



READY
TO RISE

2019

Reflection Report



California
COMMUNITY
Foundation





Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the year one implementation of the Ready to Rise Initiative, a public-private partnership formed between The Los Angeles County Probation Department, the California Community Foundation, and the Liberty Hill Foundation. This report provides information on program activities completed between July 2019 and December 2019.

This report also provides a detailed background of the methodology utilized to design a program model and an implementation strategy that seeks to effectively invest and support a robust Los Angeles County youth development network.

A summary of achievements in year one provides a comprehensive list of organizations that were selected to participate in the Ready to Rise initiative, and details the application, review, and selection process. (Organization profiles are provided, which include the details of each organization, their program model and target population.)

An overview of the design and implementation of evaluation methods led by Imoyase Community Support Service demonstrates the commitment to community-based participatory research. The overview provides information on: Imoyase's four-tiered evaluation design, technical assistance provided, outcomes for youth served over the first six months of program implementation (July - December 2019), and programmatic touchpoints. During the first six months of implementation (July - December 2019), more than 1,973 youth were served across 20 organizations, with a total of 20,576 programmatic touchpoints.

This report also includes an overview of the methods for selection of the capacity building partner, Destiny Coaching and Consulting, and information on the co-designed model of capacity building support aimed at improving organizations' long-term sustainability to provide strong programmatic outcomes and to serve youth. The summary elaborates on progress within the first six months of program delivery, including hours of support services provided and principal capacity building areas identified by organizations.

Finally, a set of recommendations are shared in reflection of year one with the aim of continuing to improve public-private partnership with the Los Angeles County Probation Department and maximize success.

Highlights

Grantmaking Process



171

eligible applications were received and reviewed

\$19+ million

in total funding requests received



75

organizations were selected for site visits and were analyzed by the Nonprofit Finance Fund to understand financial health

\$7.1 million

was disbursed to the 49 grantees selected



20

grantees were selected on June 10, 2019 to form Cohort 1

July 15, 2019

Cohort 1 began their 12-Month Grant Period



29

grantees were selected on October 10, 2019 to form Cohort 2

January 15, 2020

Cohort 2 began their 18-Month Grant Period

Implementation Progress

1,973+

Youth have been served by Ready to Rise-funded programs and activities between July 2019 and December 2019.

Ready to Rise Initiative

The school-to-prison pipeline disproportionately impacts communities of color. Punitive policies and practices within public school districts and the juvenile justice system have stunted the potential of too many young people in Los Angeles and the country.

Both initial contact and continued involvement with the justice system are associated with the increased likelihood of dropping out of high school, trauma, substance abuse, and other outcomes that negatively impact a young person's lifetime health and success. Formerly incarcerated persons earn lower wages because they face occupational restrictions, encounter discrimination in the hiring process, and have weaker social networks and less human capital due to their incarceration. The formerly incarcerated also have a mortality rate 3.5 times higher than that of people who have never been incarcerated. Their shortened life spans collectively add an economic toll of almost \$63 billion to the United States.¹

- **Challenge:** Conventional systemic responses to juvenile crime—including arrest, incarceration, and probation—have been demonstrated to exacerbate the hardships already experienced by young people facing poverty, prejudice, and/or structural inequality. [These responses do not address the root cause of juvenile crime, which is unmet developmental need.](#)
- **Design:** Through grantmaking and technical assistance support, this project will catalyze the growth of an L.A. County-wide youth development system made up of culturally responsive, community-based services meant to connect systems-impacted young people to opportunities for civic engagement, wellness, and academic and professional enrichment.
- **Vision:** A robust youth development system that directs public dollars away from punishment and towards prevention, and integrates across public agencies, non-profits, and school systems to meet core development and needs for young people, especially for youth who face hardship related to poverty, abuse, prejudice, and/or neighborhood violence.

¹ Ferner, Matt (2016). "The Full Cost of Incarcerating in the U.S. is Over \$1 Trillion, Study Finds." Huffington Post

Strategy



1. Invest in youth development

- Grant funds to community-based organizations that serve system impacted youth or others who face severe hardship
- Focus grantmaking on geographic areas with relatively fewer services and high need. Prioritize organizations that take a comprehensive youth development approach by integrating services that address needs associated with mental, physical, academic/cognitive, social-emotional, and identity-related areas
- Provide tailored coaching and support to these organizations, based on their core competencies, including self-assessment, goal setting, leadership development, financial and data management, and community engagement



2. Stakeholder and Community Engagement

- Engage new audiences (e.g., funders, donors, educators, etc.) to enhance understanding and opportunities related to supporting positive youth development
- Capture and share promising practices to inform and influence key stakeholders and policymakers for efforts and impacts at scale



3. Communicating project activities, impact, and lessons learned

- Distribute reports, briefs, and digital materials detailing the work of grant recipients and foundation partners to support the growth of a comprehensive youth development system
- Communicate progress at key gatherings, including public board meetings, foundation staff events, and public convenings
- Amplify youth and community voices

PART II.

Grantmaking and Cohort Selection

After completing a robust grantmaking process that was designed and implemented by CCF and Liberty Hill staff, 20 organizations were selected to form "Cohort 1". These organizations are noted in the table that follows.

[More detailed grantee profiles have been included as an addendum to this report.]

R2R Cohort 1 Organizations

Antelope Valley Partners For Health
California Youth Connection
Centro Community Hispanic Association Inc.
Coalition for Engaged Education
Community Coalition
Community Development Technologies Center
EmpowHer Institute
Flintridge Center
Girls Club of Los Angeles
InnerCity Struggle
Legacy LA Youth Development Corporation
Long Beach BLAST
Los Angeles Youth Network
Lost Angels Children's Project Inc
Pops The Club
Safe Place for Youth
Southern California Crossroads
The California Conference for Equality and Justice
Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural
Urban TXT (formerly Teens Exploring Technology)

Average Grant Size: \$129,500

Guiding Principles

Cohorts were selected using the following guiding principles:

- Prioritize organizations that are not current and/or lead grantees of the Probation Department.
- The cohort should represent the diverse communities of LA, but may over-represent/oversample geographies, populations, and/or intervention models of interest as defined by the following:

- **Geography** – measured by organization location and service provider area. Our goal is to have a spread throughout the county. We also considered areas where high needs youth have been identified and gaps in services may be present.
- **Program Engagement** – the type of service(s) the organization provides (i.e., Academics, Arts, Career Services, Organizing, Gang Intervention, Health Services, Mentorship, Sports/Recreation, etc.)
- **Organizational Capacity** – the number of years in operation, size of annual budget, and/or number of staff. In addition, the readiness of each organization to complete capacity building activities and engage in a comprehensive evaluation through this project.
- **Target Population Served** – defined by ethnicity and circumstances of youth (i.e. Justice-involved, Foster youth, Homeless, Low-income, LGBTQ, etc.)

Additional Grantees (Cohort #2)

In addition to the 20 grantees presented above, additional resources secured allowed the Public Private Partnership to expand and form Cohort 2. Twenty-nine additional grantees were selected from the remaining applicant pool of 141 eligible applicants. Additional steps were taken ensure the pool was representative of the goals of the project and the high need population targeted by this initiative.

R2R Cohort 2 Organizations

A Place Called Home
Amazing Grace Conservatory
Antelope Valley Boys & Girls Club
Boys & Girls Club of San Fernando Valley
Bridge Builders Foundation
Central American Resource Center
Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking
Communities for a Better Environment
Good City Mentors
Heart of Los Angeles Youth, Inc.
Homies Unidos, Inc.
Khmer Girls in Action
Koreatown Youth & Community Center, Inc.
LURN fbo Meztli Projects
Mar Vista Family Center
New Directions for Youth, Inc.
New Village Girls Academy
Pasadena Altadena Coalition of Transformative Leaders
Positive Results Corporation
Proyecto Pastoral
Reclaiming Americas Communities Through Empowerment
Sanctuary of Hope
Sharefest Community Development
Stars: Illuminate, Educate, Advocate
The BUILD Program
The Learning Centers at Fairplex
The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company
United Friends of the Children
Youth Mentoring Connection

Average Grant Size: \$156,000*

* Awards cover an extended 18-month grant period

JULY – DECEMBER 2019

SECTION 1. CCF UPDATE

Background & Vision: Grantmaking

For over 100 years, CCF has worked to ensure L.A. County's vulnerable young people have an equitable opportunity for upward economic, social, and educational mobility. Vulnerable populations are those groups that have faced historic discrimination, exclusion, and exploitation; and for whom the current public and private systems perpetuates and further entrenches the historical disadvantages across generations.

“ CCF believes that systems can only change when communities are resourced and can advocate for what they know they need. This new public-private partnership is a very important shift in a system that has historically been risk averse. It aligns with CCF's goal to build a system that replaces the traditional structures of punishment and incarceration with best practices centered on healing, learning, and opportunity. Going forward, grantees will receive funding for their critical work to strengthen education, mental health, cultural and workforce programs, while also benefiting from training and support to build capacity for growth and success. ”

- Antonia Hernandez, CCF, President & CEO

SECTION 2. IMOYASE EVALUATION UPDATE

Introduction

In February 2019, CCF and Liberty Hill completed a “Request for Information” solicitation process to identify an evaluator for the Ready to Rise Initiative. To guide the process, the foundation partners created a [rubric with six areas of competency that ensured equal consideration](#) for each candidate, while prioritizing entities that incorporated responsive approaches to building relationships, managing data, and providing learning opportunities. The RFI process yielded 15 responses from research and evaluation firms in LA County. CCF and Liberty Hill staff collaborated to identify five of the most promising candidates to move to the final interview round. Ultimately, the partners selected Imoyase Community Support Services as the evaluator of choice.

Imoyase Background

Imoyase Community Support Services (Imoyase) has 30+ years of experience in program evaluation, action research, organizational development, leadership development, and systems/policy change, and has worked with 50+ communities in LA, California, and across the country. Under the leadership of Dr. Cheryl Grills, Imoyase has conducted multi-site, multi-year, multi-level program evaluations and provided technical assistance support to African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latinx, LGBTQ+, and Native American communities that include a considerable youth organizing and leadership focus. Imoyase's mission is to provide research and technical support that is participatory, culturally relevant, collaborative, and flexible. As the cross-site evaluator for the R2R initiative, Imoyase will document 1) the implementation, growth, and impact of grantees' R2R programs and 2) the collective impact of the initiative across the 20 funded grantees.

1. Assessment Phase: Understanding Need / Readiness

Early in the grant period, Imoyase conducted site visits to all 20 organizations in order to better understand grantee readiness to participate in evaluation activities. These site visits, and the quality review processes that followed, illuminated several challenges that were previously unknown to the Ready to Rise team based solely on an initial review of grantee applications.

- Site visits to the organizations revealed that nearly all grantees needed evaluation support to meet their internal evaluation needs and to respond to the requirements of the R2R cross-site evaluation.
- Because of existing capacity issues, many grantees found reporting and outcome evaluation activity requirements onerous even though they reported seeing the value in collecting data.
- Once data collection launched, some organizations were not able to report on important characteristics (e.g., LGBTQ, justice involved, foster care status, etc.) of their participants because as a general routine, they do not systematically collect this information as part of their participant database. As a result, there were more missing data points than expected.
- As reporting continued, grantees faced challenges in understanding the various components of the cross-site evaluation, how the data can help individual organizations and the inability to tailor cross-site activities based on individual grantee capacity to administer (the alternative is that some groups will be left out). For some grantees, evaluation that is rooted in culturally relevant themes and positive youth development is counter to their basic reporting experiences and may take more time to understand the value of program evaluation.

