

Become A HelpLink Volunteer

Help Individuals and Families Who Are In Need Across Berks

With the national and local economic downturn, more people are facing unemployment, reduced income and a greater need for food and other basic needs to live. However, many people do not know where to go for help and do not realize they may be eligible for various supports and services.

United Way of Berks County has partnered with eight local agencies throughout Berks County to create the HelpLink Network, where individuals and families can find benefits and services they may be eligible for, to help them through difficult times and get back on the road to financial independence.

We are asking **YOU** to become part of this critically important project! Volunteers are needed to staff HelpLink sites around the County. Volunteers will use web-based software to screen clients for available benefits and will refer clients to other community resources as needed.

Be A HelpLink Volunteer

Qualifications: The ideal person for the role as a HelpLink volunteer should be able to work with diverse groups of people, work well under minimal supervision, have good computer skills and have a strong desire to help others in need during these difficult times. Bilingual volunteers are especially needed at several HelpLink sites.

Training: United Way of Berks County will train all volunteers on their roles and responsibilities as a HelpLink volunteer, on the software programs to be used at the sites, and on how to work effectively with various populations. Volunteers will also receive an orientation to the HelpLink site where they will be assigned.

Time Commitment: Volunteers can assist at various days and times, depending on their availability. Training will be held this summer, with sites opening in September of 2009. A minimum of 4 hours a month is preferred. Background checks are required.

To Become Involved as a HelpLink Volunteer: Complete the online application by [clicking here](#), or visit www.uwberks.org and click on **Volunteer**.

For More Information: Contact: Sharon Mast, Director of Volunteer Engagement, United Way of Berks County at (610) 685-4574, or by email at sharonm@uwberks.org

HelpLink Network Partners: Berks Community Action Program, Berks Encore, Boyertown Area Multi-Services, Catholic Charities, Centro Hispano, Friend, Inc., Salvation Army: Reading Corps, United Community Services, United Way of Berks County

**HelpLink
Network**



United Way of Berks County