TOGETHER, WE’RE BUILDING A MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

The Center for Strong Families is the result of unique collaborations with Pierce County agencies. The model incorporates common goals, best-practice service provisions and a partnership approach. Each Center for Strong Families site is developed organically according to local community needs and assets with partners at each site with a shared commitment to the core concepts.

United Way of Pierce County’s Center for Strong Families is a proud member of the national network of Financial Opportunity Centers, helping low- to moderate-income people build smart money habits and focus on their financial bottom line.

OUR CENTER FOR STRONG FAMILIES PARTNERS

Clover Park Technical College
Goodwill of Olympics and Rainier Region
Pierce County Housing Authority
Sound Outreach
Sound Outreach at Bethel School District
Tacoma Community House
Tacoma Housing Authority

GET CONNECTED TO A CENTER FOR STRONG FAMILIES SITE NEAR YOU

CALL SOUTH SOUND 2-1-1 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR VISIT UWPC.ORG

ACHIEVING FINANCIAL STABILITY

Getting more families on the road to financial stability is the driving force behind the creation of United Way of Pierce County’s Center for Strong Families. Our one-stop Financial Opportunity Centers help hard-working, low-income residents access free personalized, quality career and financial coaching as well as local resources. We want to ensure that local families have every opportunity to achieve economic mobility.
The Center for Strong Families helps hard working families reach financial stability. Our approach brings together a full range of essential financial supports in one convenient location to help families build self-sufficiency, stabilize their finances and move up the economic ladder. Improving family financial stability through job training and financial education gives determined residents the tools they need to thrive and break the cycle of poverty.

**Our Goals Are Your Goals**

The Center for Strong Families help families create step-by-step personal finance plans to tackle their specific needs. With the access to a free personal financial coach, attainable goal-setting plans are created in four key areas:

- **LEARN**: By achieving a level of post-secondary education and/or training.
- **EARN**: A sufficient family income for daily expenses, asset accumulation and minor emergencies.
- **KEEP**: Savings equal to three months’ worth of living expenses; have good credit.
- **GROW**: Develop smart debt through mainstream banking to gain appreciating assets.

**Crossing a Bridge to Success**

Many individuals and families who have been struggling to make ends meet are getting access to the building blocks to become financially stable. When you have financial stability, you can think past immediate needs to a broader horizon by creating achievable goals and investing resources for a brighter future.

**The Building Blocks to Financial Stability**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>IN THE PAST YEAR</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>342 People benefited from employment coaching services</td>
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<tr>
<td>68% Got better paying jobs / $1,235 increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43% Increased their net worth / $12,496 average</td>
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<tr>
<td>66% Increased their credit scores / average 47 points</td>
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“Apprenticeship training helped me to earn higher wages. Now I am working toward my journey level license as a plumber and in five years, I’ll be making top dollar with great benefits!”

- Michelle

“My motto was ‘make it to Wednesday’ because that is when payday falls. My family’s debt was out of control and our car was on its last legs. My financial coach and I made a plan that included a budget, savings and long-term goals. It’s a great feeling to get my confidence back—it helped me get a raise.”

- Daniel