2. Technical Assistance and Quality Review

Given some of the unexpected challenges outlined above, Imoyase spent a significant amount of time providing technical assistance and capacity building support to grantees. These activities were included in the original scope of work, but the intensity and dosage of support required to meet grantee needs across the cohort was much higher than anticipated.

Technical assistance and quality review activities completed between July and December 2019 included:

i. Assessment

- a. Reviewed all grantee proposals;
- b. Conducted 21 site visits to allow for a deeper assessment of the grantees and a clearer picture of each organization's program model/strategy, operations, culture, and goals;
- c. Assessed each organization's experience with, perception of, needs related to evaluation;
- d. Explored the role and importance of culture, context, and anticipated change from the perspective of positive youth development.

ii. Technical Assistance / Education

- a. Led 2 evaluation academies to provide training to grantees around program evaluation.
- b. Completed 20 hours of individual calls to grantees to conduct “quality reviews” of monthly and quarterly reporting. (The quality review process helped ensure that data was being entered correctly, accurately, and consistently from month to month.)
- c. Completed 60 hours of technical assistance to support grantees with narrative building, using qualitative and quantitative information. This included educating grantees on different approaches to data collection like surveying, focus groups, and outcome evaluations.

iii. Accountability and Reporting

- a. In response to process challenges, CCF and Imoyase developed a two-part assessment process meant to track grantee progress toward evaluation goals. The tables below provide an update on these assessments as of November 2019.

3. Data Collection + Analysis

Imoyase Community Support Services was also tasked with conducting a formal program evaluation of the Ready to Rise Initiative by:

- a. Creating process and outcome methods, data bases, data dictionary, and data collection procedures and tools.
- b. Gathering, analyzing, and reporting data and sharing insights from qualitative (e.g., Quarterly Progress Reports and a selected sample of Focus Groups) and quantitative data (e.g., Monthly Youth Counts Reports and Youth Survey of Outcomes tool).
- c. Producing evaluation reports detailing the process and outcomes evaluation findings.

Imoyase developed a unique four-tiered evaluation approach in order to understand the impact of Ready to Rise services on youth development and well-being.

Four-Tiered Evaluation Approach Components

- Monthly and Quarterly Reports: standardized reporting mechanism for collecting quantitative data, including youth served counts
- R2R Survey Evaluation Tool: standardized pre and post survey administered to youth that yields both qualitative and quantitative information on program impact
- Focus Groups and Narrative Building: adaptive and interactive processes for gathering qualitative information from youth participants to understand program impact; also yields case study information, feedback, cultural awareness, etc.
- Local Evaluation Capacity Building: adaptive process that allows organizations to track metrics / indicators that are important to their specific mission and vision

Why a Four-Tiered approach to evaluation?

A multi-level, multi-disciplinary approach to evaluation allows researchers in the social sciences to integrate community-based participatory research practices or CBPR into their work. “CBPR is a partnership approach to research that equitably involves community members, organizational representatives, researchers, and others in all aspects of the research process, with all partners in the process contributing expertise and sharing in the decision-making and ownership.”¹

“ CBPR is based on the belief that evaluation research that is participatory, culturally relevant, collaborative and flexible results in work products and outcomes of lasting value to all stakeholders. ”

– Dr. Cheryl Grills, Imoyase Community Support Services

Ultimately, CBPR-integrated approaches give researchers the ability to capture both quantitative and qualitative data measures, while allowing for a consistent and transparent feedback loop between researchers and the organizations they work with.

Data Collection and Analysis

- a. Developed a comprehensive **monthly and quarterly reporting system** and template specific to the needs of the Ready to Rise Initiative and responsive to community feedback. Information collected from the reporting system will answer critical questions pertaining to the Ready to Rise Initiative including:
 - i. How many new youth did you serve using Ready to Rise funding?
 - ii. How many “rollover” (continuing) youth did you serve using Ready to Rise funding?
 - iii. How many different activities or services did youth participate in?
 - iv. What core components of PYD did you utilize in your program?
 - v. What culturally responsive approaches did you include in your program?
 - vi. How did youth benefit from programming?
- b. Developed and piloted **R2R Survey Evaluation Tool** to determine the impact of service delivery on youth outcomes and wellbeing.
 - i. The tool, which will be administered as a pre and post survey, improves upon existing measures of youth development by incorporating youth-responsive language and framing.
 - ii. The tool is rooted in community-centered approaches to positive youth development (PYD) and incorporates culturally responsive strategies and measures that capture the core components of PYD including connection, confidence, competence, character, and contribution.

¹ Israel, B.A., Schulz, A.J., Parker, E.A., & Becker, A.B. (1998). Review of community-based research: Assessing partnership approaches to improve public health. *Annual Review of Public Health*, 19, 173-202.

- iii. Imoyase has also created a feedback loop that will allow grantees to access and use the results of any analysis conducted through Ready to Rise. Grantees can then use this information to inform program and service delivery and to leverage future funding opportunities by demonstrating impact.
- c. Began implementation of cross-grantee **focus groups**.
 - a. A select number of organizations will be able to run focus groups with youth participants before the end of Year 1.
 - b. These focus groups will yield supplemental information and feedback from participants that will be used for:
 - i. Informing program development
 - ii. Contributing to a holistic picture of what interventions are creating impact and how
- d. Established a baseline understanding of **narrative building** in the context of Ready to Rise work.
 - a. Organizations received training on “Ethical Storytelling” to build skills around communicating impact to a diverse array of stakeholders
 - b. Ethical storytelling will also support organizations in providing a compelling and nuanced picture of service delivery, and its transformative impact on individual youth
- e. Helped organizations develop capacity around **local evaluation**.
 - a. Local evaluations are tailored to specific organizational interest and need, and as such, can serve as a critical tool for demonstrating impact far beyond the Ready to Rise Initiative.
 - i. 12 organizations are in the planning stages of designing their local outcome evaluation;
 - ii. 2 organizations are piloting their outcome evaluation;
 - iii. 4 have implemented/continue to implement their outcome evaluation;
 - iv. 2 have completed their outcome evaluation and have analyzed data.

Midpoint Progress Update

As a result of these activities, Cohort 1 grantees have built significant capacity to measure the impact of their services, to narrative-build around this impact, and to connect the funding allocated through Ready to Rise to increases in service delivery.

IV. Metrics / Outcomes to Date

Midpoint Counts of Youth Served. Between July and December 2019, Cohort 1 grantees provided the following information on the number of youth served. This information was pulled from organization-level monthly reports, reviewed by the evaluator for accuracy and errors, and aggregated to the cohort level.

Description	Data Question	July – December 2019
Reach of Service Delivery	How many individual youth were reached by R2R programs?	1,973 youth*
Intensity of Service Delivery	How many touch points did youth participants receive as a result of R2R programs or services?	20,576 touch points

*19/20 organizations’ reporting

Youth Served

Between July 2019 and December 2019 (the first six months of implementation), 1,973 youth were served by 20 community-based programs. A diverse group of youth was served. 69% were Latinx and 20% African- American; 53% were 14-17 years and 31% 11-13 years; 55% identified as male and 44% as female.

Program Touchpoints

Between July 2019 and December 2019, youth participated in 20,576 program touchpoints (i.e. services and activities). The most common Positive Youth Development strategies offered in these touchpoints were: Youth Organizing/Leadership Development, Career/Vocational Development, Socio-Emotional Development, and Case Management.

SECTION 3. LIBERTY HILL UPDATE

Background & Vision: Capacity Building

In February 2019, Liberty Hill Foundation (Liberty Hill) and California Community Foundation (CCF) launched a Public/Private Partnership (P/PP) with the Los Angeles County Probation Department named “Ready to Rise: Expanding Opportunities for All L.A. County Youth (R2R).” This collaboration expands opportunities and resources for youth development programs that keep youth out of the criminal justice system and helps those in the system transition back into the community. The model allows for faster distribution of public funds, and an opportunity for organizations to access funding that may not have previously had the infrastructure to compete for county contracts. In addition, the aim of this partnership is to build the long-term capacity of community-based organizations to apply for public resources without intermediary support.

Liberty Hill's core emphasis over the last 40+ years has been on building organizational capacity in communities most impacted by inequity. Liberty Hill's organization-wide capacity building model includes the identification of community assets and gaps in services; engaging in strategic planning aimed at measurable results; and designing and implementing comprehensive and tailored leadership development so that communities can achieve their vision. Through over a decade of implementing capacity building programming through our Wally Marks Leadership Institute, Liberty Hill has created a model that implements strengths-based capacity building that is customized, cohort-based, culturally competent, comprehensive, and is based on a “coachsulting” perspective. Coachsulting focuses on connecting organizations with content experts that both facilitate learning as a consultant would, in addition to a specialized focus on transformation and empowerment through a coaching approach. Liberty Hill has also committed to evaluating all programming to ensure program success and continual improvement.

While Los Angeles remains the home of the largest juvenile justice system in the nation, youth crime and arrests are on the decline. Research shows that youth programs are less expensive and more effective than arrest and incarceration. Los Angeles County has already exhibited transformative leadership by closing over half of the youth detention facilities across the region, with the goal of serving more young people in their communities of origin through the proven work of community-based youth development providers.

Yet, organizations working to advance youth development through a wide range of interventions are tackling complex systemic issues, often without the dedicated resources to build their own capacity to do this work. Through the Ready to Rise Initiative, youth development providers are not only provided resources to deepen their programmatic

offerings to ensure youth are in a position to succeed, learn, and thrive, but also a responsive and customized capacity building program focused on developing their organizational core competencies. In order to grow the ecosystem of quality youth development providers and resources across Los Angeles County, and serve more young people in their communities of origin, investments are needed to strengthen and develop organizations themselves.

In collaboration with the California Community Foundation and the Los Angeles County Probation Department, Liberty Hill is working to address this gap by providing a capacity-building program focused specifically on developing organizational core competencies for youth development organizations, including: leadership and board development, data tracking & evaluation, financial management, fundraising, program refinement, and strategic planning, through a racial equity lens.

Capacity Building Program Activities

All grantees of R2R committed to participate in a capacity building program both as part of a cohort and through customized services for each organization. This capacity-building program is led by the Liberty Hill Foundation, with input from CCF, and has been directly implemented and co-designed by Destiny Coaching and Consulting group (Destiny). Imoyase Community Support Services has also provided key technical assistance as part of their role as the lead Evaluator for Ready to Rise.

Destiny was selected as the capacity building consultant team after responding to a Request for Proposal published on March 6, 2019. Ten applicants responded to the open application process and submitted responses. Liberty Hill staff rated the applications based on a 15-point rubric, evaluating the following domains: experience, responsiveness and thought partnership, project fit and background, approach, and impact. Four applicants were identified as top candidates and invited to a final interview with both Liberty Hill and CCF.

