



# 2006 Evaluation of the National *Ways to Work* Program

## FEATURED OUTCOMES

### **Income**

- Nearly three out of four program participants reported higher net monthly income (take home pay) in the months and years after receiving their car loan.
- Borrowers averaged a 41 % increase in income (take home pay).
- Average annual income grew from about \$11,904 to about \$15,312.
- More than four out of five borrowers continue to sustain themselves without public cash assistance despite having received it before entering the program.

### **Employment**

- Most borrowers (90%) cite the car loan as instrumental in helping them maintain or improve their employment circumstances.
  - More than 80% of borrowers relate their ability to maintain their pre-existing employment to their car loan.
  - More than half of program participants cite improved employment circumstances resulting from their *Ways to Work* car loan.
- About half of all borrowers attribute their ability to obtain or complete education or training programs to their ownership of a car via a *Ways to Work* loan.
- Nearly two-thirds of all borrowers cited a reduction in lateness or fewer days missed at work or training programs.

### **Access to Mainstream Financial Services**

- Two-thirds of all borrowers have obtained some type of conventional financial services since receiving their loan (i.e. checking, savings, bank loan, credit card, etc.).
- Individuals who received their loan at least 36 months ago were about twice as likely to have a checking or savings account as those in the program for less than a year.
- About half of those who had completed their *Ways to Work* loan had successfully secured another loan on their own, typically from a bank or credit union.

### **Quality of Life**

- About 90% of all borrowers reported that their car loan had significant impact on their quality of life, including:
  - More time with family and friends;
  - More time for themselves;
  - More time for work around their home;
  - Improved ability to attend church or take a vacation.
- More than half of all borrowers found that the car allowed them to participate in volunteer work.

### **Care of Children**

- Nearly all borrowers found that the car enhanced their ability to make sure their children get to school on time and to take them to medical appointments and extracurricular activities.
- Almost four of five parents of young children were able to put them into more satisfactory daycare situations as a result of their car ownership.