

## SparkPoint Solano Fact Sheet

### What are SparkPoint Centers?

Established in 2009, SparkPoint Centers are family-friendly places where hard-working, low-income people can access a full range of services to help them get out of poverty and achieve long-term financial stability. Each Center brings together the most effective partners to help clients build assets, grow income and manage debt. SparkPoint clients work with a coach who helps create a step-by-step plan to set and achieve personal financial goals.

### How long does this process take?

Because change does not happen overnight, SparkPoint commits to working with clients for **up to three years** to achieve their financial goals. Our Center staff works with each client to build an individual plan and a timeline for achieving their goals. Some things can be accomplished quickly, like building a new and improved resume, or enrolling in public benefits. Other client goals, like improving credit scores, take much longer – sometimes a year or more. Financial success can take time and SparkPoint staff is dedicated to supporting our clients for as long as they need; for many, that is two or three years.

### What services do Solano's SparkPoint Centers provide?

SparkPoint services focus on three areas:

#### Increasing Income:

- Learn skills to increase chances of securing a job
- Explore career options and improve resume
- Enroll in training for high-demand jobs
- Enroll in public benefits
- Connect with money saving programs, like free tax preparation, discounted utilities and transit, and low-cost auto insurance.

#### Improving Credit:

- Create a balanced budget
- Manage credit card and other debts
- Obtain credit report and correct mistakes
- Avoid foreclosure with mortgage modification





### Building Assets:

- Access free and low-cost banking services
- Purchase a home or automobile
- Open or expand a business
- Develop emergency savings and plan for retirement.

### Who can we help:

SparkPoint services are free and designed to help **anyone** that is dedicated to improving their financial situation and willing to put in the effort to do this. Specifically, prospective clients need to understand that:

- There is not a quick fix. It takes time (6 months +) to learn new skills, apply for and obtain a better job, address debt, build credit and build savings.
- Clients are accountable for their own progress. They need to commit to doing the work. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - attending scheduled meetings with their financial coach,
  - learning how to budget and live within that budget,
  - learning new skills to enhance employability,
  - dedicating the time it takes to search for a new job,
  - working with a coach to read a credit report and address errors with credit bureaus.
- Communication with the financial coach is key to success in the long run. In order to really help address financial issues, financial coaches need to know the complete picture to best help a client. What are their challenges? What are their goals?

### SparkPoint Solano's Collaborative Partners



Helping You Build  
Financial Independence