



# Bridging the Employment Gap by Investing in Tomorrow's Workforce, TODAY!

**We need your help to build the workforce of the future and close the employment gap!**

The Empowerment Network and City of Omaha in collaboration with community partners are working to provide opportunities for youth and young adults to gain valuable job training and work experience during the summer. We are working to provide jobs, internships, work experience, vocational training, academic recovery, career exploration, life skills training and community service opportunities.

**STEP-UP OMAHA!** recruits, trains, and places prepared Omaha youth and young adults age 14 to 21, in mutually beneficial part-time and full-time summer and year-around employment and career exploration opportunities. STEP-UP OMAHA! builds on the Empowerment Network and its community partners' successes in hiring and placing over 4,500 participants over the past nine years.

**Based on their commitment to building a highly competitive workforce of the future, both the City of Omaha and the United Way of the Midlands have made significant investments to help expand the employment program.** In 2018, we would like to build on the program's successes and connect 600 youth and young adults to work this summer and beyond. Employers over the past nine years have included non-profits, educational institutions, governmental agencies, and for-profit businesses.

**Here are the four ways that you can invest in this vitally important initiative:**

1. Hire participants from the initiative and provide a high quality work experience
2. Provide work experience opportunities that are subsidized or partially subsidized
3. Sponsor participants financially. Participants will be placed on a separate work site
4. Make a financial contribution to support the initiative

## STEP-UP OMAHA! PLEDGE:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Organization:**  Non-profit  Education/School  Government Agency  Business  Other

Has your company previously participated in the **Step-Up Omaha!** or the **Great Summer Jobs** programs?  Yes  No

**STEP-UP OMAHA!** a community-based initiative of the Empowerment Network and the City of Omaha in collaboration with community partners: Banister's Leadership Academy, Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands, ENCAP, Heartland Workforce Solutions, Hope Center for Kids, Girls Inc., Latino Center of the Midlands, Metropolitan Community College, Omaha Economic Development Corporation, Omaha Housing Authority, Omaha Public Schools, Salvation Army Kroc Center, South Omaha Business Alliance, Urban League of Nebraska and the United Way of the Midlands.

**Step-Up Omaha Vision:** We collaborate to bridge the employment gap and invest in the workforce of the future by recruiting, training, and preparing at-risk and career-minded youth and young adults in our community to make positive life choices, empowering them to fully maximize their personal potential through educational and career opportunities.

**THE PROGRAM:**

- Ages 14-15 complete a Career Exploration program.
- Ages 16-18 complete a work experience and jobs training program.
  - Workers will complete 2 weeks of employability training from June 4<sup>th</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Workers are available between June 18<sup>th</sup> and August 10<sup>th</sup> for worksite assignments.
  - Workers are available to work 20 hours per week.
  - Workers are paid a minimum of \$9 per hour. (either by your organization or Step-Up Omaha!)
- Ages 19-21 participate in Step-Up Omaha! Connect – a training and placement program.

Please review the options below and select the one that best applies:

1.  We will hire summer workers through Step-Up Omaha! and pay them directly.

# of Positions \_\_\_\_\_ at \$\_\_\_\_\_ per hour (min. is \$9) or total \$\_\_\_\_\_

Type of position(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

2.  We do not have jobs or internships to offer, but will sponsor youth and young adult workers.

<p><i>Age 16 and Older (Job Experience)</i></p> <p>_____ x \$2,000 = _____</p> <p>___ \$6,000 sponsors 3 workers</p> <p>___ \$12,000 sponsors 6 workers</p> <p>___ \$26,000 sponsors 13 workers</p> <p>___ \$50,000 sponsors 25 workers</p> <p>___ \$100,000 sponsors 50 workers</p>	<p><i>Age 14 &amp; 15 (Career Exploration/Jobs Skills Training)</i></p> <p>_____ x \$1,000 = _____</p> <p>___ \$5,000 sponsors 5 youth</p> <p>___ \$10,000 sponsors 10 youth</p> <p>___ \$25,000 sponsors 25 youth</p> <p>___ \$50,000 sponsors 50 youth</p> <p>___ \$100,000 sponsors 100 youth</p>
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3.  We will make a general financial contribution towards the efforts. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4.  Please contact us to discuss the STEP-UP OMAHA! initiative.

