

Pathways-VA, Inc.

Pathways-VA, Inc. is an interfaith community development corporation serving individuals and families in Petersburg, Virginia and its surrounding counties. Started by the United Methodist Church, and formerly known as Petersburg Urban Ministries, Pathways-VA, Inc. offers a holistic approach to community development.

Organizational Structure

Pathways-VA, Inc. (hereafter Pathways) has 19 dedicated employees and over 1,000 volunteers. Pathways offers both short- and long-term volunteer opportunities for both individuals and groups. Volunteers are community members and come from local interfaith congregations, local agencies, businesses, and youth groups. Staff members and program participants also serve as volunteers in the Pathways programs with which they are not directly affiliated. Pathways' volunteers also play a major role in community rebuilding efforts; its health clinics, for example, are run exclusively by volunteers. With an annual budget of \$1.4 million, Pathways receives funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Labor, YouthBuild USA, local foundations, and private entities.

Pathways' work is structured into three key areas: education and employment, health, and revitalized community.

Population Served

Pathways takes a holistic community approach to service provision; offering programs to individuals and families of all ages. The target populations for the various program include single family households, at-risk youth, and individuals who lack proper healthcare, employment, and stable housing. Since its founding in 1994, Pathways has served over 95,000 people, many of whom are TANF-eligible or enrolled. 70% of students they work with have been court-involved.

Programs

Pathways offers a wide variety of programs aimed at advancing community restoration, spiritual and physical health, and economic development in Petersburg and its surrounding communities.

[YouthBuild](#)

The Pathways YouthBuild Program is a youth leadership development and career readiness program that works with people ages 17-24. It focuses on leadership development, high school support, job and post-secondary education placement, vocational education, and mentoring for youth. Most YouthBuild students enter the

program with a fifth or sixth grade reading level, and approximately 50% are successfully able to attain their GED. Pathways' credential rate is nearly 100%, and its employment placement rate is approximately 95% within the first three months of program completion.

[Financial Opportunities Center](#)

Pathways Works Financial Opportunities Center (FOC) provides financial coaching, career readiness training, and assistance in accessing social benefits.

[Health Clinics](#)

Pathways' free clinics focus on a number of specialties, including cardiology, women's health, and mental health. Pathways has treated more than 8000 patients in the region. Through Pathways', each dollar invested provides \$203 in health services.

Community Partnerships

Pathways began as a partnership between representatives from various Christian denominations, as well as the Jewish, Islamic, Bahai, and other local religious communities. Additionally, residents, local businesses, government representatives, and other community members provided input on resources and needs of the Petersburg community, leading to the development of the Pathways programs. Since that time, additional community partnerships have emerged. Pathways have worked with state and local governmental representatives on a neighborhood stabilization project for home foreclosures, the Petersburg's workforce office providing trainings, workshops, and job fairs for students and with local businesses, universities, and other community members on a river beautification project. These community partnerships developed organically through regular conversations between Pathways and the local community.