

JOBS CONNECT

Helping people move off the streets.
It's working

JULY 2018



“This is really a steppingstone. I plan to be a nurse and Jobs Connect helped me get off the streets.”

—Justin Butler,
Jobs Connect client

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:

- Transportation
- Access to certification needed for employment (e.g., food handler card)
- Appropriate work clothing
- Showers and laundry facilities
- Storage of personal items while individuals are on the job
- Connections to housing services to assist clients in finding stable housing



United Way of King County

CURRENT STATE

Homelessness continues to be a crisis in King County—the last point-in-time count showed 6,158 people living on the streets, in motor vehicles or encampments, up significantly from the year before.

Despite the increase in the number of people living outside, we are seeing progress. Last year, more than 7,500 moved off the streets and into housing. 5,000 received assistance so that they could stay in their homes and avoid homelessness. Funders are more aligned than ever in their investments so that every dollar spent makes the biggest impact.

OUR APPROACH

United Way's efforts focus on two areas: housing and income. We know that housing is the solution to homelessness. We also know that you can't move into housing—or maintain it—without an income.

That's why we invest in connecting people who are homeless and able to work with employers who can put them to work. That's our Jobs Connect program.

HOW IT WORKS

Street-team of outreach workers. We've partnered with agencies who have proven results with outreach staff connecting with people who are living on the streets. We piloted the program for seven months in 2016 and had some early wins. We've done some fine-tuning and are now taking it to scale.

Remove barriers to employment. We help people with a place to store their belongings during the day, access documents like food handler permits or I.D. cards, and transportation to and from the job.

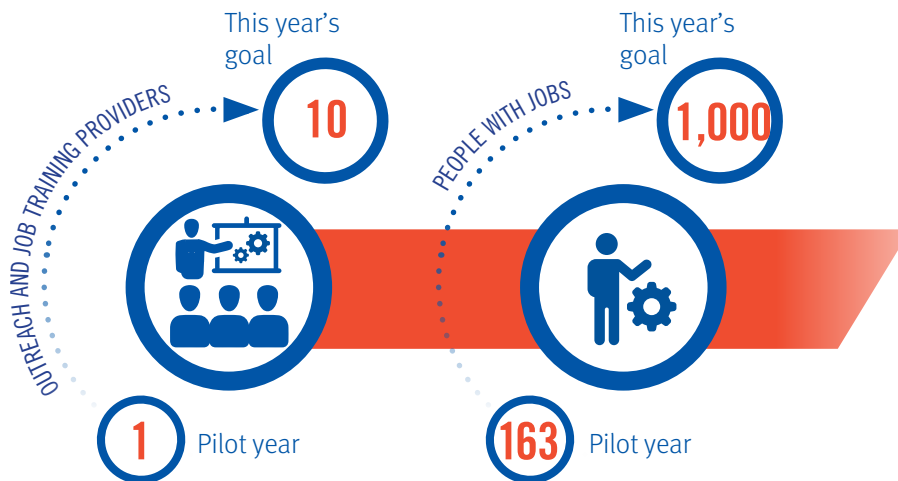
Wide range of training programs. Depending on individual needs, we offer connection to day labor jobs and a variety of longer-term programs. We're connecting clients to barista training, full culinary programs, and apprenticeship programs for sheet metal fabrication and machinist.

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TAKING IT TO SCALE

The program has grown tenfold since the pilot in Spring 2016. From one outreach and job training provider connecting 163 people to jobs, we're now working with eleven providers—with a commitment of employing 1,000 this year. Since July 2017, 1,546 people have found jobs.



Jobs Connect now offers a full range of opportunities—from day labor at the likes of Casa Latina and The Millionair Club to job training at Fare Start and YouthCare to placement services into long-term jobs at Neighborhood House and Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle.

We're also expanding this service from serving single adults in the pilot to include families and young people.

YOU + UNITED WAY

United Way is uniquely positioned to identify the strongest service providers and brings them together in a way that ensures coverage where it's needed most. We have been a key player with the city and county—and together are making performance based contracts, using the same performance metrics.

With your support, we continue to pilot new programs to learn what works, what doesn't and which programs we can take to scale. Jobs Connect is a great example of a program that, because of donor support, fills a key need in our community's efforts to end homelessness.

WHAT'S NEW

Increased support provided for long-term employment:

- Short-term training toward certification
- Culinary training
- Barista training
- Placement services
- Growth as a Downtown Amabassador



EVEN MORE PARTNERS CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JOBS:

- Cares of Washington
- Casa Latina
- FareStart
- Interaction Transition
- Mary's Place
- The Millionair Club
- Neighborhood House
- Trac Associates
- Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
- YouthCare
- YWCA of Seattle-King County-Snohomish County