Destiny demonstrates a breadth of diverse knowledge across their four-person leadership team, and hired twelve additional coaches to guide the capacity building experience of the 49 R2R grantees. Across the leadership team, each member has at least 10 years of experience in capacity building and at least 20 years in community/ nonprofit work. Team members include certified coaches with experience providing coaching services to varied stakeholders across philanthropy, community organizers, executive directors and management teams. They have established, deep experience leading multi-year, multi-site projects that have engaged the high needs communities served by R2R grantee organizations and uplift youth development as a core principle. In addition, the team centers their work through a racial, gender, LGBTQ and economic justice lens and roots their work in asset-based approaches that are results driven.

For the purpose of this partnership, capacity building is defined as the funding and technical assistance that helps nonprofits increase the specific capacities needed to deliver stronger programs, take risks, form community and peer connections, build internal leadership, create and maintain healthy organizational structures, innovate and iterate. This partnership recognizes that a key strategy for achieving equitable outcomes in communities is to invest in the talent and leadership capacity of its community partners.

Capacity building objectives for Ready to Rise:

1. Grantee organizations increase their organizational awareness and capacity to provide high quality direct service interventions for youth and fulfill their organizational missions
2. Peer-to-peer learning is fostered through participation in a shared community of

aligned providers that may inform greater, ongoing collaboration.

3. Community based youth development providers are positioned, over the long-term, to apply for Los Angeles County resources without intermediary support, opening access to sustained, multi-year funding streams

The four primary components of the capacity building program for both grantee cohorts include:

1. Organizational Assessment—A collaborative process between grantees and capacity building providers to learn about organizational strengths, needs, gaps, and areas for growth, and track success gained throughout the program. Individual coaching is provided to interpret the results of the assessments.
2. Individualized Capacity Building Plans—Members from various levels of the grantee organizations work with an assigned coach to develop a capacity building strategy. The plan outlines the primary focus of the first year of capacity building activities, the goals associated with that focus, and identifies the support needed to achieve specified goals.
3. Individualized Coaching Sessions—Customized and responsive coaching and/or consulting for each organization to implement their capacity building plan. Organizations work with their coach to direct this process and select their consultants.
4. Cohort-based Convenings—Members from various levels of the grantee organizations attend a cohort launch convening and up to four training convenings during the course of the grant cycle to focus on the development of core organizational competencies.

Ready to Rise Cohort 2 will receive track-based training opportunities focused on providing a deep learning experience on one of six capacity building topics including: leadership development, board development, fundraising, data and evaluation, program refinement, and strategic planning. Specific consultants have been identified to implement each of the tracks and organizations will have the opportunity to select one track after working with their coach to assess their priorities and needs. The cohort-based convenings for Cohort 2 will address topics that cover other domains such as: racial equity, employee burnout and turnover, and restorative justice practices.

In addition to the aforementioned components for cohort-based participants, public workshops will be offered to community-based youth development organizations throughout 2020.

- Public Workshops—Organizations who have not been selected to participate in R2R cohorts will have access to workshops that are open for their continued development. The trainings will focus on topics that will facilitate learning for these organizations to help them be more competitive in subsequent funding rounds and for other local and state funding sources. Examples of topics may include: financial management, grant writing, evaluation and storytelling.



Accomplishments to Date

Capacity building is proven most effective and responsive to the needs of community-based organizations when it is provided as a continuous, multi-year intervention. Organizations cannot be expected to make significant transformations overnight and capacity building should be delivered taking a long-view approach, allowing organizations to develop thoughtful plans for growth and evolution and to develop strategies to sustain the gains that have been achieved beyond a single program or initiative. Community based leaders have named that in order for a capacity building program to be supportive and effective, it should take place over a minimum of three years.

With that said, in the first six months of program implementation, much has been accomplished and implemented as part of the capacity building programming for Ready to Rise both from a process and development standpoint and in terms of grantee progress on their goals and objectives.

Process and Curriculum Development:

1. Hired a team of 16 capacity building coaches and consultants to provide direct support, coaching and training to R2R grantees.
2. Designed the capacity building framework to meet the needs and goals of R2R.
3. Developed a customized assessment protocol to capture the strengths of cohort-based organizations and identify areas for organizational development.
4. Completed 20 site visits with organizational senior leadership and program staff for all Cohort 1 organizations, including the implementation of the comprehensive assessment tool.
5. Matched each R2R grantee organization with an individual coach to help them move through the capacity building program activities, and matched 14 out of 20 organizations with content specific consultants.
6. Co-created capacity building plans with each organization in Cohort 1, outlining their year 1 goals for providing youth services and activities; long-term outcomes; and capacity building needs. Goals identified by groups focus on the following topics:
 - a. Board Development
 - b. Data & Evaluation
 - c. Fiscal Management
 - d. Goal Setting
 - e. Human Resources
 - f. Marketing & Communications
 - g. Organizational Structure & Culture
 - h. Program Development
7. Provided over 150 hours of individualized grantee coaching to assist organizations to meet the capacity building goals outlined in their year 1 plans.
8. Provided over 126 hours of technical assistance to grantee partners to assist them with unique skill building.

Assessment:

Throughout the October site visits conducted by Destiny and Imoyase, grantees were assessed on two key measures: financial management, and organizational culture practices. Most grantees also completed an assessment of at least one other capacity building area in order to inform the focus of their capacity building plans, including other topic areas such as: program development, fiscal management, leadership development,

and data evaluation, management and use. Organizations rated themselves on a 4-point scale indicating their level of proficiency across these identified domains. Organizations will be reassessed after they receive capacity building interventions through Ready to Rise to gauge if there has been a change in readiness on these domains as a result of their coaching, training, and capacity building plan implementation.

Assessments served the dual purpose of providing both a benchmark to guide grantee progress and learning and also helped to provide information to shape the curriculum development for Ready to Rise capacity building activities. Grantees were also surveyed at multiple points in the application process, and as they were selected as R2R grantees, on their key priority areas for capacity building. This information, and various feedback opportunities after each convening, has led R2R capacity building to be a customized, responsive program co-designed with grantees based on their immediate needs and wants, as opposed to an “off the shelf” training program.

Imoyase, as part of a comprehensive evaluation focused on capacity building services, will track what interventions organizations have asked for and if the capacity building service provision through R2R has met these needs and led to meaningful impact in their organizational development.

Convenings:

1. Launch Convening for Cohort 1 (August 29, 2019)

Introduction of the program to 76 participants from 20 grantee organizations through a 3-hour convening, facilitated by Destiny. Grantees were re-introduced to the purpose of the program and its offerings, met with consultant partners and fellow grantees, and heard from the foundation and county entities leading the initiative. Grantees had the ability to provide critical feedback on wants and needs to shape the curriculum moving forward.

2. Capacity Building Convening #1 (November 7-8, 2019)

The first capacity building convening for Cohort 1 engaged over 50 participants across two days. Skills-building focused on financial management, data and evaluation. The convening included workshops from Imoyase Community Support Services and the Nonprofit Finance Fund.

Grantees engaged in peer learning in small groups on the following topics:

- Government Grants & Building the Sustainability of Organizations
- Building Alumni Programs
- Engaging Systems Involved Youth
- Measuring Success: Collecting Data & Evaluation Processes
- Fundraising: Individual Donor Campaigns

Grantee Experience:

Throughout the last 6 months, grantees have been active participants in shaping the agendas for convenings through their consistent feedback and have identified their top priorities to shape the curriculum so it is responsive to their needs.

Some direct grantee quotes on their experience include the following:

1. ***“Excited about working with supportive consulting teams. Hopeful our program will inspire youth to expand their vision of what they can achieve for themselves and their families and that they can dare to dream.”***

2. ***“Excited for the collaboration and shared goals, overwhelmed by so many new things to take on and challenges to overcome, and eager to meet more fellow grantees.”***
3. ***“Extremely valuable hearing from other programs regarding the strategies and tools used with their population.”***
4. ***“I like the following: the size of the group, that it was coach-lead and that everyone felt comfortable to speak. I can’t think of any way to improve it.”***
5. ***“Really appreciated the overview of next steps and the collaborative approach to creating the evaluation. Looking forward to partnering with another organization on focus groups.”***

Grantees reflected on leaving convenings feeling better connected to other grantee organizations, feeling inspired by each other’s programmatic work and incubating more ideas and insights for their own work based on the trainings.

- **93%** agreed that they left the November convening with a better understanding of the work their fellow R2R grantees do
- **88%** agreed that the financial workshop handouts contained relevant information and was easy to digest.
- **81%** agreed that the financial workshop gave them practical learning they could apply to their work.

Conclusion

The Ready to Rise initiative serves 49 organizations across two cohorts to enhance both their service delivery through programmatic support and build their long-term sustainability through capacity building efforts. Liberty Hill, in lock step with our consultant partners, is delivering a responsive, customized, comprehensive, and culturally relevant capacity building program for each cohort that has been designed from the ground up, specifically for this group of organizations.

Capacity building has been an iterative process, guided by grantee needs and wants, to provide learning across and between organizations through peer interaction and teaching, individualized coaching focused on meeting specific grantee objectives, and the provision of consultant content experts to help organizations meet their unique goals.

Nonprofit and governmental agencies across the nation have uplifted peer networking as a key component to overall capacity building of individual organizations and the broader field in which they operate. By providing groups with the opportunity, structure, and space to share lessons learned, successes, best practices and common challenges, increases the efficacy of the programs and organizations they lead and ultimately leads to better outcomes for youth.

Furthermore, R2R has provided opportunities for youth serving organizations countywide to uplift common challenges that have prevented their engagement with the L.A. County contracting process. This feedback process about county contracting requirements provides valuable insights on what is precluding often small yet effective community providers from accessing public funds. Through the R2R program, this information will be distilled and shared with the County to continue to inform innovative approaches to expand the youth development ecosystem countywide.

The historical opportunity presented by the Ready to Rise public private partnership cannot be underestimated. This is a first of its kind partnership between two community foundations, the California Community Foundation and the Liberty Hill Foundation, to partner with LA County Probation and for the first time allocate county resources in a new and expedited way. Through this new funding and capacity building structure, organizations that have previously been on the outside looking in now have access to public dollars, often for the first time. We are working to ensure that what has been built over the past year, and implemented over the past six months, is a sustained intervention that will not only lead to real impact for youth development service providers and the youth they serve, but create new best practices that can be implemented countywide.

Recommendations

As we reflect on a successful first year of the Ready to Rise Initiative, we would like to offer some recommendations to our partners in the Los Angeles County Probation Department on behalf of the community. We believe that these adjustments will begin to lead to procurement processes across Los Angeles County that are fair and more accessible to community-based organizations.



1) We recommend stronger cross departmental coordination within Los Angeles County to evaluate the varying procurement processes and requirements within each department.

Collaboration between departments should be extended to all departments who contract with community-based agencies to do social services and community-based work and projects. This includes, but is not limited to, departments such as the Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County Development Authority, Department of Children and Family Services etc. We recommend that a cross department effort be engaged to centralize the various requirements and procedures asked of community-based organizations seeking to be approved for county contracting. This would allow for better transparency of contract requirements and provide the opportunity to examine where there is duplication with the hope of streamlining contracting. We recommend that community-based partners be engaged in this collaboration and be invited to provide more detailed recommendations for improvement.

