



STEPS TO SUCCESS



COLLEGE- OR CAREER-READY

As they continue their education or enter the workforce, young people need access to skills and training that enable them to secure and maintain gainful employment with a living wage.

For most, the goal after high school is to secure a job that will provide income and serve as the starting point for a career. Some enter the workforce immediately after high school, while others continue their education in college or pursue a credential. Many people continue their education and work at the same time. However, too many residents in this region are falling behind on that journey and finding themselves without the skills or training needed to secure and maintain a job.

While there are many routes to take, the goal is the same. Without a stable job and sustainable income, residents will struggle to maintain financial stability and provide a safe and healthy living environment for themselves and their families.

BY THE NUMBERS

KEY INDICATOR

LABOR MARKET PARTICIPATION AMONG ADULTS AGES 25-64 (2011-2015)



19.3%

117,399 RESIDENTS ARE NOT CURRENTLY IN THE WORKFORCE

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

RELATED INDICATOR

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (ADULTS AGES 25+)

35.7%

(269,473 PEOPLE)

BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

42.6%

(321,551 PEOPLE)

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

57.4%

(433,760 PEOPLE)

LESS THAN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

RELATED INDICATOR

FAFSA COMPLETION RATE (2016)



55.5%

(6,951 SENIOR STUDENTS)*

*Estimated data. Numbers do not include private schools or schools with fewer than five completed applications.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Federal Student Aid (completed applications through December 31, 2016)

RELATED INDICATOR

HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENT (2013-14)



70.7%

(8,011 PEOPLE)

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITHIN 16 MONTHS OF EARNING A DIPLOMA

Source: Virginia Department of Education

RELATED INDICATOR

INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS



Attaining a degree is fantastic, but it is not the only path to success. Industry-recognized credentials are an excellent tool for gaining skills and training needed to secure and maintain a job with a sustainable income.



WHAT WE DO

United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg works to bridge the gap between high school graduation and the beginning of a career or pursuit of post-secondary degree or credential. We fund programs that focus on career-readiness and post-graduation planning, help graduates understand the path to a career and provide them with the supports needed to succeed on their journey.

We are a proud partner with VCU in support of **Bridging Richmond**, which brings together community organizations and uses data to address shared cradle-to-career education and workforce priorities.

SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS

United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg is proud to support the following organizations:

- Goodwill of Central Virginia



United Way is dedicated to improving equity in educational attainment and workforce participation. As an essential partner, they understand that working together to improve these outcomes will reduce poverty, increase social mobility and ensure the region is economically competitive.”

- Jason W. Smith, PhD
Partnership Executive Director, Bridging Richmond

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate. Give to United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. Let us know you want your gift to help increase college- or career-readiness.

Volunteer. Want to lend your time to supporting these efforts? Email volunteer@yourunitedway.org and we will help match you with the right opportunity.

yourunitedway.org



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Richmond & Petersburg