

20
25

EVELYN K. DAVIS CENTER
**COMMUNITY
REPORT**



DMACC |  Evelyn K. Davis Center
FOR WORKING FAMILIES

1171 7TH STREET, DES MOINES, IA 50314 | 515-697-7700 | EVELYNKDAVISCENTER.ORG

OVERVIEW

ONE OF THE BEST COMPONENTS OF THE EVELYN K. DAVIS CENTER IS THE ABILITY FOR CLIENTS TO RECEIVE MULTIPLE SERVICES AT A SINGLE LOCATION.

As clients speak with a financial coach, visit the clothing closet, or complete a digital skills class, they always receive an overview of the various programming available in the building. In addition to our very personable staff, we pride ourselves on being able to make direct connections for our clients to other programs both in the building, and in the community. Countless clients have expressed their amazement and appreciation for initially needing help to find a job, or improving their resume, locating a dress shirt for a job interview, or wanting to build their credit score and then realizing how they can benefit from our other programming at the center.

Total number of clients that came through the door for January 2025 – December 2025 was **16,036**. Total number of unique clients was **4,042**.



IN 2025, EKD INCREASED STAFFING BY HIRING 14 STAFF

ELEVEN PART-TIME STAFF:

Guadalupe Lopez
Career Coach

Marh Abdulmahdi
Lead Career Coach

Ishmael Muhikira
Career Coach

Asunta Majok
Career Coach

Martha Payano-Navarro
Career Coach

Alicia Hoyos
Small Business Specialist

Erika Baty
FEC Outreach Specialist

Dwight Jackson
FEC Outreach Specialist

Annie Banda
FEC Outreach Specialist

Twyla Woods-Buford
FEC Outreach Specialist

Ivan Guerra
Career Coach

THREE FULL-TIME STAFF:

Mercedes Motton
Financial Empowerment Center Specialist

George Curtis Baugh
Small Business Solution Manager

Marh Abdulmahdi
Lead Career Coach



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Y-ExCL provides youth (ages 14 to 24) with life skills, job training, financial education, and paid internship experiences, helping them become better prepared for postsecondary education and employment in high demand industries and occupations. In 2025, we enrolled **36 new participants** who were paid **\$14 per hour** for up to 20 hours per week for the ten-week program. The first two weeks of Y-ExCL were for pre-employment training which focuses on workplace etiquette, professional communication, SMART goalsetting, community resources, financial capability, and post-secondary education options available in our community including visits to DMACC Urban, Grandview University and a presentation by the DMACC Workforce Training Academy. During the balance of the summer, participants were placed at one of **17 employer partners** throughout the community. These opportunities ranged from a fitness center, a software company, a local hospital, a culinary program, summer programming for local nonprofit agencies, the Des Moines Public Library, a digital news company, and two childcare centers. For half of our youth, this was their first work experience. We always recruit youth from every major high school and district throughout the metro. The summer 2025 cohort was an incredibly driven group of participants. **“This was the greatest group of young people we’ve ever worked with!” – Y-ExCL employer partner.**

Another reality of youth experiences in our community is the adult responsibilities many teens encounter at a young age. Out of the 36 participants enrolled this year, only one was unable to graduate due to family caregiving responsibilities.

“
**This was the
greatest group
of young people
we’ve ever
worked with!”**

– Y-ExCL employer partner.



OPPORTUNITY PASSPORT



Opportunity Passport is an asset-building approach to increasing the financial capability of youth and young adults aged 14 to 26 who are or have been in foster care. Opportunity Passport helps young people develop financial capability skills, connect to mainstream banking, save money, and provide up to **\$1,000** every calendar year for approved asset purchases. These purchase requests include first month's rent and/or a security deposit for a new apartment lease, a down payment for a new or used vehicle, a laptop for college or trade school, or collateral for a secured credit card.

In 2025, we enrolled **44 new youth participants and served a total of 140 youth** in our community. We typically aim to enroll 30-35 new participants each year. This year we approved \$25,864 for 29 asset purchases. This surpasses our 2024 matches by \$1,500.

“ I used to be so stressed out all the time, but the Opportunity Passport matching funds helped me get a reliable car. Now I can go to work, school, and my doctor’s appointments.”

- Angela, Opportunity Passport participant



MEN ON THE MOVE CLOTHING CLOSET

In 2025, we served 1232 clients through mid-December. For context, we served 812 clients in 2024 (50% increase).