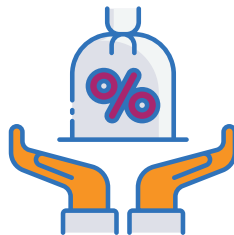


2) We recommend additional considerations regarding how insurance requirements are designed for various subcontractors, such as community-based organizations.

Currently, standard insurance requirements are set and mandated of County contractors and their subcontractors at between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000 with variance for types of insurance. These minimum standards do not account for the myriad of complexities that organizations must weigh when securing insurance, including their scope of work, budget, and size of operations. Revised standards that are right-sized for contractors and subcontractors would ensure that insurance levels align with subcontractors of various sizes and types. Further, recommendations for appropriate insurance minimums should be developed in collaboration with insurance professionals as current requirements do not align well with current insurance products available to some organizations.



3) We recommend the establishment of background check requirement processes that are more accessible and equitable to ease the barrier of access for organizations seeking to contract with the Los Angeles County Probation Department. Currently, background checks for clearance to work on projects aligned with the Los Angeles County Probation Department are only offered two days per week (Mondays and Fridays) and in once location (Los Angeles County Probation Department's Background and Investigations Unit in Downey, CA). It is recommended that the department explore alternative options for screening at outside authorized and licensed locations to provide greater accessibility to contractors for whom there is significant travel required to conduct in-person screening at the Los Angeles County Probation Department's Background and Investigations Unit. Further, to support the promotion of efforts informed and led by those with lived experience, previous infractions unrelated to their ability to safely participate in the contracted work should not disqualify otherwise eligible staff. Additionally, to promote near-age peer mentors, individuals under the age of 21 should not be automatically deemed ineligible for clearance.



4) We recommend elimination of the cost reimbursement funding model beyond Ready to Rise, when possible. The cost reimbursement funding model is a significant barrier to access for most community-based organizations. This model relies on the organizations' ability to have access to liquid assets or reserves and to execute work before receiving compensation. We applaud Probation for working with CCF to design a model that allows Ready to Rise partners to receive funding in advance of their costs and programs. However, to alleviate this burden outside of R2R, we suggest transition to an advance/upfront payment model which appropriately compensates organizations and provides them with the resources needed to accomplish work successfully.

Appendix

Figure 1. Ready to Rise Grant Timeline

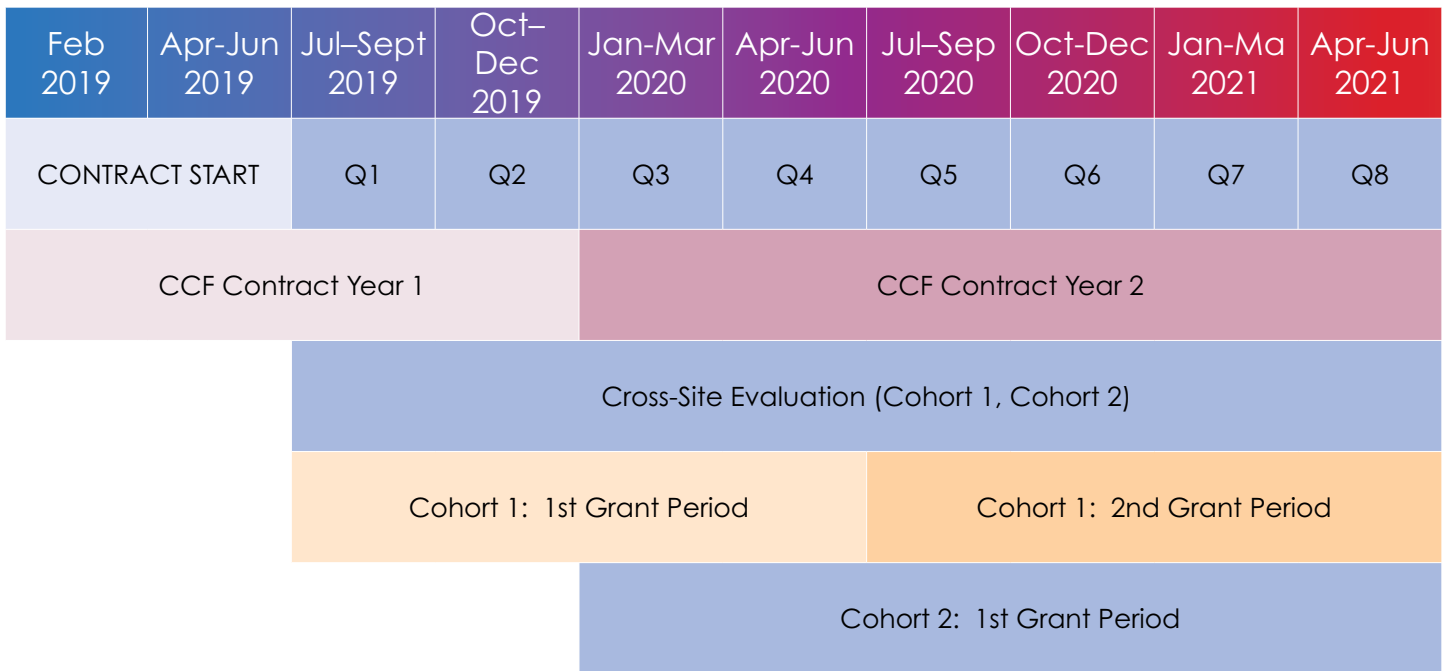


Figure 2. Youth Served by Age Range (July – December 2019)

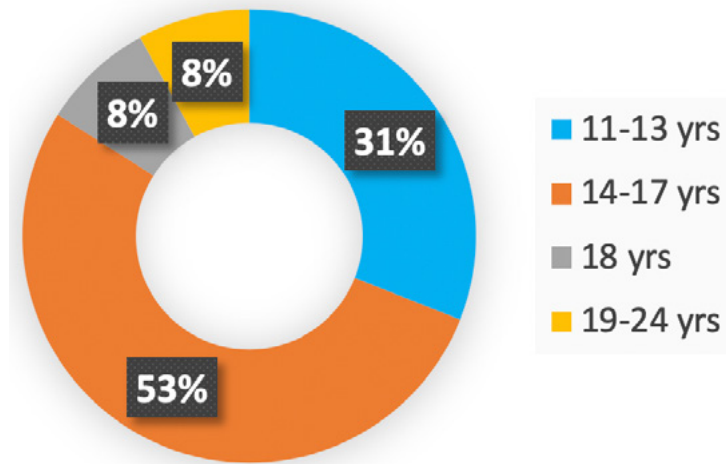


Figure 3. Youth Served by Gender (July – December 2019)

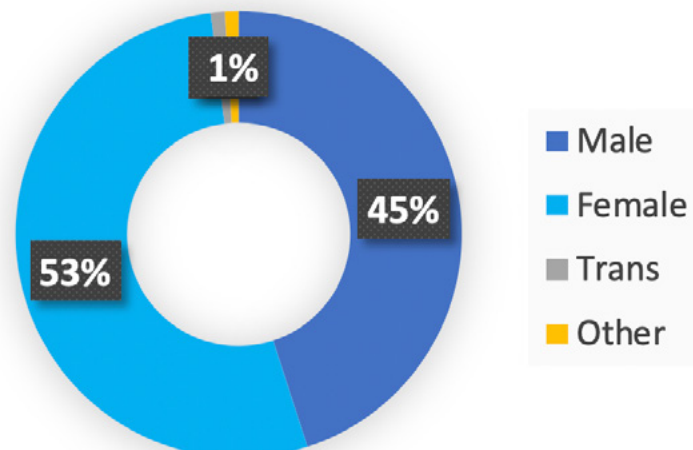


Figure 4. Percentage of Youth Served by Ethnicity (July – December 2019)

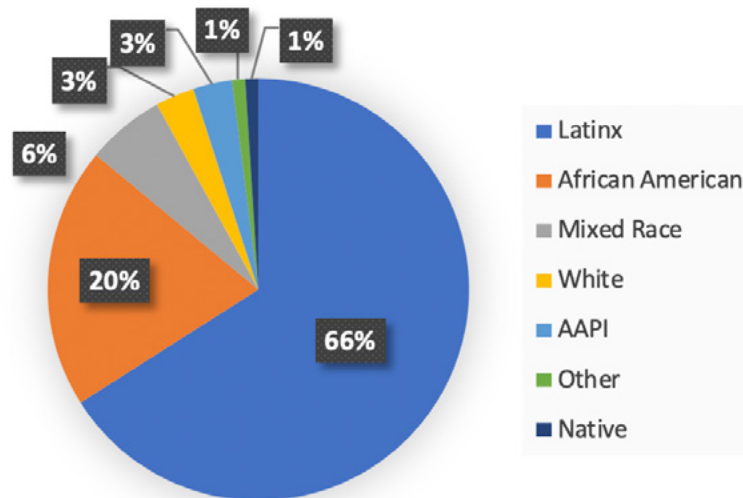
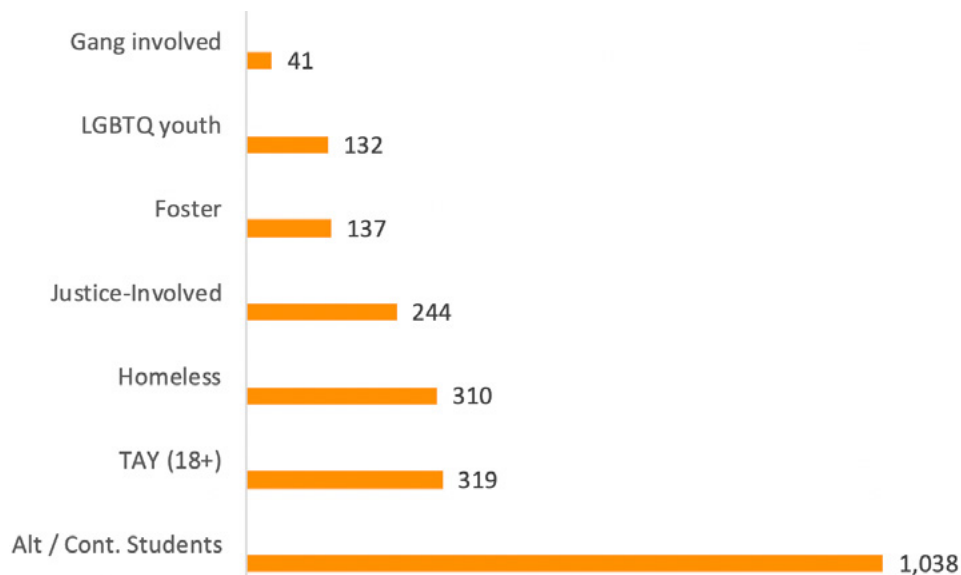


Figure 5. Number of Youth Served by Population* (July – December 2019)



• All data was self-reported by youth. Many youth opted to not self-identify to the provider.

