

Innovations in Economic Mobility - June 2025



THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS



DOLLARWISE
MAYORS FOR ECONOMIC MOBILITY

About Dollarwise

DollarWise is the Economic Mobility Campaign of the United States Conference of Mayors, supported by its founding sponsor, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. The Campaign fosters and supports innovative programs to remove barriers to employment, promote educational opportunities, enhance financial capability, and build assets such as homeownership and retirement savings. This year, DollarWise addressed four primary components of economic mobility:

1. Assisting returning citizens
2. Expanding childcare services
3. Assisting immigrant populations
4. Removing specific barriers to mobility

About the DollarWise Innovation Grants Programs

Each year, DollarWise provides \$10,000 grants to seven cities to help develop and expand innovative, scalable programs aimed at advancing economic mobility in underserved communities. These Innovation Grants are intended to support creative municipal efforts that break down barriers to opportunity and promote wealth-building. Funded initiatives have included support for minority-owned businesses, services for immigrant communities, driver's license restoration, record expungement, and programs focused on childcare and entrepreneurship. As of 2025, DollarWise has supported more than 100 cities across the United States through this initiative.

**Below are the 2025 winners of the DollarWise Innovation Grants
recognized for their exceptional programs and supported by Bank of America.**



Allentown, PA
Mayor Matt Tuerk
Job Weatherization Training Program

Allentown will support a 3-year weatherization job training program to prepare residents for employment in the clean energy sector. The program will train 40 participants in energy efficiency, home weatherization, and systems troubleshooting, providing certifications, stipends, and support services such as childcare and transportation. The Innovation Grant will be used to help trainees overcome employment barriers and support job placement efforts.



Beaverton, OR
Mayor Lacey Beaty
West Side Works Program

Beaverton will expand the West Side Works program, which addresses the childcare workforce shortage by placing community members in early childhood education programs as paid aides. Participants earn above minimum wage, receive completion bonuses, and gain experience that often leads to full-time employment. The grant, administered through Worksystems of the local workforce development board, will allow community members to participate and help meet growing childcare demands across the region.



Philadelphia, PA
Mayor Charelle Parker
Same Day Work and Pay Program

Philadelphia will enhance the Same Day Work and Pay program, which offers low-barrier work opportunities through community improvement projects for residents facing economic insecurity, homelessness, and mental or behavioral health challenges. The grant will fund pilot efforts that connect participants to longer-term employment pathways and trauma-informed services.

2025 winners of the DollarWise Innovation Grants (continued)
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St. Louis, MO
Mayor Cara Spencer
Public Transportation Voucher Program

St. Louis will support a pilot program that provides six-month public transit passes to newly arrived foreign-born newcomers and refugees. The initiative removes transportation barriers and helps residents access employment, healthcare, and other daily necessities. The Innovation Grant will fund the initial rollout of this mobility-focused support system.



Spokane, WA
Mayor Lisa Brown
Post-Conviction Relief Program

Spokane will implement a post-conviction relief program to help low-income residents overcome legal barriers to employment and housing. Services include record expungement, driver's license restoration, and connections to healthcare and job training. The Innovation Grant will support outreach and cover filing fees to expand access to these critical services.



Tacoma, WA
Mayor Victoria Woodards
Childcare Facility Initiative

Tacoma will support the development of a combined training and childcare center to address employment and childcare access on Tacoma's east side. The center will offer apprenticeship classrooms and 24-hour childcare, with a focus on supporting women and underserved communities. The grant will fund early-stage planning, business development, and community outreach.

DollarWise Grants Programs:

The DollarWise Innovation Grants Program is designed to help cities build and scale innovative and replicable economic mobility programs within underserved communities. DollarWise supports creative city initiatives that remove barriers to economic mobility and create opportunities to build wealth.

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation has generously supported DollarWise since its inception. The DollarWise Campaign and the Innovation Grants Program grew out of a desire from members of The Conference of Mayors' Council on Metro Economies and the New American City to help residents learn more about economic mobility issues and to empower them to become investors in their communities.

DollarWise is the official economic mobility campaign of The United States Conference of Mayors and its Council on Metro Economies and the New American City.

For more information on how your city can participate in the DollarWise Economic Mobility Campaign, please contact USCM staff Mar'Quon Frederick (mfrederick@usmayors.org) or Dave Gatton (dgatton@usmayors.org).