

Franklin County PeopleWorks

Program Summary

Purpose

The purpose of PeopleWorks is to help solve the persistent hiring challenges facing Franklin County employers by facilitating the private sector employment and training of low income Franklin County residents who currently receive public assistance from a Franklin County social service agency. The program consists of three grant programs, the WITG, NETG, and INPUTG, and workforce navigation, our business-liaison service.

PeopleWorks also provides technical assistance to both employers and our local economic development partners in order to identify resources to help solve workforce-related challenges.

Workforce Navigation

Workforce Navigation is designed to act as a single point of contact for employers who are interested in hiring individuals who receive public assistance from a Franklin County social service agency. In order to utilize this service, an employer must pay its new employees a “living wage” upon hiring, or be able to provide one or more “career pathways” where an individual could expect to have the opportunity to earn a living wage within a reasonable timeframe with satisfactory performance. These pathways can exist inside or external to the client employer.

Through the workforce navigation process, we work with Franklin County’s Department of Job and Family Services, Child Support Enforcement Agency, and Children’s Services, as well as other partnering nonprofit social services agencies, to find qualified and work-ready candidates for employers in need of talent.

PeopleWorks Grants

The PeopleWorks program contains three grant programs, each one with a different purpose and a different set of evaluation criteria. All three grants are designed to assist Franklin County employers design and implement a custom hard-skills based training program to meet their need for skilled labor. Briefly, these three grant programs are:

- 1) The Workforce Innovation Training Grant (WITG) – The WITG assists an employer offset some of the cost of training employees in an innovative new “book of business” for the company.
- 2) The New Employee Training Grant (NETG) – The NETG provides an employer who hires individuals off of public assistance funds to quickly train those individuals in the technical skills required to succeed in the positions for which they were hired.
- 3) The Innovative Partnership to Upskill a Trade Training Grant (INPUTG) – An INPUT is a multi-employer collaboration dedicated to creating a large pool of qualified job candidates by creating programs to train public assistance recipients in the skills required for unfilled positions in the industry. The INPUTG offers resources to help cover the cost of those training programs.