



WIOA Education Sector Strategy – Expanding Parent Mentor Models Through School District Partnerships (RFP #25288) – Award Recommendation to United Way of Lake County

Background:

The Lake County Workforce Development Board issued RFP #25288 – WIOA Education Sector Strategy: Expanding Parent Mentor Models Through School District Partnerships in August 2025. The purpose of this solicitation was to strengthen collaboration between the workforce and education sectors through expansion of parent mentor and school engagement models that foster workforce readiness, career awareness, and family economic advancement.

The RFP sought a provider capable of coordinating education-based workforce initiatives that enhance family engagement, promote inclusive learning environments, and support transitions from education to employment.

Following a competitive review and scoring process, United Way of Lake County (UWLC) has been selected as the recommended awardee. United Way of Lake County brings an established network of partnerships with local school districts, strong experience in program coordination, and a proven record of delivering measurable outcomes through its Parent Mentor Program and other family engagement initiatives.

Through this initiative, UWLC will:

- Expand Parent Mentor programs within targeted Lake County school districts to engage parents as classroom and community leaders.
- Deliver job readiness and skill-building workshops that connect families to local employment and training resources.
- Coordinate workforce and education partners to align mentorship, support services, and career pathway exposure.
- Provide program data, evaluation, and continuous improvement reporting consistent with WIOA requirements.

The proposed agreement will utilize \$100,000 in WIOA funding to support program coordination, family engagement, staff training, and evaluation activities.

Strategic Alignment:

This initiative directly supports the LCWDB strategic imperatives:

- Build a culture of equitable prosperity – Strengthening connections between families, schools, and workforce opportunities.
- Expand workforce access for underrepresented populations – Providing direct pathways for parents and caregivers to engage in career development.
- Strengthen system partnerships – Aligning education and workforce systems to support long-term economic mobility.
- Prepare for future workforce needs – Engaging students and families early to promote career awareness and readiness.