Figure 6. Top 4 Positive Youth Development Approaches used in R2R Grantee Services (July – December 2019)

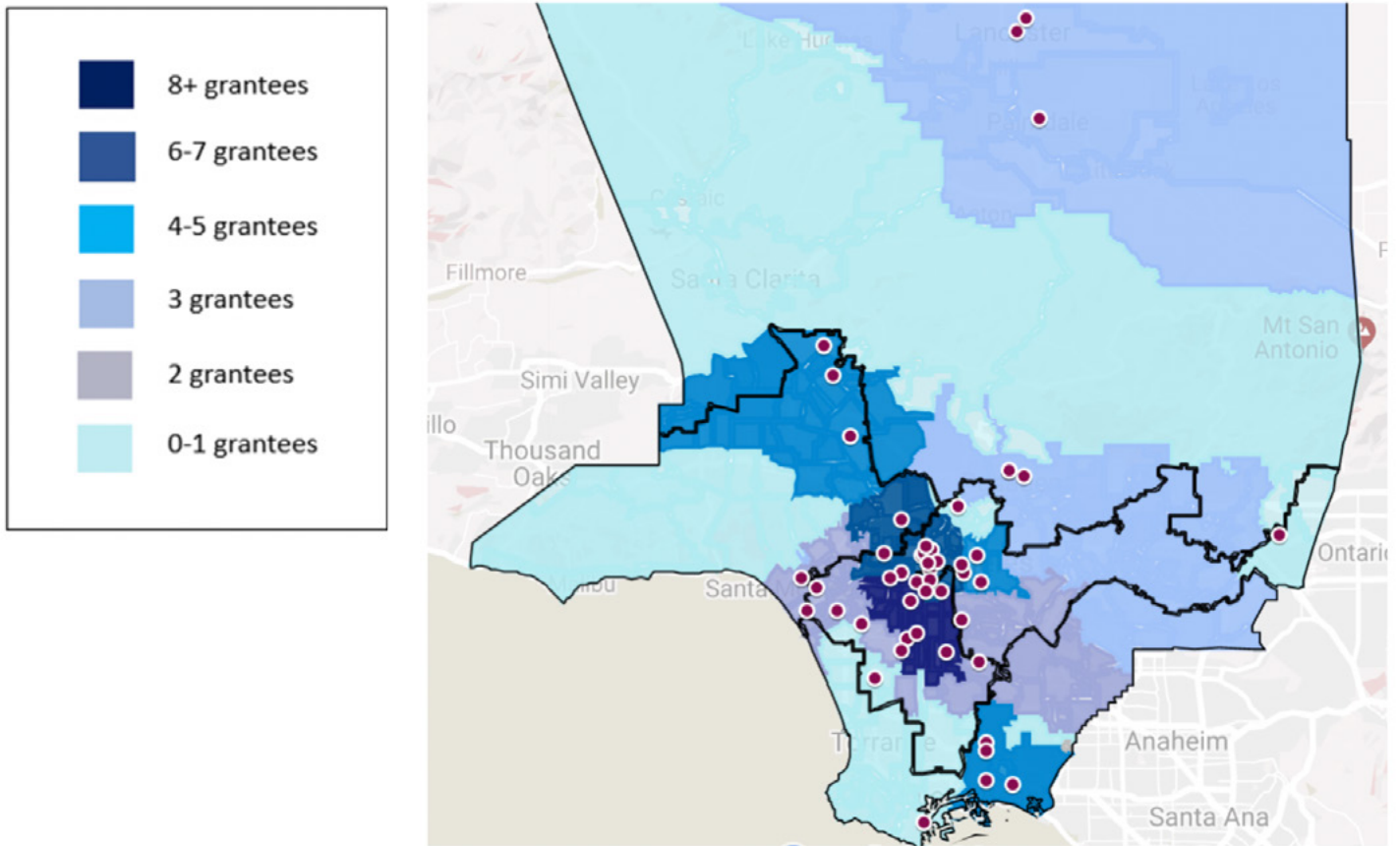
Positive Youth Development Domains

1. Youth Organizing / Leadership Development
2. Career / Vocational Development
3. Socio-Emotional Development
4. Case Management

**Figure 7. Evaluation Process Indicators, July – December 2019
Services (July – December 2019)**

Process Indicator	Current Status	Next Steps
<p>1. All grantees can accurately report on the number of youth served each month.</p>	<p>Nearly complete: One grantee was not able to report on the number of unduplicated youth served in 2019, due to the non-standardized nature of their service delivery model.</p>	<p>The one organization who was not able to report on unduplicated youth served will be able to report beginning in February 2020.</p>
<p>2. All grantees have established youth activity objectives that are measurable, attainable, and realistic.</p> <p>2b. All grantees can track quarterly progress toward completing objectives.</p>	<p>Complete: As of December 2019, all grantees had established objectives, and were able to report on progress toward meeting these objectives.</p>	<p>The next quarterly report, due in April 2020, will reflect grantee progress toward meeting objectives during the first year of implementation.</p>
<p>3. All grantees are trained to administer a Youth Development Evaluation Tool (pre and post survey) to their youth participants. The tool will answer the question, “What impact did services have on youth, through the lens of a positive youth development approach?”</p>	<p>Complete: All grantees have received training on administering the new Youth Development Evaluation Tool to youth participants.</p>	<p>Grantees will work to administer the tool to a sample of their youth participants by June 1, 2020.</p>
<p>4. Build grantee capacity to complete a local evaluation, and sustain local evaluations moving forward.</p>	<p>Nearly complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 organizations are in the planning stages of designing their local outcome evaluation; • 2 organizations are piloting their outcome evaluation; • 4 have implemented/continue to implement their outcome evaluation; and • 2 have completed their outcome evaluation and have analyzed data. 	<p>Imoyase will continue to work with grantees to plan for local evaluations.</p>
<p>5. Prepare grantees to conduct focus groups in order to supplement quantitative data with qualitative information from youth and program staff.</p>	<p>Nearly complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All grantees have received a training on conducting focus groups with youth participants. • Some grantees are prepared to execute focus groups during this grant period. • Some grantees are not ready to execute focus groups during this grant period. 	<p>Grantees who are prepared to execute focus groups will begin implementation in March and April 2020.</p>

Figure 8. Cohort 1 Organizations by Geographic Service Area





Grantee Profiles

“ A Place Called Home is where we build bridges to a better future.

It is a safe space filled with opportunities we wouldn't otherwise have. ”

– A Place Called Home Member, Age 19



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



A Place Called Home (APCH) proposes to serve Opportunity Youth (OY) over the coming year; Opportunity Youth are defined as those facing the most serious obstacles to success, including involvement in the juvenile justice and/or foster care systems. APCH will partner with Da Vinci Schools to offer RISE High at APCH, an on-site charter school designed to support OY in finishing their high school education. APCH will serve OY through a new programming component called "IMPACT," which stands for Individual Member Programming and Counseling Track, will operate on Saturdays and provide targeted support, including job readiness classes, nutrition, and athletics, for OY.

www.APCH.org



“ Through supporting APCH's IMPACT program and RISE High School partnership, Ready to Rise is investing in safety, support and opportunity so hundreds of the highest needs youth in L.A. can find their way and reach their potential. Young people are emerging stronger, healthier, and headed for good jobs and higher education, which makes the world a better place for us all. ”

– Jonathan Zeichner, Executive Director

“ Attending AGC for the past five years has truly been a dream come true!

A conservatory where you are encouraged to be yourself while still mastering the aspects of acting, singing, dancing, media arts and so much more. If it wasn't for AGC and Ready to Rise giving me this opportunity I wouldn't have found my passion for the arts. ”

– Glendale T.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Amazing Grace Conservatory (AGC) will provide artistic training and development in performing arts: acting, dance, voice, spoken word, yoga, media and digital arts for emerging artists (ages 11-18) from the communities of South Los Angeles. The program provides artistic, personal and professional development but beyond this, it is a safe haven for youth to express themselves freely and become better members of their communities and the world. As the program expands to include now technical training in the arts, a focus on writing, editing, directing, and producing films there is a need to have staff who support program development through strategic alignments with local schools, government, corporate and business entities. Local school partnerships include but are not limited to Audubon Middle School, Barack Obama Prep, Crenshaw, Augustin Hawkins, Washington Prep High Schools.



www.AmazingGraceConservatory.org



“ As a LA native and LAUSD alum, I'm excited to give back to the community that touched, moved and inspired me to create! The Ready to Rise grant will allow AGC to pay it forward, saving more lives through the arts, one child at a time! ”

– Wendy Raquel Robinson, Executive Director & Co-founder

**“ The Club has made me a better person,
with a better attitude towards life.**

*My mentor gave me the confidence I need to
reach my dream of attending college. ”*

– Angeline, 2020 Youth of the Year, Age 14



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Antelope Valley Boys & Girls Club (BGCAV) aims to serve minority and low-income youth ages 11-18. BGCAV will serve youth from local middle school and high school districts. BGCAV will work closely through partnerships and MOU's with school districts to expand services to where BGCAV's target population is (on school campuses). Funding will provide staffing and program resources for this initiative.

www.AVBGC.org



“ For 30 years, the Antelope Valley Boys & Girls Club has given youth access to life changing programs, and instilled them with hope, opportunity and a sense of belonging. Our team of dedicated youth professionals work hard to empower kids to graduate on time with a plan for the future, live healthy lifestyles, and lead with good character and citizenship. ”

– Stacey Cantwel, Executive Director

“ AVPH has helped me realize there are more opportunities than I used to think in the AV for youth. The events and programs they have, have made me feel a sense of joy I've never felt it reminds me that life in the AV can be fun without drugs. ”

– Current Youth Program Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH) promotes health, safety and well-being in the region. It offers programs for children and youth, including those who are victims of crime. AVPH's Supporting Youth Victims (SYV) works with children and youth who have been victims of the opioid crisis. It is establishing a comprehensive, community-driven and multidisciplinary approach to increase services.



www.AVPH.org



“ It is AVPH's mission to ensure all those living in the Antelope Valley are able to achieve optimal health and quality of life especially our youth. Our youth are our future. ”

– Michelle Fluke, Executive Director

“ There are few places in the Valley that as a parent one can feel safe with in regards to entrusting the care of one’s child. BGCSFV stands as a beacon for many families looking for a safe and trust-worthy place for care and education of their child, it certainly was for mine. ”
– Johannes L. & Lorena A. (Parents)



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Boys and Girls Club San Fernando Valley seeks to enhance and expand “Project Learn”, its flagship Academic and Career Exploration Program, including homework assistance and enrichment activities with an emphasis on improving literacy, academic performance, confidence levels, and leadership skills. BGCSFV will serve youth who are, in order of percentage, Latino, African-American, and Pacific Islanders, from low-income families. Youth will be served from the northeast San Fernando Valley, especially Pacoima and the surrounding areas. BGCSFV will also establish a new site location by partnering with 2 elementary schools.



[www. BGCSFV.org](http://www.BGCSFV.org)



“ Ready to Rise has provided us with an opportunity to guide our youth into developing a mindset and course of action that goes beyond “just surviving”; “just being hopeful”; it becomes a road plan with a foundation infused with encouragement, support, insight and a plethora of resources, all designed to catapult our youth into a mode of how to “thrive”, what it looks like, feels like and will become.

