Empowering individuals with the resources they need to secure and maintain employment

GOAL: INDIVIDUALS SECURE OR ADVANCE EMPLOYMENT

The gap between wages and cost of basic living expenses widens each year. Without participating in government assistance programs, families are unable to afford basic housing, food, healthcare, and childcare and are forced to make spending choices that have major impacts on their families’ health, safety, and well-being.

– Policy Brief (2021)
  Center for Hunger-Free Communities, Drexel University

EMPOWERING EMPLOYMENT GRANTEES

GROW SOUTHWEST INDIANA WORKFORCE

Underwrites expanded assessment and placement services to previously ineligible clients through a mobile service and Navigators visiting nonprofits in lower-income neighborhoods

IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EVANSVILLE

Provides scholarships of Ivy Tech tuition and books to underserved populations for the Commercial Drivers License (CDL) certificate program, a high demand and higher-income industry
$250,000 INVESTMENT >>>
Generating $2.9 MILLION in new wages

Social Determinants of Health

"Living wage" is key to poverty reduction

Individuals and families with lower-wage jobs struggle to meet the basic expenses of their household. Although much has been discussed regarding increases in minimum wage, placing individuals in living wage jobs often means the difference between financial independence and the need for public assistance programs.

Employment barriers are a factor

Wage growth is one element in the complex issue of poverty and employment. Barriers to employment are significant for many populations. Limited access to childcare, lack of transportation, and housing instability, are a few of the problems low-income workers may face. Future Empowering Employment Pathway Grants will focus on "barrier-busting" programs.

Best-in-class assessment

United Way consulted with local employers and professionals to inform the process of both the development of the Request for Proposals and evaluation of applications.

Commitment to highest quality

United Way is working for genuine change in our community. We seek to fund initiatives that are fiscally sound, targeted toward low-income households, and demonstrate the strongest outcomes.

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*Projection based on estimated number of unemployed and employed clients served and average wage based on industry.