

Bridge to a Brighter Future Women's Empowerment Network 2018-2021



A primary way in which SJWEN created change in our community's access to resources throughout 2018-2020 was through the Bridges coaching, mentoring and incentive program through which the SIF provided financial resources to participants, allowing them more control over their education, transportation, housing and other supports.

The EMPATH-based coaching model of SJWEN began transitioning to align with that of the Learning Exchange's (through their SIF initiative, Transition to Work) as the organisations amalgamated. There was a strong impetus to adopt the coaching and tracking approach of the SJLE, which had seen greater success with goals being achieved and with impacts sustained for participants. The project outcomes had also been tracked more rigorously and consistently at the Learning Exchange, which can be partially attributed to the challenge of Bridge's transitioning to different GranteePartners throughout its lifespan.

Through the process of this transition, previous Bridges participants were consulted to ensure they would remain supported by the project, and in October 2021, SJWEN wrapped up the long-term Bridges coaching model with all clients.

SJLE and WEN have developed an advocacy strategy with the key outcome of building the capacity of women to advocate for themselves. In 2022/2023 they refined and developed new workshops and programs to empower participants with skills to tell their stories effectively to different audiences, and to develop strategic understandings of systems of government to decide where they want to use their voices towards advocacy. WEN and the SJLE have thrived through their amalgamation, most importantly proving a more robust and supportive wrap-around services model for participants identifying as women.



The Bridges coaching helped support Natusha so she felt more connected to the community, and empowered to set and achieve big goals.

