

TIME COMMITMENT

After you've completed the Bridges Out Of Poverty training, you will be paired with a Getting Ahead participant for an 18-month period. Your commitment as a mentor will be 3 hours per month, including:

- One monthly meeting with Getting Ahead participants and staff to discuss challenges
- Phone or in-person contact with your participant as needed throughout the month

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR MENTORS?

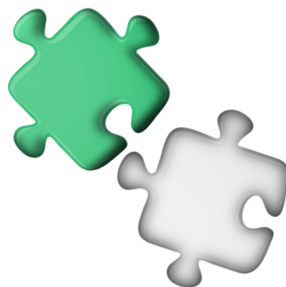
- **Personal satisfaction** from making a difference in someone's life
- Enhancing your **leadership** and **interpersonal skills**
- Increasing your **professional networks** through contact with other Getting Ahead mentors and staff
- **Staying connected** with and **giving back** to the Erie community



MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the program and how to become a mentor please contact:

Kathy Stearns, Project Coordinator
814-459-4581 ext. 652
kstearns@gecac.org



The Getting Ahead program is housed at:
Greater Erie Community Action Committee
18 W. 9th Street, Erie, PA 16501
814-459-4581

www.erietogether.org/getting-ahead

GETTING AHEAD



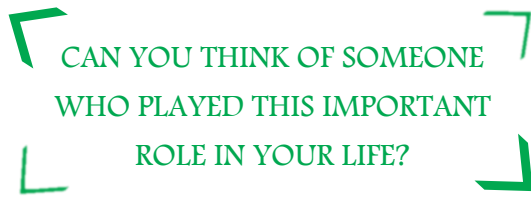
MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

www.erietogether.org



WHAT IS A MENTOR?

Most of us can think of people in our lives, more experienced than ourselves, who taught us something new, offered advice, presented a challenge, initiated friendship, or simply expressed an interest in our development as a person. They helped us negotiate an uphill path or find an entirely new path to a goal in our personal and/or professional lives. They showed us a world larger than our neighborhood. They pointed out talents that we hadn't noticed in ourselves and stimulated ideas about what we might be able to accomplish.



Although many of us have benefited from these kinds of relationships, one disadvantage to living in poverty is a lack of access to mentors, positive role models, and the valuable information that these relationships offer. That is why **YOUR** involvement is such an important part of the Getting Ahead program!

WHAT IS GETTING AHEAD?

Getting Ahead is an Erie Together program that focuses on the elimination of poverty in Erie County. Our mission is to provide participants – low income individuals and

returning citizens – with the tools they need to move from dependency to self-sufficiency. Upon completion of a 10-week course on how to “Get Ahead” when living in poverty, participants are paired with a mentor – someone like **YOU** – from the community, who offers them support and acts as a positive role model, while they work to fulfill their goals and **get ahead**.

AS A MENTOR YOU OFFER:

- **Information.** Mentors share their knowledge, experiences, and wisdom.
- **Contacts.** Mentors provide valuable opportunities by facilitating academic, career, and personal contacts.
- **Challenges.** Mentors stimulate curiosity and build confidence by presenting new ideas, opportunities, and challenges.
- **Support.** Mentors encourage growth and achievement by providing an open and supportive environment.
- **Goal Setting.** Mentors help Participants discover talents and interests and define and attain their goals.
- **Advice.** Mentors guide Participants in reaching academic, career, and personal goals.
- **Role Models.** By sharing stories of achievement with Participants, Mentors can become role models.

TRAINING

As a mentor, **YOU** will play a vital role in the success of the Getting Ahead program and the success of our participants. Because of this, **we require mentors to attend a one-time, 3.5 hour training**, based on Bridges Out Of Poverty, prior to becoming a mentor for the program. This training will **introduce you to a framework for understanding poverty** and will provide you with powerful tools designed **to help you more effectively serve those who live or have lived in poverty**. We offer the Bridges Out Of Poverty training on the following days/times at Greater Erie Community Action Committee (GECAC), at 18 W. 9th Street, Erie, PA 16501:

JAN	MARCH	MAY
4th Tuesday 5pm–8:30pm	3rd Thursday 8:30am–12pm	2nd Wednesday 5pm–8:30pm
SEPT	NOV	
2nd Tuesday 5pm–8:30pm	3rd Wednesday 8:30am–12pm	

To register for a Bridges Out Of Poverty training event, please email kstearns@gecac.org with your availability.