



# Common Employment Myths

An analysis of workforce data identified a lack of evidence to support several common perceptions about employment in Memphis. Below are several employment myths for the population experiencing poverty:

MYTH	FACT
<p><b>Living-wage jobs can be easily obtained with a high school diploma</b></p>	<p>8 in 10 high school graduates do not demonstrate readiness for post-secondary education or a career. In Memphis, a high school diploma does not ensure sufficient math and reading proficiency to pursue the training needed to obtain living-wage jobs.</p>
<p><b>Financial assistance for tuition is enough to earn a post-secondary degree</b></p>	<p>Only 1 in 5 tAchieves scholarship recipients in Shelby County graduate community college within three years. While financial assistance for tuition is valuable, numerous incidental expenses can undermine the benefits of tuition support.</p>
<p><b>Professional credentials always improve employment outcomes and earning potential</b></p>	<p>Only 30 percent of industry credentials earned by Tennessee K-12 students are associated with jobs that pay at least \$15 per hour. Credentials are not helpful when they are not aligned with high-wage, high-demand jobs.</p>
<p><b>Anyone who wants to work can access the services needed to find a living-wage job</b></p>	<p>The rate of people experiencing poverty who are not working but seeking employment is 50 percent higher in Memphis than Tennessee. Identifying the needed workforce services in accessible locations is frequently insurmountable.</p>
<p><b>Enhancing public transit will solve the transportation gap for employment</b></p>	<p>Only 1 percent of neighborhoods in Memphis are considered location efficient, i.e., compact, close to jobs and services, with a variety of transportation choices. Greater investments in public transit alone is not sufficient.</p>