This year we have made a concerted effort to transition the clothing closet to support clothing needs for the various seasons and change the types of dress codes for various employment sectors. Beginning in the fall of 2025, we have a volunteer named Greg, who has dramatically aided our organizational efforts with

“Men on the Move has been a true blessing to me. This whole center is amazing!” - Clint

both the outward-facing clothing closet and our storage closet at the Evelyn K. Davis Center. This renewed organization allows us to have a better grasp of the types and sizes of clothing donations and amounts of clothing we

can seek from the community. Since the clothing closet offers a tremendous visual, and the community can easily support the closet with donations. Men on the Move tends to have a higher volume of social media traffic within the center.

“ You have no idea how much these two pairs of pants are going to help me. This restaurant job requires me to have black pants, but I couldn’t afford to buy them until I get my first paycheck after starting the job!”

- Jeremy





2025

TOYS FOR TOTS

We supported 516 families, and almost 1,500 children in our community this season.



SMALL BUSINESS

Participated in the ServSafe course happening on January 27. Promoting the event through email campaigns and social media channels.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH / NETWORKING:

Partnering with the City of Des Moines, launched a new quarterly networking event called Small Business Connect. Next session is scheduled for December 15th.



FEC/PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR, FEC HAS SAVED CLIENTS **\$846,000** THROUGH COMBINED PROGRAMS/SERVICES.

NEIGHBORHOOD FINANCE CORPORATION (NFC)

FOCUS: Explore collaborative strategies to help promote the journey to homeownership for Polk County residents, including financial counseling support and joint outreach opportunities.

GOLDMAN SACHS 10,000 SMALL BUSINESSES

PURPOSE: Discuss opportunities to strengthen small business support, expand technical assistance, and align FEC services with Goldman Sachs' small business development framework.

MAINFRAME STUDIOS

GOAL: Explore partnership opportunities connecting FEC services with artists, entrepreneurs, and creative small businesses within the Mainframe Studios community.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION - HOMELESS PROGRAMS OFFICE

IDENTIFY: Identify ways to support veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness through financial empowerment counseling and resource navigation.

GOLDMAN SACHS 10,000 SMALL BUSINESSES

KEY OUTCOMES: Discussed collaboration to support small business owners in West Des Moines. Invitation extended for FEC to join the Chamber of Commerce.

Invitation to participate in 2026 Black & Brown Business Summit, providing visibility and expanded outreach to diverse entrepreneurs.

OTHERS INCLUDE

Chase Bank, Urban Dream, Broadlawns TECH CAN program, Polk County Jail, St. Vincent de Paul Education Center, ICADV-Financial Class, Tardes con Latinas, etc.



SUMMARY

These engagements demonstrate the EDKC's commitment to building strong partnerships with key educational, corporate, philanthropic, and community stakeholders. Each relationship advances shared goals to:

- a) **Strengthen** financial empowerment across diverse populations.
- b) **Support** local small business development and stability.
- c) **Expand** community collaboration to improve overall economic well-being in Polk County.

CAREER COACH

EMPLOYMENT METRICS	2024	2025
Number of Sessions	1761	2368
Unique Responders	1116	1361
Resume Count	1190	1353
How Many Times Applied	1169	1585
Total Applications	N/A	2227

CAREER FAIRS AND HIRING EVENTS	PEOPLE ATTENDED
EKD hosted a total of six career fairs in 2025. Seven languages were available.	
February 27th Career Fair	339
March 12th Goodwill Hiring Event	33
March 26th USPS Hiring Event	21
April 9th Unity Point Hiring Event	46
May 21st Career Fair	213
Sept 22nd Career Fair	155





Northside library satellite location - 10 AM to 12 PM every Wednesday.

POPPS PROGRAM

We had 2 classes in 2025. 1st class (Aug 6th and ended Sept 17) started with 13 students and graduated 9. Of the 9, 7 were on POPP and Total relief after 12 months will be \$212,000 dollars based on what they tell coach what they owe. It's a moving target so they can't be exact on what they own, from experience is that they always low ball the figures.

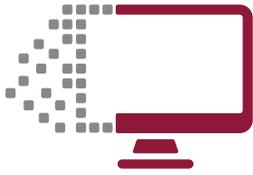
The second class (Aug. 6th to Nov 24th started with 10 students and graduated 9. Total POPP relief was \$112, 000. This amount is probably conservative, but I report what they tell me. The last half of 2025 EKD returned \$312,120 back to the community and some well-educated parents and grandparents on how to raise our children.

