



Economic and Workforce Development

Economic development is the creation of economic wealth that will enable all citizens to have access to an increased quality of life. Job creation, economic output and increase in the tax base are the most common measurement tools. The role of such development is to seek out new economic opportunities while retaining existing business wealth.

It is essential that workforce development efforts be coordinated throughout our region as we face multiple workforce challenges. Workforce development consists of training programs that prepare individuals for today's workforce and employment in a variety of industries that require well-developed technical skills. Workforce development also focuses on providing skills maintenance and enhancement through continuing education to those already employed, and retraining for displaced workers.

The following are organizations that have been reviewed by The Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) in the recent past.

Economic Development

African American Chamber of Commerce (AACC)

Established 12 years ago, the AACC advocates for more than 7,000 African American businesses in the region and is now one of the largest such chambers in the state of Ohio. The AACC has a staff of three full-time employees.

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What can you do?

This is a small sample of economic and workforce development organizations GCF has recently supported. If you would like to contribute to one or more of these organizations or want more information please contact a member of our Giving Strategies Group at (513) 241-2880.



THE GREATER
CINCINNATI
FOUNDATION

It is active in assisting African-American businesses to partner with organizations that can offer benefits such as networking opportunities, development training, savings on supplies, health care, dental care and vision/hearing care, at a great value. Partnerships with other chambers of commerce, other minority business development organizations, the Small Business Administration and others allow the AACC to offer its members benefits and services usually available only to larger businesses.

www.gcaacc.com

Agenda 360

Our region is endowed with excellent resources yet there has not been a comprehensive effort to deploy our assets in a manner that allows us to achieve continued social progress, economic prosperity and community building. In 2007, the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber organized Agenda 360, an action agenda for Southwest Ohio (Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren). The mission is to transform Cincinnati USA into a leading metropolitan region for talent, jobs and economic opportunity for all by the year 2020. To reach its goals, diverse, intergenerational action teams of subject matter experts and civic-minded individuals have been formed to concentrate on the following key areas: competitive economy; educational excellence; livable communities; urban renaissance; and effective governance. All teams are broad-based with regional representation. Agenda 360 is designed to work in alignment with other shared regional agenda's including Vision 2015 in Northern Kentucky and similar efforts in Southeast Indiana.

www.cincinnati360.com

Earned Income Tax Credit Project (EITC)

The EITC Project is a significant poverty reduction strategy and regional partnership between Butler County, Hamilton County and Northern Kentucky. EITC is a federal benefit that allows the working poor to receive a cash credit to reduce the amount of income taxes that have been withheld by their employer. Convenient local tax preparation locations known as Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) SuperSites are located in Cincinnati at the Community Action Agency; in Northern Kentucky at Brighton Center in Covington; and in Butler County at Support to Encourage Low Income Families (S.E.L.F.). In this region there are more than 152,000 adults and children living at or below the poverty level. The EITC Project assists Greater Cincinnati residents to become more economically self-sufficient.

www.cincy-caa.org – Hamilton County

www.selfshelps.org – Butler County

www.brightoncenter.com – Northern Kentucky

Minority Business Accelerator (MBA)

The Minority Business Accelerator (MBA) is the flagship economic inclusion initiative of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber and a key strategy for facilitating economic development throughout the region. The MBA accelerates the development of sizable minority businesses and expands the regional minority entrepreneurial community, with an initial emphasis on African-American owned businesses. The MBA has connected minority businesses with substantial contract opportunities from local corporations. In 2007, the MBA played a key role in facilitating 24 contract awards for a total value exceeding \$80 million and secured commitments for \$400 million in corporate minority business spending. In 2008, the MBA enlisted 25 companies to commit to \$500 million in spending.

www.cincinnati-chamber.com

Uptown Consortium

The Uptown Consortium was conceived in 2003 by the leaders of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, The Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, TriHealth, Inc. and the University of Cincinnati with the idea that they could accomplish more, for themselves and the community, working together than they could working individually. Through the Consortium's efforts, over \$400 million in redevelopment, new construction and neighborhood improvements have been invested in Uptown Cincinnati. The communities that comprise Uptown Cincinnati are Avondale, Clifton, Clifton Heights, Corryville, Fairview, Mt. Auburn and University Heights.

www.uptownconsortium.org

Vision 2015 (formerly Forward Quest)