What other businesses or organizations would you recommend we contact for this program?

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Additional Notes:

Please return this form to:

Attn: Jami Anders-Kemp, The Empowerment Network Mail: 2401 Lake Street, Suite 110, Omaha, NE 68110 or E-mail:  
[janderskemp@empoweromaha.com](mailto:janderskemp@empoweromaha.com) For more information, please contact us at: Phone (402)-502-5153

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: The Empowerment Network and designate STEP-UP OMAHA! in the memo section.

## A partial list of current and past participants, contributors, and sponsors since 2008

100 Black Men  
American Family Insurance  
American National Bank  
Aqua-Africa  
AT&T  
Bank of the West  
BDM Windows  
Bellevue University  
Bemis Center  
Benson Plant Rescue  
Big Mama's Kitchen  
Black Bottom Biscotti  
Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Building Bright Futures  
C. B. Washington Branch Library  
Charles Drew Health Center  
CHI Health  
City Sprouts  
City of Omaha  
ConAgra Foods  
Cox Communications  
Creighton University  
Dairy Queen

Davis Companies  
Douglas County Treasurer's  
ENCAP  
Family Housing Advisory Svcs.  
First Data  
Habitat for Humanity  
Heartland Workforce Solutions  
Hilton Hotels  
Holland Foundation  
Holy Name Housing  
Hope Center for Kids  
Jimmy Johns  
Kaplan University  
Kelly's Detail  
KETV  
KMTV  
Life Care  
Lindsay Manufacturing  
Lozier Foundation  
Max I Walker  
Methodist Hospital  
MCC  
National Park Service

NeighborWorks  
OEDC  
Omaha Minority Community  
Dev. Corp.  
Omaha Police Department  
Omaha Public Schools  
Omaha Star  
Omaha Steaks  
Physicians Mutual  
Pinnacle Bank  
Salem Baptist Church  
Salvation Army  
Security National Bank  
South Omaha Business Assc.  
Taco Johns  
Turning Point  
UNMC  
UPS  
Urban League of Nebraska  
Weitz Foundation  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Walgreens  
Woodmen Life

## Comments from Leaders

*"A job gives teenagers and young adults more than a paycheck. Jobs help to develop self-esteem, teach time management skills and how to work as part of a team. The Step-Up jobs program provides that first job opportunity for many and Omaha businesses have a new pool of eager job candidates. The City of Omaha is proud to return as a Step-Up partner in 2017."*

**- Mayor Jean Stothert**  
City of Omaha

*"We are excited to be a part of the expansion of this jobs program. The Empowerment Network has been effective with this program for the last nine years. They have excellent connections to youth in the community and offer great support to employers. The youth participants are respectful and courteous. It's wonderful to see their horizons expand as they are exposed to new work challenges."*

**- John Kotouc**  
Executive Chairman - American National Bank  
First Business Partner of the Jobs Program

*"Blue Cross Blue Shield has supported youth summer employment the last four years and we are committed to partnering with the Empowerment Network, government, business leaders and community partners to expand the initiative moving forward. The program is producing measurable results."*

**- Steve Martin**  
CEO - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska

*"We're not asking for a charitable contribution, we're asking you to invest in the people that will potentially be able to stay with you, your organization, develop a career, it's good for the community and good for your business."*

**- John Ewing**  
Douglas County Treasurer and Empowerment Network Board Chair

*"There is a direct correlation between violence and jobs and job training. We have demonstrated over the past five years that when our young people are provided opportunities, our violence goes down."*

**- Councilman Ben Gray**  
City of Omaha