INSPIRING STORY

AN EDUCATION WORTH THE DRIVE

Franklin Lee Junior is from St. Paul, Mn and was never late and never absent. He drove the 6-hour two-way trip every Wednesday for 7 weeks. We as a class gave him a standing ovation for his commitment. He is a Des Moines native, and his children were born here so he qualified for relief. His past child support was owed to Iowa. He is the second former Iowan to drive down from Minneapolis every Wednesday from 5 - 7 pm, never late and never tardy. He owed \$36,000 Amount of money back in the community.





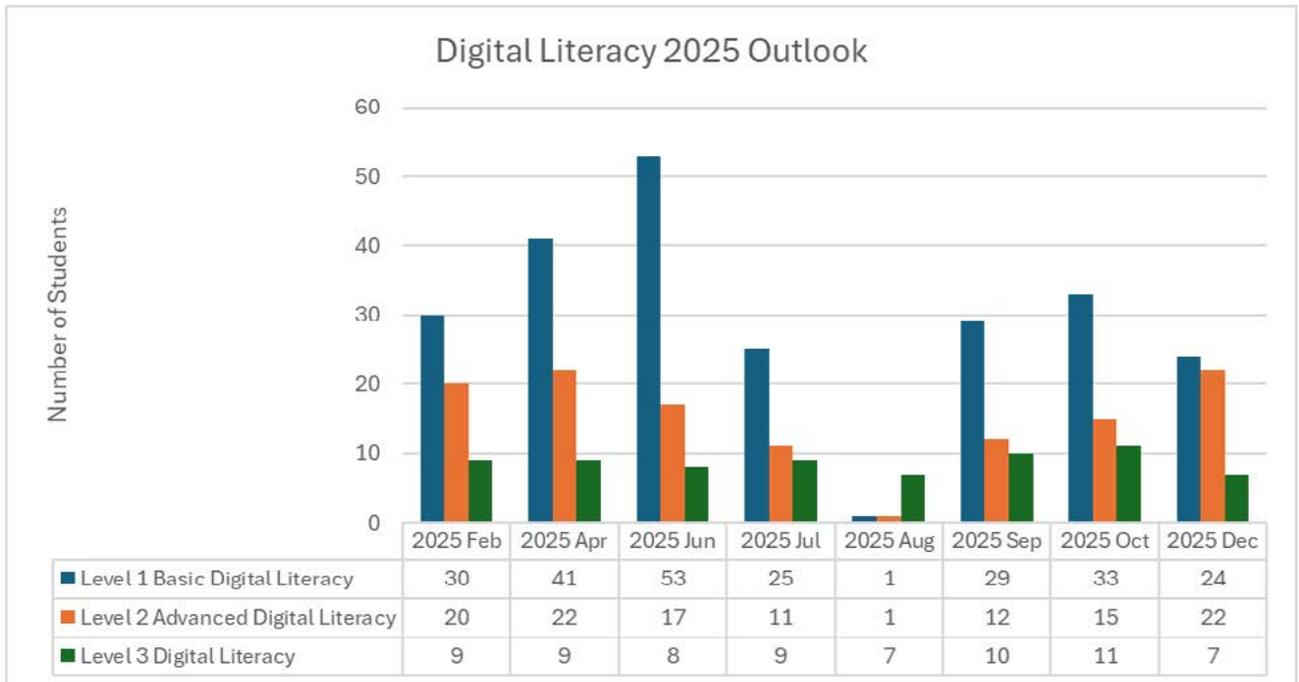
DIGITAL SKILLS
DMACC EVELYN K. DAVIS CENTER

DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAM

STUDENT PARTICIPATION REPORT (2025)

1 Total Student Enrollment across board (levels 1-3) for all sessions in **2025** was **426**. This number represents all instances of students enrolled in any class, including when the same student progresses to another level or repeats a level.

2 Total number of unique students served in 2025 was **236**. This reflects the actual number of individual learners served that year.



