



St. Vincent and
Sarah Fisher Center

2023 Advancing Workforce Development for Adult Learners St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center

St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher (SVSF) Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving literacy for adults in Detroit, has received the Advancing Workforce Development for Adult Learners award.

SVSF Center is dedicated to advancing the economic prospects of the adult students they serve. The Workforce Development Program created by SVSF Center seeks to advance students' job skills.

The program begins with the Adult Career Assessment, which helps to gauge each student's capabilities, strengths, and interests to curate a career path for that student to explore. Students are then able to secure industry-relevant certifications, obtain employment within targeted occupational areas, or advance to a higher level of education.

Audrean Williams, the Assistant Director of Adult Education at SVSF Center, states, "The programs are unique in that they provide year-round services, one-on-one tutoring sessions, personalized learning plans, and a social-work component specifically designed to help students overcome barriers to education. SVSF Center pays testing fees and transports students to the testing site."

In addition, SVSF Center has spearheaded the Skills for Life initiative in partnership with Detroit to create sustainable employee training and growth for the city, as well as work experience for students growing their resumes. Students work for three days a week as a city employee and spend the other two days at SVSF Center taking classes. Upon completion of the program, students are able to choose to continue their employment with the city, get a new job with a private company, or continue their education to gain a new career path.

Founded in 1844, SVSF Center originally served as an orphanage for children. As times changed, they pivoted their mission in 2006 to serving both children's and adults' educational needs in the community, providing a more comprehensive approach through their educational services.