Having “hope is huge”, but how you transition that belief in hope, into a vision for optimal goal acquisition and a drive for success...this is what Ready to Rise is gifting our youth. ”

- Nicole Chase, President & CEO

“ It gives us hope, and makes me work harder when I see so many accomplished African American men investing in me, and caring about my future. I feel I can't let them down. I will continue to work hard to make them proud. ”

– Orlando S., BBF Program Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Bridge Builders seeks to empower youth with values, attitudes, and strategies necessary to thrive in school, at home, in the community, and in the workplace by exposing them to (1) Success Roles, (2) Role Models, and (3) Mentors. The target population is African American High School males from King-Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science and Lynwood High School. Bridge Builders plan to serve more students, provide more comprehensive incentive field trips, and provide for program measurement and evaluation.

[www. BridgeBuildersLA.org](http://www.BridgeBuildersLA.org)



“ We are excited to be a partner in the “Ready to Rise” Initiative. This partnership not only strengthens our organization, but more importantly, it is a significant investment into our community, and will be impactful to a very deserving, and often overlooked, cohort of young people. ”

– James Breedlove, President

“ *What I've learned in class is you have to set the benchmark for what you stand for. You have to make a declaration in life for what you're willing to do! This class is excellent!* **”**

– Y. Deleon



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The BUILD Program plans to refine and expand their Community Sentinels Program as well as their Leadership Academy. More specifically, BUILD will widen the geographical scope of their target population. The geographic areas that will be serviced includes Watts, Greater Los Angeles, and parts of Compton.

www.BUILDPROGRAM.org



“ *If serving is below you then leadership is beyond you. Service is the rent we pay, for the space we take up on this earth. We have to live for a cause bigger than ourselves and then stand on the legacy that we leave! This is why I do this work.* **”**

– Dr. Aquil Basheer

“ **What’s most special to me about CYC is what the name says: California Youth Connection.** The connections that I’ve made with the other youth have been amazing. They don’t make assumptions about me. They really support me and push me to go further. CYC encourages me to look outside of where I’ve been. ”

– Rayshaun Wilburn, CYC Member



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



California Youth Connection (CYC) trains California youth who have experienced foster care to work to improve foster care policy and practice. CYC provides opportunities for youth to engage in outreach, organizing, community education and advocacy. CYC youth gain skills in public speaking, communications and advocacy, as well as a sophisticated understanding of government and civic participation.

www.CalYouthConn.org



“ **CYC’s leadership of youth, staff, and the board bring together a powerful force for systems transformation for young people. Bringing love to the center of what our children need and deserve when the state intervenes is a calling. We combine political education with life experiences to form policy, practice, and legislative change that forms a community of peers who thrive.** ”

– Robin Allen, Interim Executive Director

“ CARECEN is a refuge where I find security, support and courage to continue with my future goals. I will always be grateful and feel blessed to be part of CARECEN. ”

– Georgina Henriquez, CSU Davis



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Central American Resource Center's (CARECEN) Migrant Youth Integration project aims to successfully integrate recently arrived, migrant youth into the civic, social, and economic life of their new communities in the Pico-Union area of Los Angeles. To this extent, CARECEN will continue providing holistic services and collaboration through our legal, advocacy, organizing, and educational programs so migrant youth can receive the support they need. CARECEN's Migrant Youth Integration Project will provide dedicated and experienced Coordinators and Organizers who will be overseeing the project's implementation. In addition, CARECEN will hire a FTE Case Manager, as well as sub-contract for onsite mental health workshops. CARECEN is poised to lead these efforts as our staff has developed considerable experience in understanding and addressing migrant youth's various needs.



www.carecen-la.org

“ We are thankful and eager to work alongside the Ready to Rise Initiative's administrators and grantees as we collectively provide community-based and community-driven youth development services for our capable and resilient youth. ”

– Martha Arevalo, Executive Director



“**Through CCEJ, I realized that I've been impacted by the school-to-prison pipeline** because I had to change schools for something I did that was stupid and I should have never done in my entire life. I know now I'm not the only one who has gone through these challenges. I learned there are multiple ways to resolve conflict. Everyone goes through things and you just have to be willing to care enough to understand them.”



– CCEJ Youth Participant

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ) works to transform individuals and communities, heal conflicts and build real unity in Southern California. CCEJ's project, "Building Connections for Youth Development and Resiliency," keeps youth out of the criminal justice system by helping them develop their identities, socioemotional skills and leadership abilities through engaging in dialogue across differences, building positive connections with peers, family and teachers and using Restorative Justice practices to strengthen relationships and address conflict.



www.cacej.org



“**At CCEJ, we believe that youth will succeed and thrive when they have a deep understanding of their own identities and needs and have strong, resilient relationships with their families, peers and communities. Our work is grounded in the belief that no one is disposable, and we emphasize care over punishment through our youth development and Restorative Justice programs.**”

– Reena Hajat Carroll, Executive Director

“ I am Pedro, a 22 years old Graphic Artist for LB Por Vida. I have learned new skills in graphic design and co-create with professional artist in the community. What I love most about the program is inspiring new youth to be creative through arts. Centro CHA has helped me to stay in college and I hope to one day become a cartoon illustrator. ”

– Pedro A., Art Major at California State University, Long Beach



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Centro Community Hispanic Association's (Centro CHA) mission is to increase the quality of programs and services that improve the social and economic development and well-being of low-income youth and families in Long Beach. Centro envisions a thriving community where investments for low-income communities and environments are a priority, and where residents are connected, civically engaged, working and living in safe sustainable homes, schools and communities.

www.centrocha.org



“ Centro CHA is honored to partner with the California Community Foundation's Ready 2 Rise initiative to pioneer our Long Beach Por Vida young entrepreneurs program, a youth-led social-enterprise. We are empowering young men and women with socio-economic disadvantages through leadership and skills development in Today's rapidly changing world to become healthy and thriving future leaders, innovative thinkers, and entrepreneurs. ”

– Jessica Quintana, Executive Director

“ I have been a part of the Coalition since I was 15 years old and incarcerated. While I was incarcerated, the program helped make my time both productive and entertaining. C/HOPE has provided me and my mother with unconditional support for 3 years and they even employed me through their internship program. This program has been truly wonderful. ”

– Youth Program Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Coalition for Engaged Education's C/HOPE Community Program serves youth who have exited the probation camp system. The program supports and guides youth upon their release so they can forge a long-term, stable and productive path. C/HOPE partners with culturally-sensitive organizations in communities that represent their youth.

www.c-youth.org



“ We envision a day when our youth are not defined by adjectives such as “at-risk”, “high-risk” “underprivileged”, “homeless”, “poverty stricken” and “throw away kids” among others. At the Coalition we support youth to overcome systemic barriers as they achieve their goals. We meet youths where they are at, both physically and emotionally, tailoring our practice to each youths’ individual needs. ”

– Roberta Shinitani, Executive Director



“ I was trafficked at 13 by a classmate.

My case manager helped with jobs, housing, making friends at activities and provided TAP cards. I met my best friend at the youth retreat. Youth activities allow survivors to participate and experience things we didn't know existed. Cast gave me the extra push I needed to be the woman I am today. ”

– Former Cast youth client, now age 22



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking's (CAST) target population is youth aged 14-24 who are survivors of human trafficking living in Los Angeles County. Cast will provide a comprehensive youth program comprised of at least one external activity per month, including a youth retreat - alongside case management and legal services funded by other grants. Cast will double the annual number of Youth Program activities (from 6 to 12) and increase the number of participants at each activity in order to strengthen community and connection among participants - leading to increased individual survivor outcomes, as part of Cast's continuum of care.

www.CastLA.org



“ Cast's Youth Program empowers survivors of human trafficking aged 14-24 to address their trauma and learn life skills. With this grant, Cast will enhance our youth activities program - a simple but effective way of rebuilding a life of freedom.33Thanks to CCF, Probation and Liberty Hill for your partnership and for helping us transform the lives of young people. ”

– Kay Buck, CEO

“CBE has opened doors for me that have allowed me to expand my knowledge and awareness of the environmental injustices that occur in my community and the communities around me. Not only that, but it has provided me with a second home and most importantly, a family I can count on forever. be the woman I am today.”

– Kimberly, Southeast High School



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) supports youth from Wilmington and the small municipalities of Southeast LA. CBE provides youth and community leadership for Stand Against Neighborhood Drilling (STAND LA) campaign work in Wilmington. The youth represent 8 high schools, where 2,500 youth are reached each year through school-based outreach during Campus Club Week. Each high school club sustains at least 25, and up to 50 members year-round. Nearly 100% of CBE's youth members are people of color; approximately 70% are from immigrant families.

www.cbecal.org



“Our identities are interconnected. We cannot separate our race from our gender from how we're being impacted ... we have to address it in that way.”

– Darryl Molina Sarmiento, Executive Director

“ I come to Community Coalition to be with people who are my family, who uplift me, and bring me positive energy that I feel like I need in my life. I also come to develop the skills I need in order to change the school to prison pipeline. ”
– Samone Wade, SCYEA Youth Leader



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Community Coalition's South Central Youth Empowered through Action (SCYEA) program works to address youth-of color's disproportionate involvement with the criminal and juvenile justice systems. It also cultivates the leadership and self-efficacy of at-risk youth through services and trainings to address academic and wellness needs, prevent criminal justice contact and prepare them for long-term success and leadership.

[www. CoCoSouthLA.org](http://www.CoCoSouthLA.org)



“ Radical change is needed for our youth to succeed, and radical change is what Ready to Rise is bringing, as we collectively re-engineer youth programs from incarceration and punishment to prevention, treatment, and leadership development. ”

– Alberto Retana, President/CEO

“CDTech will give me the opportunity to enhance both my people and my leadership skills. For example, going door-to-door enhances both skills I want to build on because I am conversing with people of my community and educating them on how they may build their desired expertise and get a successful job or even career. Leadership skills are important to be because when I go off to college, I want to be my own person and encourage others who may not be as confident to let their voices be heard.”

– Current Youth Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The Community Development Technologies Center (CDTech) is a race equity and economic justice organization confronting issues of concentrated poverty produced by historic racial inequality. CDTech's "Y-LEAD: Success Pathways for South-Central LA Youth" increases leadership capacity, educational attainment and career development among vulnerable youth.

www.CDtech.org



“CDTech is determined to catalyze the next generation of Black and Brown youth leaders of South Central Los Angeles by providing them career development training, academic support and allowing youth to be civically engaged to change the negative conditions affecting their communities. Youth Leaders Empowered Active & Diverse (YLEAD) are youth leaders collectively taking action to benefit their neighborhoods.”

– Benjamin Torres, President/CEO

“

What I like about EmpowHer is just being able to talk to our mentor about things we wouldn't otherwise talk about.

That is really cool because it is not just us sharing, it's our mentor too. That helped create a safe space for sharing.”

– Amanda



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



EmpowHer Institute's mission is to empower girls from marginalized communities through education, training and mentorship to become confident, college and career ready. In addition to preventing dropout, EmpowHer Girls Academy Program aims to give teen girls the tools they need to cope with challenges, overcome trauma, stay engaged in school and reach their fullest potential.

www.EmpowerHer.org



“

Social Justice is the outcome we want for the teen girls in the EmpowHer programs. They learn a sense of agency and sisterhood in the community we create while building a vision for their future.”

