

Is there a program to help kids or families to get a computer for home?

Currently, UC2B does not sponsor any such programs. However, we recognize the need to provide kids and families with the necessary hardware and software so they can connect to the UC2B network. UC2B is constantly looking to establish partnerships with other organizations not only for free or reduced-price hardware and software distribution, but training as well. Stay tuned.

Is there a program to help a business to go Green or to build their business green from the beginning? I for one would like to see CU be more green.

Though not a UC2B-specific question, there is a Champaign-based business that provides green certification and assistance services. To get the company's contact information, contact John Kersh, UC2B Urban Project Planner at (217) 333-8228, or kersh1@illinois.edu.

What about development of those same quality of life environments (internet cafes in downtown) on the North side of both downtowns (north of University Avenue, south of Interstate 74)?

What you mention specifically (Internet cafes) is, first and foremost, a business/commercial enterprise and secondarily an Internet cafe. UC2B can and will make the development of such an amenity somewhat easier by providing the high-speed Internet connection to the commercial areas north of University Avenue/south of I-74, but the ultimate answer to this question lies with an entrepreneur willing to make an investment in such a business venture.

I am a dislocated worker and over 50, with 23 years past experience at a factory. I don't have a college degree. Could I still qualify for a job in this field?

Employment prospects depend on several factors because different employers have different needs from the employees they seek to hire. Relevant experience and educational attainment can be advantages. The information technology (IT) industry and the telecommunications/utility industry (UC2B can be considered one or both), look to hire individuals at all levels of employment.

What are recent job gain successes in Champaign? Urbana? Please be specific (numbers, years, etc)?

How can UC2B help me get a job?

In this time of tight household budgets and business downsizing, its important to remember the big picture - as difficult as that may be to accept. The big picture is that the construction of the UC2B network infrastructure will enable the creation of new businesses and the growth of existing ones. That's where the jobs will come from. While construction of the UC2B network will create some jobs in the short-term, they will be specialized construction jobs and will be temporary (only for the duration of the grant period). That is, UC2B itself will not be the major

generator of jobs. In the short-term, your qualifications at the time a job or jobs may be posted will determine your eligibility for employment with UC2B. Check back often for job openings.

Are there structural concerns that restrict under-served peoples in Champaign from access to/understanding of UC2B? How will these be addressed?

That's a great question and, frankly, one I would also ask you in return. This indicates the need to have a community dialogue about access and understanding of technology in general and UC2B more specifically. We will focus on this at the Saturday, March 19 community meeting at the Champaign Public Library - Main Branch. This event will start at 9:30 a.m. The primary objective of this discussion will be to create a better understanding of UC2B among community members.

In regards to ex-offenders, especially females, services are provided to help them in the work force area. WorkNet Center probably has services in place, but how can the smaller organizations get involved and become providers as well?

This is less of a technology infrastructure question and more of a social and institutional infrastructure question. It sounds as if you are identifying a community need for either 1) technology workforce development or 2) more institutions that provide training services for female ex-offenders. For UC2B's part, several community Anchor Institutions that provide services to vulnerable populations throughout the community will be connected to the UC2B network under the grant.