

LIVE UNITED



United Way of King County

United Way of King County Ending Homelessness Jobs Connect 2.0 Funding Announcement

Contact:

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Background

United Way of King County is excited to announce the release of the funding announcement for Jobs Connect 2.0 Program Expansion. In April 2016, United Way of King County in partnership with the Millionair Club Charity conducted a four-month pilot designed to test the viability of helping homeless people increase their income through employment. At the end of the pilot, we were able to discern that there are thousands of homeless people who are searching for gainful employment and employers who are willing to hire them. Jobs Connect 2.0 is designed to bridge the gap between the two.

At United Way of King County, we believe that housing and income are how we make significant progress toward ending homelessness. National best practices show that linking employment first and housing first strategies (Rapid Rehousing, Streets to Home Flex Funding, Diversion) are highly successful. In January 2017, the annual Point in Time Count (aka Count Us In) of King County identified that 30% of people and families became homeless due to job loss. One of the fastest ways to help people quickly increase their income to obtain housing of their choice is to assist them in finding employment.

Objective of JOBS CONNECT 2.0

The objective of Jobs Connect 2.0 is to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness by connecting people experiencing homelessness with full and part time jobs.

Goals of this Jobs Connect LOI and RFP Process:

1. Identify high performing agencies that can utilize up to \$2M to connect 1,500 people experiencing homelessness with jobs.
2. Identify agencies that want to work with UWKC to continue to refine Jobs Connect Program (design, connection to system, evaluation, connection to employers, etc. – goes beyond grant making)
3. Take a promising UWKC product to scale by increasing the impact (people connected to jobs) and value to key stakeholders.
4. Reduce disparities by funding agencies that have a track record of connecting people of color (who are experiencing homelessness) with jobs

Who can apply?

To apply, organizations must have access to United Way of King County's EC-Impact System. If you need access to EC-Impact you may contact Damian Spence, Sr. Research Planner at DSpence@uwkc.org or

Sue Wyss, Team Assistant at SWyss@uwkc.org. An initial registration process that you must complete will determine your eligibility to continue the application process.

Services that we will fund through the Jobs Connect 2.0 LOI/RFP:

1. Job placement
2. Employer engagement
3. Short term training, certifications that connect people with jobs
4. Basic Needs services that help people attain and retain jobs

The Process- we shall utilize a three-step process:

1. Letter of Interest (LOI)- the LOI process will help us understand the pool of applicants and allow us to ask questions and co-design projects with agencies.
2. Interview- the interview will be more of a two way conversation for us to ask questions and share input that might strengthen the application of the agencies we invite to complete the full Request for Proposal (RFP). LOI applicants, please hold **February 14 and 15, 2018** open in case you are offered an interview. Organizations who successfully complete the LOI process and interview are be invited to complete a Jobs Connect 2.0 RFP Application.
3. The RFP will help us understand in detail how the applicants can specifically help us attain the aforementioned goals of the RFP.

Partnerships are strongly encouraged. Priority will be given to organizations who understand how to serve people who are disproportionately homeless by race (African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic/Latino). Applicants must also be willing to commit to maintaining data in HMIS, anticipating that the ability to do so will come on line in winter 2019.

Definitions for the purpose of this LOI/RFP:

Homelessness:

- i. *Unsheltered*
- ii. *People in homeless programs (shelter, RRH, Transitional Housing)*
- iii. *People who are doubled up and whose kids are considered homeless.*

Full time employment: minimum of 35 regularly scheduled hours a week.

Part time employment: (minimum of at least 15 regularly scheduled hours a week.

Questions

For additional information regarding this LOI-RFP process, please contact Wayne Wilson, Community Impact Manager or Lisa Brooks, Impact Associate.

Timeline

Jobs Connect 2.0 Announcement on Website	Tuesday, 12/18/2017
LOI Released	Tuesday, 1/2/2018
LOI Information Session	Thursday, 1/11/2018, 3-4pm Gates Room, United Way of King County 720 2 nd Ave, Seattle RSVP here
LOI Due in EC Impact	Friday,1/26/2018, at 4:00PM

Phone Calls/Emails to Confirm Interview Times	2/12/2018 (from 2-5PM)
Interview process for promising application	Wednesday/Thursday 2/14-15/2018
Invitation to write full RFP Issued by Phone/Email	Tuesday, 2/20/2018
RFP Information Session(for those selected to continue in the process)	Tuesday, 2/27/2018
RFP Due by 4:00PM	Thursday, 3/29/2018
Notification to applicants if CBC approves funding	Thursday-Friday, 5/10-11/2018
Contract Negotiation Begins	Monday, 5/14/2018
Contracts begin	7/1/2018