– Betty LaMarr—President/CEO

“ *There's always something going on at the Youth of Promise program. Since I've started, I've really applied myself. I'm more focused; I have a place that's meant to do work... The staff are really friendly, and the group of friends we have here is like a family. I can bring my problems here and they can help me with them.* ” – Flintridge Center Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Flintridge Center's mission is to break the cycle of poverty and violence through community planning, innovation and action. Flintridge's Youth of Promise (YOP) program works toward this vision by providing wraparound youth development services with an emphasis on addressing trauma and its impacts. YOP youth receive case management, mentoring, academic support, life skills sessions, community service learning and family engagement opportunities.



www.flintridge.org

“ *At Flintridge Center we understand that breaking the cycle of poverty, violence and incarceration requires disruption at multiple points along the cycle. The Youth of Promise program provides critical prevention and diversion services that allow youth to explore their strengths and uplift their community through advocacy. Our goal is to never see our community's youth access our adult reintegration services.* ”

– Daniel Torres, Co-Executive Director



“I learn things that I didn’t learn in school at the Girls Club. Together with students in high and middle school, I learned we have a lot in common. I enjoyed hearing from guest speakers, a DACA student inspired us to never give up on our dreams. He shared his immigration status, losing his house and job when his visa expired, but he never gave up on his dreams. ”

– Youth Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Girls Club of Los Angeles' (GCLA) mission is to enrich the lives of low-income children, youth and families through early education, youth development and community outreach in South Los Angeles. GCLA's Project LEAYD (Leaders in Enrichment of Adolescent and Youth Development) strengthens and promotes positive, healthy lifestyles and encourages responsible decision-making among youth. The goal is to move youth from survival mode to becoming advocates who will seek out support services for themselves, their families and others.

www.GirlsClubLA.org

“ Young people’s success is our passion. We provide “real life” learning experiences that instills in youth a sense of confidence, connection, compassion and character. Under careful stewardship, youth reach their full potential, becoming healthy, contributing adults. I am elated that Girls Club of Los Angeles (GCLA) is part of the Ready to Rise (R2R) Initiative. ”

– Gloria Davis, Executive Director



“ I have been through so much in life but since the mentors I've learned how to open up and so much about myself like what I want to accomplish in my life. It was such an amazing experience. ”

– Andrea B.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Good City Mentors partners inspiring local businesses with local high schools and creates a mentorship community where everyone is invested in the success of the others. A diverse team of mentors meets with students for one hour per week during the school day. The year long program consists of three core, 10-week sessions focusing on personal leadership development, college and career readiness, and service to the community. The Good City Mentors Program has been invited to expand their reach into 10 high-need schools this school year, providing school-day mentorship for students ages 13-19. The typical participant would be characterized as having risk factors such as routine absences and tardiness; behavioral issues; disengagement from academic activities; poor course grades; limited or no participation in external enrichment activities; family issues; involvement or vulnerable to the criminal justice system; foster youth; and all the side effects of living in an impoverished, underserved community. Consistent interaction with a supportive, caring community of mentors provides youth with social connection and a sense of belonging while addressing their specific barriers to success.

www.GoodCityMentors.org



“ There are so many amazing programs we can implement at our schools to try to set students up for young adulthood success. But ultimately, programs don't change people. People change people. I urge us to be a community who will show up for our youth, take time to listen, and help them discover their passions. ”

– Brian Larrabee, Executive Director

“ My grades have improved a lot and my self-esteem is also higher since I came to HOLA. The staff motivates me to try new things and help me get out of my comfort zone. They look for opportunities that will benefit me. ”

– Isabel, HOLA Class of 2021



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA) supports a middle school to college access pipeline that provides vulnerable youth with exceptional and individualized academic support, rigorous college access resources, near-peer and adult mentorship, transitions programming, socioemotional supports, leadership development and most importantly, a safe and supportive environment that offers an alternative to gang involvement and crime. These students live in Los Angeles' Rampart District and MacArthur Park/Westlake area and are attending more than 50 local schools, many of which lack the resources to provide individualized and holistic support systems for those students with the greatest need. HOLA seeks to bolster its impact through hiring of key programmatic staff positions including an Academic and Enrichment Coordinator, Scholarship Administrator and additional Academic Tutor.



www.GoodCityMentors.org

“ For families who otherwise lack access to high-quality resources, HOLA's Bridges and College Success programs are giving kids what they need to envision themselves in higher education and pursue those dreams. Our partnership with Ready to Rise is giving these kids a chance to be successful. This grant means everything to all of us at the Heart of Los Angeles. ”

– Tony Brown, Executive Director



“ Homies Unidos has helped me learn how to build healthy relationships with others, starting with myself. Before coming to Homies Unidos, I felt that others spoke up but I never had the courage to before. I had no ambition for education or socializing with my peers, and now I am outgoing and meeting others through. Homies Unidos has also shown me how to be a better leader in my community. ”

– Alexa (on the right) with her Program Director



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



To address the multiple needs that vulnerable unaccompanied minors face, Homies Unidos implemented the Central American Migrant Children Integration project servicing youths in the Pico-Union, Westlake, Echo Park, MacArthur Park and Koreatown neighborhoods of Los Angeles, with support from local and national government channels to respond to this crisis. These youth are facing an increasingly hostile environment of disenfranchisement, a culture clash leading to trauma not unlike PTSD and triggered by the impact of displacement, fractured family ties, language barriers, and the lack of tools, resources, and education to address these issues of disorientation. Families, shelter or school staff are not equipped to effectively reach this population with culturally relevant approaches for integrating these children into our communities. Through the Central American Migrant Children Integration project, Homies Unidos plans to expand existing programs to address specific needs by adding more professional facilitators specializing in migrant justice and indigenous culture.

www.HomiesUnidos.org



“ I reflect on the many opportunities I have taken advantage of to grow and give back to my community - the community that inspired me to believe in my greater purpose. Our youth deserve to feel empowered to dream beyond borders and cages, and to have positive role models see their potential to not only survive, but thrive. ”

– Alex Sanchez, Executive Director

“ InnerCity Struggle has made me knowledgeable about what’s going on in my community and has also helped me break out of my shell. They have helped me get more involved in my community and meet other boys and young men of color like me. We talk about issues impacting our community and work together to find solutions and get more students involved. ”

– Angel M.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



InnerCity Struggle (ICS) promotes healthy, safe and nonviolent communities on the Eastside of Los Angeles by engaging youth, families and residents in college attainability, career pathways and economic opportunity within the public schools and neighborhoods where they live. One objective is to directly support youth to attend college and complete a bachelor's degree prepared for a middle-income career and/or institutional leadership roles.

www.InnerCityStruggle.org



“ The partnership with the Ready to Rise has been instrumental to uplifting youth voice and youth power in the Eastside of Los Angeles. Youth are engaged in action-based research while gaining new academic skills. They are organizing for equitable school funding, civic engagement and restorative justice programs. They lift each other up and their communities. We are excited to support them! ”

– Maria Brenes, Executive Director

“ This is a historical moment where young people are rising up and stepping into our power to create social change. We are advocating for more resources that support the mental, physical, social, and emotional health and well-being for all youth in Long Beach. We want to change the narrative on how our city sees young people so they can invest in us. ”

– Emily, Youth Leader



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Khmer Girls in Action (KGA) will further develop the leadership of Southeast Asian youth from refugee families to create transformative change through public investment for young people. KGA will deepen the work of their leadership pathway for youth of color in Central Long Beach from Long Beach Poly, Wilson, and area high schools, and activating young people across the city.

www.kgalb.org



**Khmer Girls
in Action**



Kh
in
LIK

“ We are so grateful for this opportunity to strengthen our healing-centered youth development support for youth to be the catalyze of change in our community. ”

– Lian Cheun, Executive Director

“ KYCC kept me out from being out on the streets, getting involved with the wrong kind of people. Being here, he gets a chance to get a little bit more educated and a chance to get out and meet new people. ”

– Shawn, 14 years old



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



**KOREATOWN YOUTH+
COMMUNITY CENTER**

KYCC's Resiliency, Integrity, Self-Assurance, and Empowered (RISE) Youth Program will serve residents in and near the Menlo Family Apartments, bordering Koreatown and Pico-Union, Los Angeles. KYCC is the primary service provider for the 60 unit low-income housing complex that houses families coming out of homelessness and have open Department of Mental Health cases; over 60% are single parent homes. The target population is Latino, African American, and Asian, and are from high-poverty and Title 1 schools, dealing with significant achievement gaps. RISE Youth Program will expand services to youth and families with academic diagnostics and one-on-one tutoring, Social Emotional Learning training, parent education, youth-led community organizing activities, and multi-dimensional extracurricular activities such as arts and sports.

www.kycccla.org

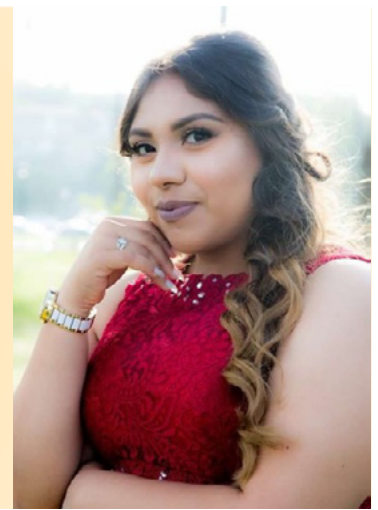


“ The touchstone of KYCC is youth services. We have spent 45 years building our services around positively impacting the future of our most vulnerable youth. With the support of California Community Foundation and Liberty Hill Foundation, we can make a real impact on serving youth and families who need us the most. We are committed to this endeavor and will do whatever we can to do just that. ”

– John Ho Song, Executive Director

“ Legacy LA has given me many opportunities to grow into the leader that I am today. ”

– Cecilia G.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Legacy LA's mission is to make positive interventions in the lives of young people by offering alternatives to gangs and violence. Youth are connected to a case manager and a menu of positive youth development services. Legacy LA's Student Success academic program provides leadership training, youth organizing, mindfulness/mental health, mentoring, college access and persistence, work readiness, life skills and linkages to vocational training and employment. 30

www.LegacyLA.org



“ At Legacy LA we believe that personal and community transformation go hand in hand. We believe that community transformation will only occur if we focus on helping youth reach their full potential. Our work is to inspire youth to Dream Big and believe in their capacity to achieve their dreams. ”

– Lou Calanche, Founder & Executive Director

“BLAST is a class I've benefitted from both personally and educationally.

Although, unfortunately I don't have this class all day, I've learned a lot about how to handle confrontations and any general relationship. The BLAST staff explained how to introduce yourself and dress for a job interview and how to create resumes. I genuinely believe BLAST helps me and will help other people in the future. ”

– Johnny

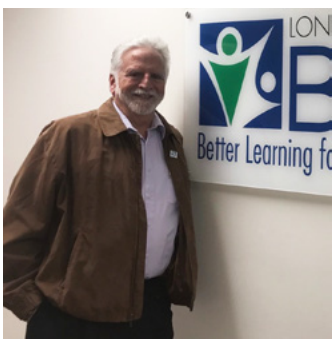


PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Long Beach BLAST's (Better Learning for All Students Today) mission is to improve academic and personal success for youth through collaboration and innovative approaches to mentoring and learning. BLAST focuses on youth who are the most “at-risk” of dropping out of school due to facing homelessness, pressure from gangs, lack of parental involvement and violence. BLAST provides youth with access to credit recovery classes, life-skills curriculum, educational field trips, workforce development training, leadership development, college preparedness workshops and college/career guest speakers.

www.lbblast.org



“Long Beach BLAST has provided quality mentoring support services for youth at risk within Long Beach for over 20 years. The Ready to Rise Initiative allows Long Beach BLAST to formalize and create one of the most initiative programs for all continuation students within Long Beach.”