In 1995, Forward Quest was launched by the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce as a comprehensive community planning effort. Its initiatives included The Met Center, Newport on the Levee, Crestview Hills Town Center, Florence Mall redevelopment, and The Bank of Kentucky Arena at NKU. To ensure continued momentum, a new community planning initiative, Vision 2015, was launched in March, 2005 to provide a 10-year strategic blueprint for the future of Northern Kentucky. The blueprint was so encompassing, Forward Quest was renamed Vision 2015 to reflect the new vision. The goals for Vision 2015 are to:

- Create 50,000 new jobs in the next decade.
- Exceed national performance standards at every educational level.
- Revitalize the region's urban center and make it the "location of choice" for businesses, residents and entertainment venues.
- Create a "networked governance" which would retain the benefits of small government while encouraging local governments to work together.
- Establish Northern Kentucky as a "livable community."
- Cultivate and mentor a new breed of leaders or "regional stewards" who will shoulder the responsibility of advancing regional economic and social progress.

www.vision2015.org

Workforce Development**Cincinnati Works**

Founded in 1996, Cincinnati Works is a privately-funded organization working toward the elimination of poverty by providing employment opportunities and assistance with removal of barriers to a self-sufficient and stable life. Cincinnati Works conducts over 48 Job Readiness Workshops annually and has a proven track record of securing employment for approximately 4,000 people over the past 12 years.

www.cincinnatiworks.org

Easter Seals Work Resource Center (WRC)

WRC has been in operation for 30 years and is a rehabilitation and workforce development leader in the area. Its mission is to empower people with disabilities and disadvantages to increase the quality of their lives through employment. WRC serves approximately 15,000 clients annually through programs and collaborative efforts. WRC is comprised of the following programs:

- Packaging and fulfillment operation: work filling manufacturer's specific orders.
- Skills and interest assessments, including job tryouts.
- Work readiness skills training (time management and workplace communication).
- Job placement assistance.
- Resume and interview skills training.
- One-on-one job coaching and follow-along support to ensure success on the job.
- *Smartlab*, WRC's high tech learning center where clients have access to computer-aided drafting tools and a hydroponics lab.

www.eastersealswrc.org

Greater Cincinnati Workforce Network (Workforce Network)

Building off the collaborative efforts of GO Cincinnati, Agenda 360, and Vision 2015, in 2008, local stakeholders launched the Workforce Network to serve as a regional workforce development intermediary for the Greater Cincinnati region. The Workforce Network is a partnership between philanthropic funders, local and state government agencies, employers, chambers of commerce, educational institutions, service providers, and workforce investment boards in the Tristate region. It aims to help employers meet their need for a skilled workforce while expanding job opportunities for low-income individuals.

www.cincinnatiworkforce.org

Health Careers Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati (HCCGC)

HCCGC provides unemployed and low-income adults in Greater Cincinnati and entry-level incumbent employees of Cincinnati Children's and the Health Alliance with case management, job readiness training, employment, job retention strategies, career advancement services and access to post-secondary education via a career path. The industry and education partners that comprise the Healthcare Career Pathway are; Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, the Health Alliance, Great Oaks Institute of Technology & Career Development and Cincinnati State Technical Community College. Community partners include: Dress for Success-Cincinnati, Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, Inc. and the Super Jobs Center.

www.hccgc.org

Southwest Ohio Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

WIB strives to engage the entire community toward ever increasing levels of self sufficiency. The WIB system is a collaborative approach to strengthening and expanding the region's workforce resources by consolidating many publicly funded employment and workforce development services into one coordinated system. The overall goal is to increase the employment, occupational skill attainment, retention, and earnings of job seekers. As a result, this will improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the region while attracting and retaining businesses.

www.SuperJobs.com@gccc.com

Urban League of Greater Cincinnati (ULGC)

In addition to GED training, ULGC workforce development programs include:

- **Employment Connections** - By accessing the Urban League's PlacePro Internet Career Center job seekers can explore job opportunities and employers can view resumes online and contact prospects for interviews.
- **Accelerated Call Center Education (ACE)** - ACE provides intensive training in computer skills, customer service and "multi-tasking" in a simulated call center environment.
- **Solid Opportunities for Advancement and Retention (SOAR)** - SOAR is a job readiness training program that works with individuals to review prior behavior and work habits to help them achieve career success. Job placement assistance is provided upon completion.
- **Department of Labor Re-Entry Program** - This program helps previously incarcerated non-violent felons successfully return to the community by providing pre-employment counseling and professional job-seeking assistance, job placement and follow-up support.
- **YouthWorks Program** - In cooperation with the Kroger Company and the Coca Cola Company, young people prepare for their first job interview and train for success in their first work experience. In 2007, more than 580 adults were placed in jobs through ULGC programming.

www.gcul.org

December 2008