

Pathways Forward - Opportunity@Work Initiatives

Opportunity@Work is a coalition dedicated to strengthening the financial stability of Nebraskans. The Coalition operates through **public/private partnerships** that balance the needs of working families, businesses and communities among diverse populations across the state.

Opportunity@Work collaborates on several fronts to strengthen workforce financial stability. These initiatives cluster under strategies that **support worker success** by maximizing employment opportunities and personal assets and those that **support business and community success** through a more stable, productive, skilled workforce.

Support Worker Success

Develop Personal Assets through public/private partnerships that . . .

- increase incentives for work and savings in work support programs
- create and support Individual Development Accounts in Nebraska
- discourage predatory business practices
- promote homeowner education and counseling
- offer resources for microenterprise
- encourage opportunities for early career education for youth
- explore market-driven banking products/services that meet the needs of unbanked or underbanked workers

Support Business and Community Success

Promote Workforce Stability through public/private partnerships that . . .

- ensure families can meet their financial needs through work
- promote financial education in the workplace and schools
- address needs for quality childcare and family healthcare
- provide workforce education to meet both employer and employee needs for skill upgrades, workplace transitions and career paths
- address barriers to financial stability among diverse economic, racial, gender and geographic populations
- strengthen the successful transition of underemployed individuals into the workforce through graduated support
- promote business tax incentives for workforce development, including training on job skills, personal financial management and soft skills
- support tax policies that balance the needs of employers, employees and homeowners

Recent Action Steps Forward

Individual Development Accounts:

- Opportunity@Work is involved in an effort to develop and implement an IDA program for Nebraska.

Financial Education:

- Opportunity@Work partners have worked together to offer Financial Wellness Boot Camps in Omaha and Lincoln with plan to extend these boot camps in several areas across the state.

Predatory Business Practices

- Opportunity@Work supports the creation of a data base to administer and enforce the Delayed Deposit Services Licensing Act.

Increased Incentives in Work Supports

- Opportunity@Work supports the allowance of parents receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) to engage in an associate's degree program for a full 24 months as their core work activity. Currently parents are only allowed to do 12 months of an associate's degree program as a core work activity.

Addressing Family Healthcare

- Opportunity@Work supports an increase of the eligibility requirement for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in order to provide healthcare coverage to a greater number of uninsured children in Nebraska.