Job Corps Evidence Building Portfolio Project

# Topic Guide for Participant Interviews

| **Job Corps Pilot Study Participant Interview Topics** |
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| **Participant Characteristics**  | * Participant background, including prior education and work experience, including experience with other programs
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| **Recruitment, Intake and Admissions**  | * How learned about program
* Reasons for applying to this program, education and employment goals
* Experience with application and enrollment procedures, including assessments and eligibility determination
* Experience with onboarding/ orientation/ probational or trial period
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| **Education Services and Academic Supports** | * Participation in academic planning activities
* Participation in and experience with secondary education activities (HSD, GED
* Participation in and experience with education and training preparation activities (career exploration, FAFSA, study skills)
* Participation in and experience with postsecondary academic services and supports (e.g. General education college courses, developmental education, supports for English Language learners)
* Participation in and experience with academic support services (tutoring, academic improvement plans, etc.)
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| **Career and Technical Training** | * Experience in selecting and enrolling in training activities
* Participation in and experience with career and technical training assessment activities
* Participation in and experience with postsecondary career and technical training activities
* Participation in and experience with career and technical training supports (e.g. tutoring, study hall, test prep)
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| **Personal and Career Counseling Services** | * Participation in and experience with counseling services, including frequency, dosage, format
* Participation in and experience with mentoring and coaching

Participation in and experience with peer supports |
| **Employment Services** | * Participation in and experience with career readiness services (e.g. career exploration, resume building, Job search assistance, job shadows, and interview training)
* Participation in and experience with employment counseling including meeting frequency, length, format
* Participation in and experience with work-based learning (apprenticeships/ on-the-job training/ internships/ job shadowing)
* Participation in and experience with employment placement services
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| **Post-separation services** | * Future plans post-separation
* Engagement and experiences with school, work and/or military since separation
* Perception of preparedness for post-separation employment, education, etc.
* Participation in and perception of post-program services
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| **Support services** | * Participation in and experience with life skills training/ activities (e.g., financial counseling, study skills, soft skills)
* Participation in and experience with support services
	+ Mental health and Wellness services
	+ Transportation assistance
	+ Food assistance
	+ Housing assistance
	+ Parenting supports/assistance
	+ Referrals
* Technological supports
* Employment during program participation
* Experience with stipends/ cash assistance
* Experience participating as a nonresidential participation (transportation to/from program, housing stability, access to supports, etc.)
* Participation in and experience with residential services (housing, meals)
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| **Student life/ Culture and Climate** | * Experience with staff
* Experience with students (relationships, peer support, cohorts)
* Level of student engagement/retention
* Experience with program policies and rules
* Participation in and experience with student life activities
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| **Reflections**  | * Overall experience in program
* Suggestions for potential program improvements
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| **COVID-19 Response** | * Perception of how COVID-19 affected participants’ goals and experience in the program
* Perception of program response to COVID-19
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