



GETTING AHEAD CALL FOR MENTORS

Erie Together's *Getting Ahead* program is partnering with local labor unions to identify adults willing to serve as mentors to other adults working hard to improve their lives and become more self-sufficient.

Through the *Getting Ahead* program, participants take part in a structured curriculum and set three personal self-sufficiency goals. They are then matched with mentors who provide moral support and encouragement as they work to achieve their goals.

The Mentor has three primary responsibilities:

1. Make an intentional friendship with a person in poverty and join them on their journey to achieve their goals.
2. Increase awareness of one's own stereotypes and class rules and be willing to look beyond them.
3. Use the experience of the friendship to advocate within the community for changes to barriers that keep poverty in place.

The Mentor commitment is:

1. Two to three hours of time per month.
2. After mentors are matched with mentees, there is:
 - a. One monthly "Big View" meeting with other *Getting Ahead* participants and program staff to discuss challenges.
 - b. Phone and in-person contact between the mentor and mentee as needed throughout the month.
3. There is **no financial commitment** required of the mentor.

Mentors receive the following support:

1. *Bridges out of Poverty* training (3 to 4 hours).
2. Program staff available to answer questions and offer advice.

To become a mentor, contact Ron Oliver, Labor Liaison, at 814-860-1793 or ron@unitedwayerie.org **or** Mary Bula, Erie Together Facilitator, at 814-456-2937 x231 or mary@erietogether.org.