



How the FIT Program Works

FIT for an Independent Tomorrow is a local, non-profit foundation that is accredited by United Way of Southern Nevada and 501(c)(3) qualified. By breaking the cycle of dependency through individual guidance and mentoring, FIT empowers motivated Nevadans to obtain the skills necessary for financial stability.

FIT's clients are the underemployed and the unemployed. They are hard working, honest people who simply can't earn enough to provide for their family without assistance. They are friends who were laid-off when their company was downsized. They are family members who lost their primary provider. They are people who never give up hope despite adversity.

People come to FIT through various referrals. Some read about FIT in the Review Journal; some were referred by entities such as Shade Tree, HELP of Southern Nevada and the court system. Last year, FIT received client referrals from over 140 sources.

Clients enter the FIT program in one of two projects, one featuring long term planning, and one addressing immediate, crucial needs:

The Workforce Development Project (WDP) addresses the long term. It provides funding for vocational training to clients who do not have the technical skills or work experience required to qualify for a career that pays a sufficient wage to create financial stability. In the WDP, clients are matched with a FIT Case Manager who will remain with them throughout their program.

The Employment Project (EP) offers more immediate assistance, particularly designed for people who must get a job right now to get their family off the street. Take, for example, the man who lost his job ten months ago and is desperately trying to figure out how to feed his three teenage daughters. He has a Letter of Intent for an employer to hire him tomorrow, but only if he can get to the job at a casino on the far end of Boulder Highway on time. Without FIT's Employment Project, that man would forfeit his immediate ability to bring in some money for his family, simply because he lacked the \$55 necessary for a bus pass. FIT can, and does, provide that immediate assistance to get people into jobs.

Standards of Excellence: Newly added in March 2009, FIT clients are now taught, as part of the FIT program, our Standards of Excellence curriculum. These learning modules teach the "soft skills" necessary to procure and maintain employment and include: financial literacy, personal budgeting, employment readiness, computer skills, keyboarding, resume writing, interviewing and job search skills, and professionalism.

FIT's program is one of very intensive, individualized help with the long-term result of financial stability and self-sufficiency. By taking a holistic approach to address the needs of each client individually, FIT offers a unique opportunity for the motivated underemployed of southern Nevada to become productive, financially secure members of the workforce. The bottom-line is that FIT empowers clients into: ***Better Jobs. Brighter Futures.***[®]