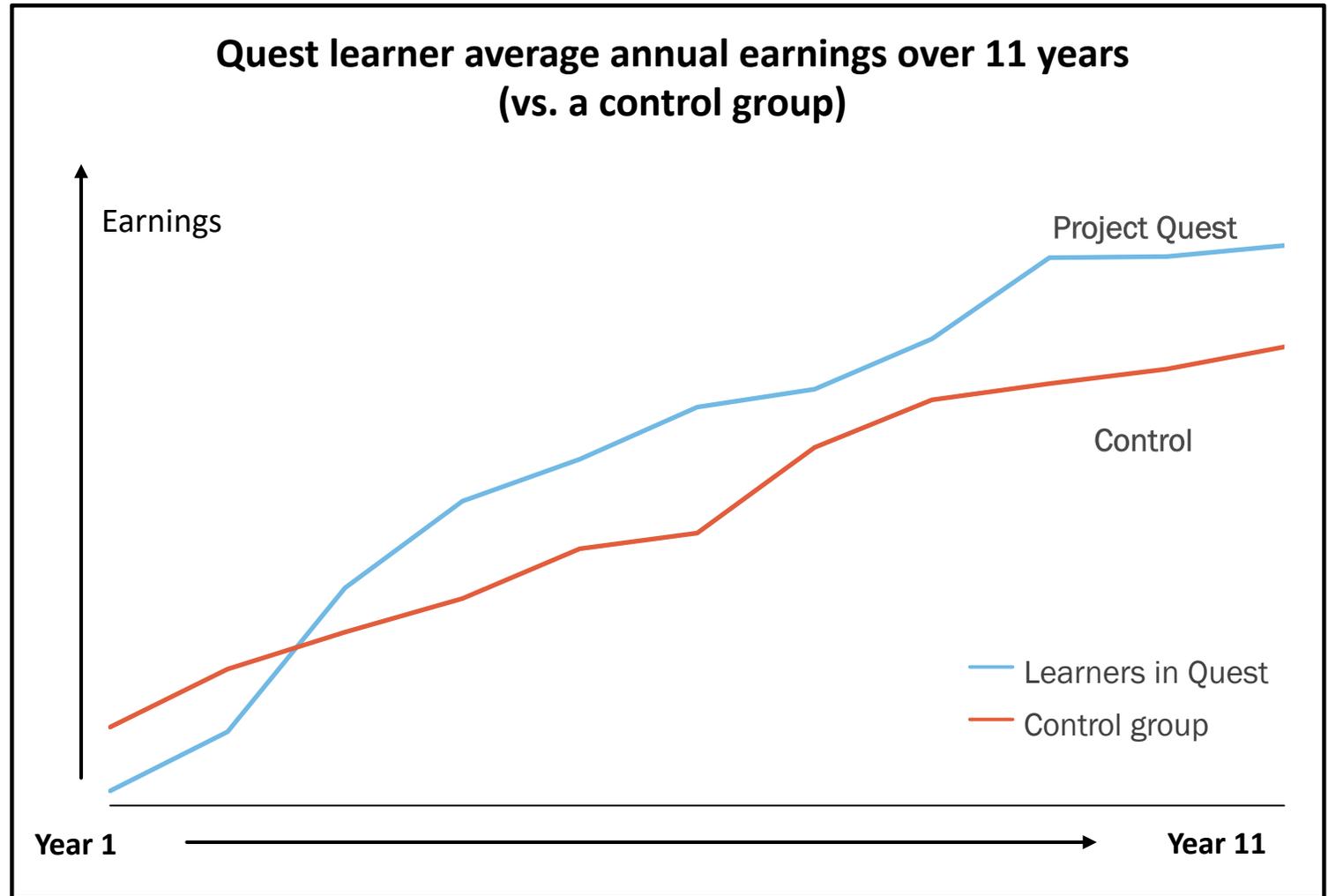
NOTABLE ALLOWABLE USES OF ARPA FUNDS

(U.S. TREASURY INTERIM FINAL RULE)

- **“Assistance to households or populations facing negative economic impacts due to COVID-19 is also an eligible use.” This can include “job training to address negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to a worker’s occupation or level of training.”**
- **State, local, and Tribal governments may also use ARPA funds to “engage in planning and analysis in order to improve programs,” including through use of “targeted consumer outreach, improvements to data or technology infrastructure, impact evaluations, and data analysis.”**

EXAMPLE: PROJECT QUEST

- Comprehensive support & resources for low-income individuals (high focus in TX on Latina learners in health care sector) in occupational training programs at local community colleges; certifications in high-growth sectors.
- A randomized evaluation over 11 years, **found aggregated impacts of over \$30K higher for Quest learners**, compared to control.



Source : Economic Mobility Corporation randomized evaluation, 2021