Job Skills for New Careers

Truman Heartland Community Foundation is embarking on a new initiative, Job Skills for New Careers, to provide job skills training to low-income families in our community through a collaboration with four key partner organizations that are experts in education and job skills training: Community Services League, Herndon Career Center, Mid-Continent Public Library and University of Central Missouri.

Truman Heartland Community Foundation’s role is to facilitate this collaborative effort and provide funding to launch the initiative. The Foundation is seeking grants from Donor Advised Fund holders at the Foundation to support Job Skills for New Careers. Our goal is to raise $120,000 by the end of the year to launch the program in March 2020.

We believe this amount, combined with other resources that we plan on leveraging, will enable 48 families to work their way out of poverty. We will measure the impact of this program by tracking key metrics such as increase in household income of those we serve. We will report these results back to those investing in this initiative.

Goal of Job Skills for New Careers

*To bring together people, organizations, ideas and opportunities to enable low-income workers in our community to significantly improve the economic status of their families through receiving training that results in them moving into higher paying jobs. The Foundation’s role is to bring the best minds together to determine how our communities can make the most impact in this work, and then bring financial resources to the table to help fund the effort.*

Program Design Principles

1. Low-income workers desire to have a hand up versus a handout.
2. Low-income workers are often hemmed in by multiple family obligations and dynamics that create significant hurdles for them to move to better paying jobs.
3. Training is a key element; however, other support elements are often needed to enable people to take advantage of training opportunities.
4. We need a system that listens to the needs of local employers for skilled labor and will assure participants that a job is waiting for them after their training.
5. Partnerships will be crucial to our success, enabling us to utilize the experience, knowledge, expertise and assets of nonprofits, labor unions, state and local governments, colleges and universities, the library system, churches, Chambers of Commerce and EDCs.
6. The Foundation seeks to identify where the financial resources of our donors could have a positive impact on scaling, improving or broadening existing programs to impact more low-income working families in our communities.
7. Many of our donors have interest in providing this hand up to low-income working families and will see this as a good investment of their charitable dollars.
Who We Plan To Serve
Job Skills for New Careers is intended to benefit people in our communities who are working hard but not getting ahead: Underemployed dads trying to support their families. Single moms with kids trying to build a better life. Young adults working low-wage jobs with no career plan.

Certification Trainings Offered in First Year
We plan to offer the following training programs through our partner organizations during the first year of Job Skills for New Careers. Additional trainings may be added as further funding is secured.

- CNA
- Introduction to Industrial Careers
- Other Medical Certifications such as medical billing, pharmacy tech, phlebotomy, etc.

Our Partners and Their Expertise

Community Services League
CSL currently provides job skills training along with wraparound support services including financial coaching, income supports and employment counseling through its Bridges to Career Opportunities program. Job Skills for New Careers will utilize CSL’s expertise in enrolling participants, managing wraparound support service delivery, and tracking program outcomes. CSL’s Certified Nursing Assistant training will be offered through Job Skills for New Careers.

Herndon Career Center
Herndon has robust technical education programming for students from six local school districts and wants to expand to serve adult learners. Job Skills for New Careers will enable Herndon to begin offering adult learning opportunities and will capitalize on Herndon’s existing relationships with employers to ensure successful job placement for participants. Job Skills for New Careers will offer Herndon’s Introduction to Industrial Careers training.

Mid-Continent Public Library
Mid-Continent offers extensive online education resources as well as convening locations and expertise throughout Eastern Jackson County. The library’s education resources include an online high school diploma program for participants needing to complete high school in order to move forward in their career training. Library branches will serve as convenient locations to offer Job Skills for New Careers information and enrollment sessions. Mid-Continent can also offer children’s programming at the same time as these informational sessions to help reduce the childcare barrier for parents interested in attending.

University of Central Missouri
UCM currently offers a broad array of technical job training opportunities and also has existing relationships with area employers. Additionally, students who qualify can receive funding through the Full Employment Council for trainings through UCM. Job Skills for New Careers will offer trainings in medical fields through UCM, such as medical billing, pharmacy tech, and phlebotomy.

Your Support Will Change Lives
We are excited to invite you to join us in empowering low-wage workers in our communities to complete job skills training and work their way out of poverty. Your financial support is a crucial component in launching this life-changing initiative. We hope you will consider supporting Job Skills for New Careers.