

Urban League of Nebraska's Programs and Services

We are an empowering voice in the community advocating for economic self-reliance, parity, power, civil rights and equal opportunity for all.

Educational Equity—Every Child Ready for College, Work and Life

Youth Attendance Navigators

A truancy reduction program within Omaha Public Schools to prevent middle school and high school students from entering the juvenile justice system due to chronic absenteeism.

Community Coaches

A violence prevention, intervention and youthful offender re-entry program within Omaha Public Schools to assist middle school and high school students in the juvenile system excel in school, meet their probation terms, and avoid the juvenile justice system.

Girls Summer STEAM Academy

A 6-week program designed to encourage girls to take their rightful place in the world of science, technology, engineering, agriculture/arts, and math.

Summer Credit Recovery

Opportunity for students to recover core credits to ensure matriculation to the next grade level or graduation from high school.

Community Connections

Striving for Success African-American Male Summit (Sept) and the "I Am" Young Girl's Conference (Feb)

Hosted on a college campus, these two day-long events immerse students in a variety of breakout sessions on topics that impact today's youth. Additionally, students have time to network with community and business leaders.

Shaping a Diverse Workforce—Finding Jobs and Preparing for New Challenges

Employment Services

Provides personalized services to job seekers who need assistance with job referrals, job search, resume writing, and connections with prospective employers.

Career Readiness Boot Camp

This specially designed program serves at-risk teens, to the formally incarcerated, to other adults re-entering the workforce or in need of new skills.

Celebrate Diversity Job Fair

An annual gathering of companies, professionals, and job seekers under one roof to give information to potential employees.

Working Wednesdays

Connecting job-seekers and employers to fill immediate openings. Held monthly.

Whitney M. Young, Jr. Leadership Academy

Providing students in grades 9 through 12 opportunities for leadership development, career exploration, financial literacy, and college prep.

Afterschool Enrichment

Supervised academic and enrichment activities for elementary and middle-school students. School sites are Monroe Middle, and Franklin and King Elementary during the school year and summer.

College Tours

Annual college visits and cultural enrichment activities at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and cultural sites to promote college. The visits help students understand what the college admission process is all about, and what is required of them in order to be successful.

Scholarships

ULN awards post-secondary scholarships to graduating high school seniors in NE who meet certain academic requirements.

Workforce Innovation & Opportunities Act Program (WIOA)

Primarily serving out of school youth 14 and older, and dislocated workers with supplemental education and job training for re-entry into the workforce.

STEP-UP Omaha Summer Empowerment

Placement of students 16-21 in real-world, paid, work experiences during the summer months.

Family Support Services

A referral and resource service to meet the basic needs of our North Omaha population in the areas of food insecurity, utilities, clerical assistance and housing.



Our History

The Urban League of Nebraska (ULN) was established November 28, 1927 as an affiliate of the National Urban League. The ULN joins 95 other affiliates across the country dedicated to economic empowerment in historically underserved urban communities.

The National Urban League (NUL) History

Founded in 1910, the National Urban League (NUL) has improved the lives of tens of millions of people nationwide through direct service programs that are implemented locally by its 95 affiliates in 36 states and the District of Columbia.

The founding of NUL grew out of the Black Migration movement, where a wave of African-Americans migrated North to escape centuries of systematic and overt oppression in the South. Unfortunately, the newly arrived southern African-Americans in the North realized that the extent of racism permeated the region. Even in the North, they were excluded from all but menial jobs in larger society, victimized by poor housing and education, and inexperienced in the ways of urban living. Many lived in devastating social and economic conditions and longed for services to help them break barriers to progress.

In the 1960s, NUL became a powerful partner in the Civil Rights Movement under the leadership of Whitney M. Young Jr., who, along with Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and others, fought for civil rights reforms that resulted in the adoption of the 1964 Civil Rights Acts. This has expanded NUL's role to include social justice. To this day, NUL remains the oldest and largest community-based organization in the United States.

2018 Recipient of the John Mack Award



John Mack was the distinguished Executive Director of the Urban League chapters in Flint, MI and Los Angeles, CA. The John Mack Award is given to affiliates who achieve a 5.0 rating on their performance assessment. The assessment consists of criterion standards and indicators in the National Urban League areas of Administration and Governance, Organizational Soundness, Annual Reports, Board of Directors, Endowments, Corporate Goals, and Legal Compliance and Accountability.

Whitney M. Young Jr.: Omaha's Personal Connection to the National Urban League



Mr. Whitney M. Young Jr. was brought to Omaha in 1950 from Minnesota by his insatiable drive to improve economic and social conditions for disenfranchised African-Americans.

When he arrived in Omaha, Mr. Young was undeterred by the deeply entrenched institutional and overt racism that divided the city. He was appointed the Urban League Omaha office's Executive Director in 1950.

Motivated by his impatient optimism, Mr. Young sought to build a more equitable Omaha and a prospering and resilient African-American community as the League's leader. He emphasized negotiation and persuasion to expand and bolster improvements in the social and economic condition of Blacks in Omaha. As a result of his efforts, more black teachers were hired in Omaha's schools, local businesses instituted strong integrationist hiring policies, and more blacks were able to obtain housing where they were once excluded.

Of course, Omaha was only the start of Mr. Young's journey towards achieving economic equity for disenfranchised African-Americans. In 1961, destiny took Young and his distinguished leadership to the national stage as the Executive Director of the National Urban League. There, he extended the systematic and results-oriented approach he built in Omaha to expand opportunities for underserved black communities across the country. He achieved milestones during his tenure.

Mr. Young once profoundly remarked that "It is better to be prepared for an opportunity and not have one than to have an opportunity and not be prepared."

Indeed, in Omaha and on the national stage, Mr. Young saw an opportunity for change in a seemingly changeless society. As a leader, he prepared business leaders, politicians, community leaders and citizens to seize the untapped potential to build resilience and equity in a broken society.

It is no wonder that Mr. Young remains central to American civil rights history. The ULN continues to serve the North Omaha community as he did, by negotiating solutions through strategic partnerships to build a resilient community.