LAPTOP

REPORT ON LAPTOP DISTRIBUTION

FOR DEDICATED FULL-ATTENDANCE STUDENTS DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAM – AUGUST AND OCTOBER 2025

In 2025, the Evelyn K. Davis Center reintroduced its laptop-award initiative after a long pause. This renewed effort was designed to support students who demonstrate exceptional dedication and full attendance in the Digital Literacy Program. The initiative aims to reduce technology barriers, motivate consistent participation, and ensure that learners have the tools needed to advance in education, employment, and digital skill-building.

This report provides an overview of completion numbers for August and October 2025 and highlights the students who earned laptops due to their consistency and commitment.

PROGRAM COMPLETION AND LAPTOP DISTRIBUTION

The table below shows the number of students who completed the Digital Literacy Program across Levels 1–3 in the August and October 2025 cohorts:

CLASSES	COMPLETED (OCT 2025)	COMPLETED (AUG 2025)
Level 1	20	13
Level 2	12	11
Level 3	9	8
Total	41	32

LAPTOP DISTRIBUTION

In recognition of consistent attendance and commitment:

AUGUST 2025 COHORT

(32 Completed)

17 students received laptops

OCTOBER 2025 COHORT

(41 Completed)

20 students received laptop

OVERALL IMPACT

TOTAL COMPLETIONS

(Aug + Oct 2025): 73

Total Laptops Awarded: 37

The increase from 17 recipients in August to 20 in October reflects improved student motivation—largely influenced by the reintroduction of laptop incentives in 2025.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

I'm really enjoying the laptop that was given to me by The Evelyn Davis Center for working adults. I received this nice laptop as a reward for completing basic computer skills 1 class. Having my own computer definitely makes it easier to retain the knowledge I learned from my classwork that was provided to me free by Evelyn Davis Center. Just used it to complete a job application, that would've been so much more difficult to do on my small cell phone. I am very grateful for the class as well as the new computer. Thank you all so much for what you do.

— Dan Dershem

I'm really happy to have received a free laptop from DMACC, and I truly appreciate it! I do need some help getting started, though.

— Yemane Musgun

I am beyond appreciative of the laptop. The kindness shown to me is immeasurable. I would not have said anything about it had you not asked. My "new-to-me" laptop is wonderful, and I will probably have it for the next few years. It all started with one act of kindness, for which I am eternally thankful.

—Christina Harwell

Happy holidays Imma. I can't wait to come back to your classes. I love how you teach. I'm going to start the third class in the spring. I have to catch the bus and it's too cold for me, especially since I'm sickly, so I will come pick up my certificate when I get a ride. And the laptop has been a wonderful blessing — I love it. It has really made a difference. I've been taking typing tests and all that fun stuff, but I need to get down the exercises you showed us as well. I don't feel as confident with them, so I'm definitely going to be back. You were great, and I have more learning to do. It's just really cold, so I will see you in a bit. I will stay in touch for sure, and again, thank you Imma.

— Tomeika Moore

The laptop has been very helpful to me. It makes online learning and completing school homework much easier. Thank you so much for providing it!

— Naw Say Phaw

It impacts me because it helps me apply for jobs and it's easy to find things you need, and you can do homework and thank you for the computer.

—Win Shwe

You have no idea how much these two pairs of pants are going to help me. This restaurant job requires me to have black pants, but I couldn't afford to buy them until I get my first paycheck after starting the job!" - Jeremy

Hi teacher Immaculate!
My laptop is great and I use it every day for zoom joins. Thank you! God Bless you all and DMACC.

— Nini Sung

My laptop has been very helpful. I can look up jobs and search the website to play chess online. Thank you again.

— Dolan Stephens

LAPTOP

PROGRAM IMPACT



THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE LAPTOP AWARD PROGRAM IN 2025 HAS HAD A STRONG POSITIVE IMPACT:

IMPROVED RETENTION:

More students completed the October cohort than August.

MOTIVATION INCREASED:

The number of laptop recipients rose from 17 to 20.

BARRIERS REDUCED:

Students now have access to devices for job applications, homework, online learning, and skill practice.

CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT:

Many students expressed interest in returning for Level 2 and Level 3 classes.

The testimonials demonstrate that the laptop initiative not only enhances learning but also significantly improves daily life, employment readiness, and long-term educational progress.

Restarting the laptop distribution initiative in 2025 has been highly successful. A total of 37 dedicated students earned laptops across the August and October cohorts, strengthening the Center's mission to promote digital inclusion. As demand and participation grow, continuing this initiative will further empower adult learners and support their long-term success.





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