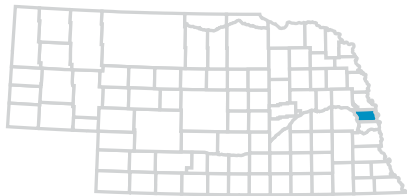


Developing America's Workforce

County Roles, Barriers and Solutions - County Case Studies



Douglas County, Nebraska



2021 POPULATION: **585,008**
U.S. REGION: **CENTRAL**
ARCHETYPE: **SMALLER INDEPENDENT ECONOMIES**



NACo Counties for Career Success Participant

Douglas County is home to the state's most populous city, Omaha, distinguishing its workforce development landscape from many of Nebraska's other, relatively rural counties. In Douglas County, marginalized communities – especially communities of color – are physically separated from wealthier ones, limiting access to services and supports that increase opportunity and equity in prosperity. Specifically, residents who need additional support with language and/or basic math face barriers to pursuing post-secondary education. If not addressed, these challenges can lead to low retention in training programs.

Barriers



TRANSPORTATION



ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Solutions

RIDESHARE PARTNERSHIPS

To reduce barriers to post-secondary education, Metropolitan Community College (MCC) operates the [Pass to Class](#) program to provide public transportation bus passes to students. MCC also compensates for gaps in public transportation by funding rideshare services to and from classes. MCC contracts directly with private rideshare companies to reduce costs of this program.

REFERRAL NETWORKS

In addition, training providers like MCC often recruit new participants by establishing strong referral systems with other community service providers. For example, local nonprofit [Open Door Mission](#) offers employment support embedded into substance use recovery services. The program prevents loss of housing or other support while a person is enrolled in an education program and looking for work.



Scan to access the full report and other case studies