Employment Resource Fund

What Is the Employment Resource Fund?
The Employment Resource Fund (ERF) is a local, self-sustaining work and education fund serving Wayne County. Its mission is to help build a skilled local workforce by supporting employment-related programs and removing practical financial barriers that can keep hardworking adults from getting a job, keeping a job, or moving into a better-paying position.

The fund provides grants to local nonprofits with employment programs. Those organizations use relatively small amounts of assistance to help students, clients, and employees cover work- or training-related needs such as work boots, clothing, tuition, required fees and supplies, certifications, licenses, job-search materials, emergency transportation, and car repairs.

The fund began in 1987 as the HOPE Fund, established by Adult Education and GED graduate Dr. Jonnie Jill Phipps at the Wayne County Schools Career Center. It moved to the Foundation in 2000 after being adopted by the Wayne County Common Good.

Employment Resource Fund
REDUCING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT
Affiliate Fund of Wayne County Community Foundation

For more information, contact:
United Way of Wayne & Holmes Counties
330-264–5576

Donate to the Employment Resource Fund:
Because of donations and the investment wisdom of Wayne County Community Foundation, the Fund has grown significantly. It now supports 9 employment-related initiatives sponsored by 8 different local organizations.

Why Donate?
Think of the Employment Resource Fund as a community savings account. As it grows, there is more to invest in new initiatives—more scholarships, grants and loans. This will allow the Fund to continue to support the good work of local organizations that help hard-working adults become gainfully employed. Join with us today to build a thriving workforce in Wayne County and to reduce dependency on costly social services by donating to this Fund.

Adopt an Initiative.
If you or your organization, would like to support the Fund by adopting an initiative, please contact, us! Westminster Presbyterian Church, with the help of Aspire students, each winter makes and sells Hearty Italian Soup. This simple fundraiser provides $1,000 yearly to help adults complete their GED's, learn English or get jobs. It's a community blessing!

More about the Employment Resource Fund

Join the Steering Committee
The ERF Steering Committee is made up of community volunteers who provide leadership for the fund and serve as liaisons to local organizations sponsoring employment-related initiatives. Committee members help connect the fund with Wayne County organizations that are assisting adults with employment, education, training, and workforce-development needs. Individuals interested in serving can review the **Employment Resource Fund Steering Committee Guidelines and Member Application** and submit an application to be considered.

How do nonprofits organizations apply for a grant?
Wayne County nonprofit organizations with programs that support employment, education, job readiness, or workforce advancement may apply for an ERF initiative grant. Funding is intended for **new initiatives** that increase the success of students, clients, or employees as they pursue jobs or better jobs.

The Steering Committee accepts initiative grant applications **at any time**. Organizations should explain the initiative they want to launch, the adults it will serve, and how the requested funding will help participants overcome barriers to employment or training.

Nonprofits can access the application here: **Employment Resource Fund Initiative Grant Application**.

How Students, Clients, and Employees Can Apply
Adults with financial need who are participating in an employment-related program may request ERF assistance for **employment resources*** through a participating school or agency. Applicants should complete the **fillable ERF application** and submit it to their counselor, instructor, or employment supervisor.

Eligible applicants may also contact **United Way of Wayne and Holmes Counties** at **330-264-5576** for information and assistance.

Participating schools and agencies include:

- ASPIRE
- Adult Education, Wayne County Schools Career Center
- Anazao Re-entry Program
- Community Action of Wayne County
- The Counseling Center
- United Way of Wayne and Holmes Counties—Community Partners
- Wayne College—Emergency Book Loans and Education & Nursing Student Expenses
- Wayne County Public Library—Resume Resources

***Employment resources**, for work or training, include, but are not limited to: work boots, clothing, tuition, required fees or supplies, certifications, licenses, job search supplies, emergency transportation and car repairs.*