



## Connect to Work Experience

**Aligned Partner Referral: Central City Concern.**

The mission of Central City Concern is to provide comprehensive solutions to homelessness and help clients achieve self-sufficiency.

The following testimonial was written by a customer currently completing his Work Experience program (edited):

I was referred to SE Works by my case manager at Central City Concern's Employment Access Center. I wanted to enroll with the Connect to Work Experience Program in hopes that I could participate in an internship with Transition Projects. I wanted to give back the help that I, myself, had received. I am currently finishing my Work Experience at TPI helping out with their donations desk, computer lab, and in other areas where I can be of assistance. In addition, I am also employed at McCormick's Restaurant. Through the help of both CCC and SE Works, I moved out of CCC Housing and am now living on my own. I just enrolled at PCC for GED classes and my next quest is to obtain an Oregon driver's license. My Work Experience Specialist is Jessica Matheny. I want to say "thank you" to her for not just doing her job, but also for wanting to help others. I would not be where I am today if it were not for the help of both Central City Concern and SE Works providing me with the guidance to become who I want to be.

## Connect to Careers

**Aligned Partner Referral: Human Solutions.**

Human Solutions helps low-income and homeless families and individuals in gaining self-sufficiency by providing affordable housing, family support services, job readiness training, and economic development opportunities.

This customer was referred to Connect to Careers from Human Solutions Action for Prosperity program. Once referred, the Job Developer and Vocational Case Manager (VCM) assisted this customer with his employment search through regular communication, sending him job leads, and following up on the jobs the customer had applied to.

This customer expressed interest in the woodworking field, specifically cabinetry, as he had over 15 years of prior experience from his country of origin. The Job Developer worked closely with this customer to reassess and evaluate his resume and cover letter to meet the expectations of employers in this field. The Job Developer contacted employers in the wood working sector, and with the VCM, assisted the customer on interviewing skills, and how he should present himself when approaching employers. They coached the customer on how to follow through on job leads and applications before and after interviews.

The customer felt confident about reentering this field. The customer actively followed through on all job leads and landed an interview with a prominent, local, 30+ year custom wood residential cabinet manufacturing company. The customer interviewed well and was hired on full time with a starting salary of \$15 an hour with full benefits after his probation period. The customer has stated that he is happy to be back in the workforce working in the industry that he loves.

We are open for referrals in all Connect to Services. For More Information please call: Tim Finnegan, Manager of Workforce Development at 503-772-2337 or via email at [tfinnegan@seworks.org](mailto:tfinnegan@seworks.org).