Credential Transparency illuminates paths to a better future.

There are 1 million credentials offered in the U.S. With so many to choose from—and without widespread adoption of standards for comparing and evaluating them—people get lost and lose out on opportunity. Together, we and our partners are working to build a linked open data network that everyone can access for timely and trusted information about credentials.

Credential transparency makes essential information about credentials and competencies public, easily accessible, and actionable so that credentials can be better understood and pursued based on what it takes to earn them, what they represent, and the jobs they can lead to.

Credential transparency is made possible by technology. The Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL) schema allows us to catalog, organize, and compare credentials and related information. Credential data from authoritative sources using CTDL is openly available in the Credential Registry for anyone, anytime, anywhere to search and compare credentials.

This information helps me find quality credentials that meet my needs!

CREDENTIAL PROVIDERS

TIME

Money

CAREERS

Workforce needs

Investments

Advanced work

Diplomas

High school

GED

Diplomas

Continuing education

Certificates

Vocational

Microcredentials

Badges

MOOCs

We're doing our part to create and maintain pathways from transparency.

WE CAN

more clearly describe the credentials we offer, their quality and value, and how they meet the needs of individuals, businesses, and the community.

We know the skills linked to specific jobs.

How can I prepare for a good job?

Transparent helps us be more efficient and flexible by using data to describe jobs and adjust opportunity.

What is the best path to a better future?

We can help people who have the skills and competencies we need for the jobs of today while effectively planning for and signaling the needs of tomorrow.

WE CAN

understand the availability, costs, time, and value of the different credentials available to us. Transparency lets us see how best to get where we're going.

WE CAN

better understand the credentials available, which are high quality, and can better support and inform people to meet talent and economic needs.

WE CAN

if we share our credential data using CTDL, then we can all use it to better navigate.

Credential transparency allows us to reveal credential opportunities aligned to workforce needs.

Credential Registry data shows us the path from learning to credentials to careers!