

United Way supports job readiness services for family-sustaining employment, and provides services so that people can gain and sustain assets.

Our efforts bring together workplace partnerships to assist lower-wage employees access to financial education, coaching, free tax preparation, banking services, and to build pathways to financial stability.

Frisco came to the Head Start to the Construction Trades (HCT) program while in a federal halfway house after being incarcerated.

During that time, he was working long and hard hours for minimum wage at a pizza restaurant. When he saw the HCT flyer, he had few skills and nothing to his name so he decided to take a chance. Before attending, he had many people discourage him from taking the class, but he pushed forward.

This decision ultimately changed his life! After graduating from HCT, he was accepted into the AGC Laborers Apprenticeship (Inland Northwest AGC Apprenticeship). This led him to receiving the opportunity to work for a local construction company (DSI), and he has now been employed for nearly two years. He is also working on graduating from the AGC Apprenticeship as a journeyman!

Frisco encourages anyone who is looking to take control of their life to take an HCT class. He expresses that the HCT and AGC programs offer opportunities for financial freedom and skills that can never be



Photo by Vince Fleming on Unsplash

taken away. In particular, the AGC Apprenticeship provides the opportunity to learn a skill while working/getting paid and an opportunity to move up by working hard.

“The HCT program changed my life by giving me a chance at life and a chance to support myself and my family. When I was released from incarceration, I had nothing. I now own three cars, I have skills, a sense of self-accomplishment, and options that have kept me free from prison. When you’re given an opportunity, it’s your attitude and hard work that will be your decider.”

Head Start to the Construction Trades:

64 individuals were trained in constructions trades and 70% of students who have responded to HCT staff have received employment after graduation.

Last year 644 individuals participated in job readiness programs. Your generosity gives new opportunities for people by providing skills-based trainings, financial classes, affordable housing, and a holistic approach to getting basic needs met.



Spokane County United Way

Spokane County United Way fights for the Health, Education and Financial Stability of every person in our community.