



ECONOMIC MOBILITY



Economic mobility is the opportunity for individuals and families to improve their financial situation over time, creating stronger local economies and thriving communities. Its impact is seen when families move from merely surviving to becoming stable and, ultimately, thriving. Advancing to higher-wage jobs, reducing debt, building savings, and securing stable housing not only changes a family's lifestyle, it creates ripple effects that span generations.

United Way plays a critical role in this work. We strategically invest resources into programs that help families progress along the economic mobility continuum and advocate for the conditions that make long-term upward mobility possible for all.

6,088

individuals served through quality and affordable housing programs

83%

of individuals served, maintained, or improved housing situation

3,585

individuals supported through workforce programs

81%

obtaining or improving employment

VITA
VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

**2,025 TAX
RETURNS PREPARED**

\$2,323,384

FEDERAL TAX RETURNS

\$480,787

STATE TAX RETURNS

\$2,804,171

TOTAL RETURNS

VITA PROGRAM SPONSORS:

 **Transamerica™**
JONES COUNTY SUPERVISORS

 **WELLS
FARGO**



1,111

individuals served at the Opportunity Center receiving support with top needs such as job applications and resumes.



By offering resources such as job search support, digital literacy training, career development, and connections to social services, the Opportunity Center addresses real barriers that many individuals face in achieving economic stability and personal growth.”

— **ERIN NORWOOD** OPPORTUNITY CENTER PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Economic mobility and systems change go hand in hand. Creating lasting solutions means going beyond temporary fixes - it requires transforming the systems that shape people's lives.

That's where United Way plays a unique role. We invest in programs that help individuals build stability while also aligning resources, bringing partners together, and using data to drive collective action. Together, we work to create a community where everyone has the opportunity to move upward and thrive.

One solution we want to highlight is the Opportunity Center at Ladd Library. The Opportunity Center is a collaborative effort between UWEI, the Cedar Rapids Public Library, Kirkwood Community College, HACAP, and the City of Cedar Rapids. Designed as a single-entry point for individuals seeking services, it works to create equitable and sustainable workforce systems.