

UPLIFT Eureka

By uplifting one individual in need, together we can strengthen our entire community.



February 2020



**Pathway to
Payday**

**Job Skills
Training**

**Housing
Assistance**

**Co-Pilot
Program**

**Mental Health
& Addiction
Referrals**

BACKGROUND & PARTNERS

In November 2018, the **City of Eureka** expanded its efforts to address and prevent homelessness by establishing **UPLIFT Eureka**. UPLIFT Eureka is operated by the Eureka Community Services Department and funded by the City of Eureka, grant funding and fundraising efforts.

As a community driven program, the following partners make these life changing efforts possible: Eureka Police Department's Community Safety Engagement Team (CSET), the County of Humboldt and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Betty Kwan Chinn Day Center, Waterfront Recovery Services and the Eureka Rescue Mission.

PERSPECTIVE

UPLIFT Eureka believes in every individual's capacity for positive change and is invested in supporting those in need to become a successful pilot of their own lives and overcome barriers to employment and housing.

The challenge with attempting to "solve" the issue of homelessness is that it's not one simple issue. There are many factors that fall under the umbrella of "homelessness". These include mental illness, addiction, poverty, unemployment and a wide variety of unique individual situations that result in members of our community finding themselves without housing.

UPLIFT Eureka is not designed to take the place of existing services, or even supplement them; it's a comprehensive program designed to directly guide individuals to existing resources, and ensure they are in a position to take advantage of those resources, by providing support and programming to help them empower themselves to a better quality of life.

"I'm on my way up!"

- Bobby, UPLIFT Eureka Participant

PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

Based on Housing First principles, **UPLIFT Eureka** has no barriers to entry and no requirements.

Participants meet weekly at the Betty Kwan Chinn Day Center with **UPLIFT** team members. This gives *Participants* an opportunity to discuss the successes and challenges they face each week in a supportive and collaborative atmosphere. *Participants* are referred in the following ways:

Partnership Programs: Referrals from The Eureka Police Department, Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), The Betty Kwan Chinn Day Center, Waterfront Recovery Services & The Eureka Rescue Mission.

Homeless Outreach Workers: In partnership with the Eureka Police Department, H.O.W.s engage in direct street-based outreach to homeless members of the community and refer interested individuals to **UPLIFT Eureka** and other community resources such as mental health and addiction services.

Diversion Pilot Program: Eureka Police offers certain low-level offenders the *Diversion Program*. This is a completely voluntary option. If the individual agrees to participate, they will have a limited amount of time to meet with **UPLIFT** staff and achieve personal milestones that connect them with services and work towards goals that will help improve their current situation.

Open to the public: **UPLIFT Eureka** is an inclusive program and any member of the public is welcome to participate.



PATHWAY TO PAYDAY



Pathway to Payday is a four-day employment workshop that takes place in partnership with the Betty Kwan Chinn Day Center. This workshop focuses on the enhancement of application, resume and interview skills, and offers participants the opportunity to interview with real employers for real jobs, receiving tangible feedback that they can apply to future interviews.



PARTICIPANT PERSPECTIVE:

"I recently attended this amazing program. I have never witnessed or felt so much love and compassion in one place! See I have been working very hard to heal from a recent trauma. But none of you knew that and yet every one of you treated me and everyone there so kindly. Thank you all for being a part in helping me to heal a bit more."

-Robert, UPLIFT Eureka Participant

OUR IMPACT

127 community members have acquired employment through this workshop which garners a 90+% success rate with *Participants* who complete all four days receiving a second interview or a job offer. By partnering with over 40 local businesses, **Pathway to Payday** is able to offer participants opportunities to interview for a variety of occupations and industries.

JOB SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM

Through a variety of City projects, *Participants* gain experience performing duties including trail maintenance, landscaping, vegetation removal, painting, trash pick-ups and graffiti removal.



Participants often receive overwhelming gratitude, support and encouragement from community members that see them in action. In addition to experiencing the reward of contributing positively to the community, this program gives *Participants* valuable job skills training experience that can

help boost their resume and help enable them to obtain future employment.

This stipend program is available for *Participants* for up to 12 weeks with a goal of preparing them for the transition into the workforce.

OUR IMPACT

Since November 2018, 136 community members have utilized this program to gain the skills, experience, training and confidence to gain employment.



HOUSING ASSISTANCE

UPLIFT Eureka in partnership with the County of Humboldt has secured **grant funding to provide housing assistance and supportive services.**

Temporary rental assistance and security deposits are available to participants that meet certain grant criteria. Volunteer Co-pilots help navigate and support each *Participant's* goals and needs on their way to finding housing as well as supplemental support from a *Housing Support Specialist* once housed to provide stabilization services.

OUR IMPACT

27 individuals have obtained permanent housing in just 11 weeks, bringing the program total to 38 community members permanently housed as of February 2020.



MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION REFERRALS

Through community partnerships, *UPLIFT Eureka* connects community members with Mental Health and Addiction services.

Our *Homeless Outreach Worker* meets with community members where they are and is able to schedule appointments, provide transportation and a warm hand off to service providers. *UPLIFT Eureka*, Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services and Waterfront Recovery Services work as a team to treat those suffering from addiction & mental health issues with respect and compassion.

Co-PILOT PROGRAM



Houseless individuals who participate in *UPLIFT Eureka* can be matched up with a Volunteer *Co-Pilot* who meet weekly and serve as a liaison between *UPLIFT Eureka Participants* and resources in the community. *Co-Pilots* establish relationships with community partners in advance and advocate for the *Participants*. *Co-Pilots* help to reach out to partners to set up appointments, ask follow-up questions or can even meet a *Participant* at a specific service provider within the community for additional support.

Participants will be guided step-by-step to access various resources as they work their way towards success. The *Co-Pilot's* priority is to ensure that their assigned

Participant has the tools to access the necessary resources, whether connecting them with medical services, or helping obtain required documentation for employment and housing.

The consistency of the *Co-Pilot* will also bring a familiarity and personal touch to the program. This program provides opportunities for

Participants to better their own lives and to encourage others along way.

Eureka's Co-Pilot Program



"We got this!"

"I appreciated all of the encouragement, positive vibes, and hands on help"

-UPLIFT Participant

SUCCESS STORY

One year ago, Ricky was without a driver's license, resume, employment, housing and transportation. He was able to gain full time employment through the Pathway to Payday program and utilize assistance through the Co-Pilot program to obtain his driver's license and secure housing. Today, Ricky is employed full time at Recology, owns a vehicle and has permanent housing.



"The UPLIFT program was a change of life for me too, helped me change and gave me self-esteem."

We want to thank businesses like Recology for participating in this life changing program:

"UPLIFT Eureka provides employable people with developed work ethics for local employers.

Recology is proud to be able to help these people to further develop skills that they can carry with them for a lifetime."

-Linda Wise
Recology General Manager

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

