



Circles is a long term approach to end poverty. Each week, local families working to overcome poverty (Circle Leaders) meet with community volunteers (Allies) over dinner. During these meetings, Circle Leaders work on their goals toward economic stability and growth. Over time incomes improve, debt and public assistance decrease and necessary relationships are built.

For more information, see the attached brochures *What is Circles* and *Becoming a Circle Leader*.

Circles RVA might be for you if:

- You are frustrated and overwhelmed about just “getting by” and want to learn about ways to get ahead.
- You are ready and willing to make changes to move out of poverty.
- You seek increased access to resources, including financial resources.
- You are underemployed, or you are able and willing to work and/or might benefit from job training.
- You are willing to help others by sharing your talents and gifts, your experience and wisdom.
- You are not actively abusing alcohol or drugs, or have been in recovery for at least six months.

Circles RVA is NOT for you if:

- You are in crisis. Circles is not a crisis assistance program and cannot help with immediate, emergency needs.
- You are facing an active domestic abuse situation.

Successful Circle Leaders:

- Set financial goals and make progress on their plan to earn more income.
- Attend the weekly meetings and use available community resources to help them achieve their plan.
- Support other Circle Leaders and build relationships with Circle volunteers.
- Use their knowledge and skills as problem solvers to work on poverty issues in the community.
- Share their strengths, help address barriers to poverty in the Richmond area and give back to the community.

What to expect in Circles RVA:

- Attend, participate and graduate from the 12 to 14-week Circle Leader Training, held on Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Each meeting includes a free dinner and a free children’s program.
- After training, Circle Leaders make a commitment to follow their goals and attend weekly meetings.
- Circle Leaders are matched with two Circle Allies from the community. Allies are volunteers and intentional friends who commit to provide encouragement and connect you and your family to resources as you work to achieve your goals.

The process is simple:

1. Complete the electronic application and email to: director@circlesrva.org OR mail a paper copy to Circles RVA, 8 North Laurel Street, Richmond, VA 23220.
2. A representative from Circles RVA will contact you after you submit a completed application
3. Meet in-person with the Circles RVA selection committee to learn if Circles is a good fit for you.

For more information, send an email to director@circlesrva.org, use the contact form at www.circlesrva.org/contact or call 1 888 447 2782.



Circle Leader Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Best way to contact you _____

___ Married ___ Single Other _____ Birth Date _____

Please list the names of all adults in your household:

Please list names, ages and gender of children who live with you:

How did you hear about Circles RVA?

Do you have a driver's license? ___ Yes ___ No

Do you have a working vehicle? ___ Yes ___ No

Will you need transportation to weekly meetings? ___ Yes ___ No

In case we are unable to reach you, who is the best person to contact you?

Name _____ Relationship _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Education Information

Highest grade level completed: 6-8 9-11 High School graduate GED

Associate's Degree Bachelor's Degree Master's Degree

Are you currently enrolled in school? Yes No

If yes, what school are you enrolled _____

Begin date: _____ Anticipated completion date: _____

Employment Information

Are you currently... working full time working part-time not working

Have you worked in the last six months? Yes No

If you are currently employed, complete the following:

Company name: _____ Hire date: _____

Your title/position: _____ Hourly/annual pay: _____

Check all public assistance/services your family currently receives:

TANF SNAP AHA/Housing WIC Head Start

Utilities/energy assistance Vocational Rehab Childcare assistance

Personal Information

Check the areas where you are experiencing difficulties or challenges:

Finding employment

Maintaining employment

Education/training

Legal problems

Budgeting

Parenting

Housing

Transportation

Friendships/relationships

Isolation

Drugs/alcohol

Childcare

Healthcare costs

Other _____

- Return your completed application to Circles RVA, 8 North Laurel Street, Richmond, VA 23220.
- Or email the completed application to director@circlesrva.org

To speak directly to a Circles volunteer about questions you have call 1 888 447 2782.

All Information is kept strictly confidential