

Hank Carr

Construction Worker

KentuckianaWorks Construction Pipeline Program

I've dealt with the Urban League for several years, you know, using their services for different reasons. And, I had a counselor there. His name was James Level. He at first told me about the Pipeline program. I was already working in construction at the time, so I didn't bother with it. That job ended, and I ended up working at a factory that I didn't like, wasn't making a lot of money. I ended up injuring my self at work.

I went through the Pipeline program. Without it, I wouldn't have had the opportunities that have come my way. That's what I looked for and wanted for so long was just the opportunity.

Before I took that factory job, the hiring manager and superintendent, they all told me the job was mine. I went through the whole interview process, and they gave it to somebody else because they had license or certificates. That's what I kept meeting up with.

The Pipeline training was really good. I just wish I had it a few years earlier when I was in construction before. I ran into a lot of problems that was covered in the Pipeline program - you know, just workplace issues, what's expected, just kind of to give you a feel for what the construction industry is like.

My attitude is very positive. I'm focused. I saw what I wanted, and I was willing to put whatever effort – whatever it took to get it, I was willing to do it. That's all I wanted was the opportunity to get in front of somebody and show them what I was capable of. And that's what the Pipeline did, and they're backed by KentuckianaWorks.

The construction field is hard work. It's dirty. Sometimes you have long hours. Sometimes you could meet with layoff – periods of, you know, not working. It calls for you, you need to be smart. You have to budget your money and make sure that, you know, you're prepared for those times that you're not going to be off from work. You have to want it. You can't come into it with the attitude of "what are they going give me." You have to be able to follow orders; not have a ego; be humble; do what you're asked to do and be diligent. When you're given a task, work at it as hard as you can and the best that you can, as fast as you can but still be safe.

I'm able to save money, pay my bills, take care of my kids again. I get to take care of my children the way I want to. That's my Number One thing – is my kids. So I can provide for them. Buy them things they need, some of the wants. Take them places that I couldn't take them before and not have to worry about, "How much is it going to cost?" or "I got to put a little bit with this and maybe next week we can do it." I can just go do it.