Breaking Away from Poverty - One Kentucky Community Leverages Partnerships

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Richmond, Kentucky is the 6th largest city in the state, with a population of 33,533 (2015 Census). Richmond is the seat of Madison County that has a population of 82,916.

Richmond serves as the center of work and shopping for south-central Kentucky.

The unemployment rate is 4% (March 2018).

Geographically, Richmond sits in the foothills of the Appalachian Region.
Welcome to Eastern Kentucky University

- Opened in 1906 to educate teachers, in 1948 began awarding non-professional degrees
- 1 of 8 state-funded four-year universities
- Enrollment of 17,000 students
- Richmond houses the residential campus, plus 3 regional campuses
- Approximately 51% of students come from Appalachia region, 56% female, 82% white, 97% receive financial aid, 50% receive Pell grants
- Special populations include: approximately 1,700 veterans or active military, approx. 3,000 student parents, # first generation
KY River Foothills Development Council, Inc./Eastern Scholar House, LLLP

- 50+ Active Years
- A Community Action Agency
- Programs to Serve or Solve
- Developing community resources so that all persons may have lives of dignity, responsibility and opportunity.
- Self - Sufficiency is the primary GOAL.
Education Pays Program

➢ Kentucky Works Program (KWP) provides education, training, experience and employment to Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) recipients (federal TANF).

➢ Eastern KY University received a state KWP grant in 1998. The program assists KWP participants towards self sufficiency by providing

✓ academic support
✓ career development
✓ work experience
What EPC Does

- Academic Support
  - Full time academic counselor
  - Tutoring requirement
  - Mentoring requirement
  - Workshops/1:1 counseling
  - Private study space
  - Private computer lab

- Career Development
  - Resume writing
  - Interview skills
  - Career services
What EPC Does

➢ Work Experience
  ✓ Work study positions
  ✓ On and off campus placements
  ✓ Paid employment meets KTAP requirement
  ✓ Networking with potential employers
EPC Outcomes

➢ Higher than university average retention rate- 93-100%
➢ Higher than university average GPA- 2.83
➢ 40-50 participants each academic year
➢ 5 year graduation rate
➢ In 2017-2018 academic year-
  ✓ Fall 17’- 7 with GPA of 3.5 of higher
  ✓ Spring 18’- 9 with GPA 3.5 or higher
  ✓ 1- associate degree
  ✓ 6 bachelor degrees
  ✓ 1 master degree
➢ 20th year at EKU
What We Were Missing

➢ Decent and affordable housing

➢ Reliable, easily accessible, quality child care

➢ Reliable transportation between home, school, daycare
How it Happened -

➢ University - EKU
➢ Funders
  ✓ KY Housing Corporation  
  ✓ FAHE  
  ✓ Ohio Capital Corporation  
  ✓ City of Richmond/Section 8
Had all the pieces just now in one place!
Eastern Scholar House

Programming

- Monthly Parent Meetings
- Multicultural Night
- Child Abuse Awareness
- Drug Real Talk
- Budgeting
- Police And Fire
- Wellness
- Mental Health
- GIVE AWAYS!!
What Makes Partnerships Work

- No agency splitting
- Sharing of resources
- Effective communication
- Recognizing the expertise of others
- Build the relationship
- Monthly meetings
- Share the work load
- Collaborating on projects

- Inclusive spirit
- Get out of your silo
What Damages Partnerships

- Fighting over money
- After the same donors
- Poor commitment from parties
- Not being inclusive
- Big EGOS
Sharing - 17 Minutes

- Identify one successful partnership that worked
- What made this partnership work
- What would you like to accomplish and who do you need to partner with
- What would you identify as some of the potential problems with that partnership and how can you be prepared for them
Q and A

Ask the Experts -
Wait! Who are the Experts??