



**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 5,000 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 2020, we would like to build on the program's successes and connect 900 youth and young adults to work this summer and beyond. Employers over the past ten 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, Heartland Workforce Solutions, Hope Center for Kids, Girls Inc, Metropolitan Community College, Omaha Housing Authority, Omaha Public Schools, Salvation Army Kroc Center, 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 1<sup>st</sup> through June 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Workers are available between June 15<sup>th</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup> for worksite assignments.
  - Workers are available to work 20 hours per week.
  - Workers are paid a minimum of \$10 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 \$10) 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.

<u>Age 16 and Older (Job Experience)</u>	<u>Age 14 &amp; 15 (Career Exploration/Jobs Skills Training)</u>
_____ x \$2,000 = _____	_____ x \$1,000 = _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$6,000 sponsors 3 workers	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 sponsors 5 youth
<input type="checkbox"/> \$12,000 sponsors 6 workers	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 sponsors 10 youth
<input type="checkbox"/> \$26,000 sponsors 13 workers	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 sponsors 25 youth
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000 sponsors 25 workers	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000 sponsors 50 youth
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 sponsors 50 workers	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 sponsors 100 youth

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?

**Additional Notes:**

**Please return this form to:**

Attn: Step-Up Omaha! c/o The Empowerment Network Mail: 2401 Lake Street, Suite 110, Omaha, NE 68110 or E-mail: [mcannon@empoweromaha.com](mailto:mcannon@empoweromaha.com) For more information, please contact us at: Phone (402) 614-2065

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	Davis Companies	NeighborWorks
American Family Insurance	Douglas County Treasurer's	OEDC
American National Bank	ENCAP	Omaha Minority Community
Aqua-Africa	Family Housing Advisory Svcs.	Dev. Corp.
AT&T	First Data	Omaha Police Department
Bank of the West	Habitat for Humanity	Omaha Public Schools
BDM Windows	Heartland Workforce Solutions	Omaha Star
Bellevue University	Hiltv Hotels	Omaha Steaks
Bemis Center	Holland Foundation	Physicians Mutual
Benson Plant Rescue	Holy Name Housing	Pinnacle Bank
Big Mama's Kitchen	Hope Center for Kids	Salem Baptist Church
Black Bottom Biscotti	Jimmy Johns	Salvation Army
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Kaplan University	Security National Bank
Building Bright Futures	Kelly's Detail	South Omaha Business Assc.
C. B. Washington Branch Library	KETV	Taco Johns
Charles Drew Health Center	KMTV	Turning Point
CHI Health	Life Care	UNMC
City Sprouts	Lindsay Manufacturing	UPS
City of Omaha	Lozier Foundation	Urban League of Nebraska
ConAgra Foods	Max I Walker	Weitz Foundation
Cox Communications	Methodist Hospital	Wells Fargo Bank
Creighton University	MCC	Walgreens
Dairy Queen	National Park Service	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."*

**- 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 ten 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

*UNMC is a proud participant in Step-Up Omaha. This past summer, a Step-Up Omaha participant brought tremendous energy to the chancellor's office, while gaining valuable professional experience. I would encourage all Omaha-area organizations and businesses to look at participating in this program, which is crucial to building a highly competitive workforce that is reflective of the communities we serve."*

**- Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold**  
Chancellor - UNMC

*"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