– Richard L. Rosenberg, Ph.D., Interim Executive Director

“ The shop just helps me get away from stuff and I've met so many great people there, I met my best-friend Eli there and so many more people. Aaron jokes a lot but also teaches us a lot, not just about welding or cars he teaches us so much more about life. It's a fun, welcoming caring place to be. ”

– Jazlin B. (Age 13)



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Lost Angels Children's Project's (LACP) mission is to provide low-income and at-risk youth with a safe, educational after-school program that promotes critical thinking and team building through vocational skills training in classic car restoration and art. LACP provides hands-on learning through a unique educational experience that prevents joblessness and homelessness, and promotes self-confidence, self-sufficiency and self-worth for youth. Problem solving and team building are essential components in the workshops, as well as learning a code of conduct that teaches each student the principles of accountability, manners, respect and gratitude.

www.lostangelscp.org

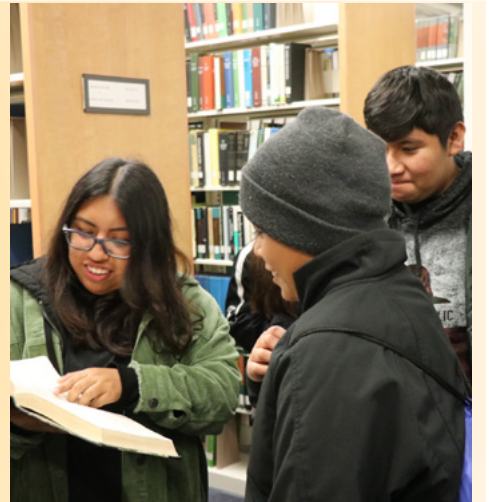


“ Our whole goal is to offer somewhere positive and safe where they can come and learn and be a part of something different. Kids come in not knowing anything about cars. We start from zero, how to read a tape measure, nuts and bolts, just basic safety and tools, then we simply take those skills to an actual classic car. ”

– Aaron Valencia, Founder/CEO

““ When I joined the youth group at MVFC, opened up for the first time and I felt the support of everyone around me...Mar Vista helped provide me with strong role models, and now I can be one too. ””

– Andrew, age 18



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The BYFY Program offers academic enrichment and leadership development activities that instill the values of education, leadership, personal growth and community. Participants meet weekly for academic assistance, leadership training, and college prep activities. In keeping with the MVFC philosophy of shared responsibility, many of these activities are youth-led or youth-driven. The BYFY program also offers youth-run activities, which serves children and youth ages 5-24 and includes after school academic tutoring, music, preteen groups, creative arts, a STEM program, social entrepreneurship and a summer day camp. Most of the youth Mar Vista Family Center serves come from low-income Latino families from communities such as Culver City, Inglewood, Mar Vista and Del Rey. MVFC plans to expand the program through community outreach.

www.marvistafc.org

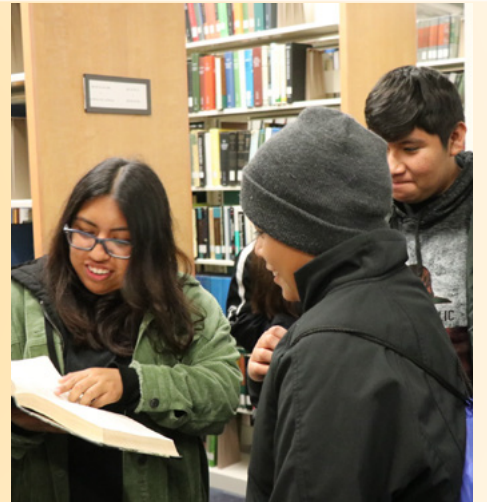
““ To provide a good future for our children and youth we needed work together as a community and learn to invest and engage ourselves in every stage of their lives. ””

– Lucia Diaz, Chief Executive Officer



“**The work being done by Meztli Projects to build programming that aims to cater and build connections & networks for targeted youth is necessary. After witnessing how the justice system is commonly used as the only solution (while still creating more harm), I recognize the need for access to empowering practices in underserved communities such as mine.**”

- Gabriella C., Youth Apprentice



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Meztli Projects' ELA Youth Healing Arts & Culture Initiative (YHACI) is a unique project between youth, artists and cultural workers from East Los Angeles who have been impacted by street violence and incarceration, developed to specifically center impacted youth by building a framework for participation, decision-making, apprenticeship, and entrepreneurship. The suite of programs which include the Youth Art & Activism Summer Workshop Series, the Tatewari* Program encompasses Healing Conversations through collaborative art-making, and Apprenticeship & Youth Advisory Committee are designed to create a pathway for youth in various career tracks such as art, arts education, community organizing and culturally-based approaches to racial and economic justice efforts. These programs are for youth impacted by incarceration, school suspension and expulsion, migration and gender constructs, attending schools or receiving services located in greater East Los Angeles.

*Tatewari is a Huichol word for the ceremonial process of preparing the fields for planting new crops.

www.meztliprojects.org



“**Funding opportunities to support Indigenous/Native identified youth through Indigenous-based and culturally relevant strategies are extremely rare, especially. Ready 2 Rise provides critical funding to use Indigenous and Arts-based Practices for a holistic approach to Youth Development. Meztli Projects' programs will assist youth by hiring and training them (Artist/Educator/Entrepreneur) as-well-as providing year-round arts programming in East LA.**”

- Joel Garcia, Director

“ It gave me new direction. Without it, I’d still be stuck at home, looking for a job, with no future. ”

- NDY Youth Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

NDY will utilize the funds to expand existing programs which currently serve 3,000 youth ages 10-24, and their family members. Most of the youth served: 1) have an increased risk of homelessness and/or gang membership; 2) are reintegrating into the community from institutions and detention centers; 3) have been involved with the juvenile justice system, foster care system, the Los Angeles Police Department and/or the County Probation Department; 4) have complex health and/or behavioral health conditions; 5) are high utilizers of public services. NDY's programs and services range from traditional service provision to innovative, experimental, pilot programs. Services will be provided in San Fernando Valley to include Pacoima, Sun Valley, North Hills, Reseda, North Hollywood and other contiguous cities. NDY will expand the program by providing additional youth employment hours, computer and GED training classes, counseling services, parent education, delinquency prevention and reentry services.



New Directions for Youth

www.ndfy.org

“ The old direction was that young people didn’t have many choices; for many, it was a life of crime or poverty. “We’re the third choice – the new direction. We save the lives of our children. ”

- Monica Austin-Jackson, Executive Director



“ I feel like this school is preparing me for college.

Since I'm going into mechanical engineering, my internship is helping me learn how to use tools and prepare for unexpected situations. I wouldn't have these experiences in a regular high school. I would need to find someone that could help me. Here, it's part of how we do things. ”

- Current Youth Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



NEW VILLAGE
GIRLS ACADEMY
reimagine what's possible

New Village Girls Academy's rigorous work certification program prepares students for career readiness and is a mandatory first step to securing an internship. Interest-based internships take place two afternoons per week, guided by a successful adult mentor, and are often paid positions. To support student wellbeing and academic success, New Village's Wellness program includes women's health education, school-wide Wellness Days, experiential learning in the natural world, twice-daily meditation and the services of our full-time school social worker. The target population is high-risk young women, ages 14 to 21, from across Los Angeles County, who have dropped out or are failing in the traditional school system. Most are dealing with the effects of trauma, sexual and physical abuse, poverty and extremely difficult personal circumstances including early pregnancy/parenting and involvement in the foster care or probation systems. Nearly all are young women of color from underserved neighborhoods; the majority resides in the Westlake neighborhood of downtown Los Angeles. New Village will expand their targeted outreach and provide rigorous employment training, authentic learning through mentored internships and social-emotional support services.

<https://newvillagegirlsacademy.org>



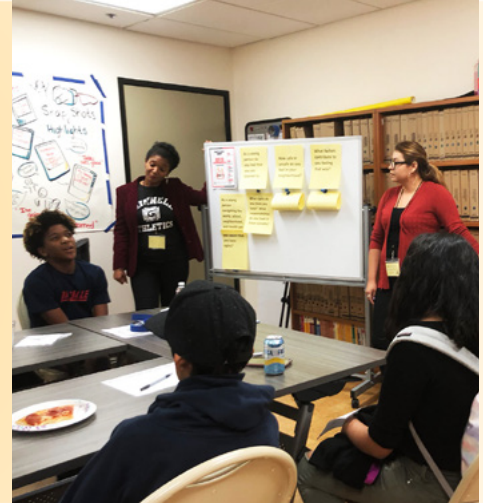
“ We are a school that addresses more than just the academic aspects of girl's lives; our goal is to serve the needs of the whole child. Currently serve students who are pregnant or parenting, youth in the foster care or probation system, and students who need a small school environment to thrive. From offering mental health services to internship opportunities and college scholarships, we are a model school designed to ensure student success. The girls that walk through our doors have generally faced numerous challenges in traditional school settings but through our dedication to their wellness and progress, we are able to graduate champions of change and possibility. ”

- Ms. Quinones, Principal

“ Young persons’ experiences are not validated.

What they say should be listened to as well. They should respect what we say at the end of the day. We are in this together! ”

- PACTL Program Staffer



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Grant funds will allow the Coalition to expand this program to further develop culturally and linguistically relevant approaches to workshops, trainings and community connectivity gatherings; expand a collaborative network within the Pasadena/Altadena community and increase our Know Your Rights: Know Your Responsibilities outreach; and assist with creating opportunities to meaningfully and authentically engage and strengthen parents/caregivers and the entire family system to ensure sustainable positive change. This program will serve economically disadvantaged, at-risk African American, Latino, and other youth and their parents from Pasadena, Altadena, and the greater San Gabriel Valley.



<http://pactl.org/>



“ Youth have the honesty to recognize the challenges they face, and the courage to work and be part of the solutions. In additions, we recognize that the success of this program requires the engagement not only of youth, but their families as well. ”

- Yolanda Trevino, Board President & Executive Director

“ POPS saved my life; POPS is my home. If it weren't for POPS the Club and the staff and volunteers, I wouldn't have gone to college; I wouldn't be in university now. I wouldn't be on the right path. And POPS is saving others' lives, too. ”

- Katherine Secaida, POPS Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The POPS (Pain of the Prison System) the Club program is designed to inspire, nourish and empower youth who are impacted by incarceration to become more competent, confident, self-aware and connected to others and their communities. Writing, reading, mindfulness, art and leadership development are at the core of the POPS program, reducing feelings of stigma and shame, improving school performance, reconnecting with family, rejecting criminal behavior and increasing overall optimism.

www.popsclubs.org



“ I've seen the way in which finding and connecting with a supportive, nurturing community—especially inside their schools-- profoundly shifts the sense of self for POPS young people. No matter the school, the composition of the club or the leadership team, POPS opens kids' hearts and minds to possibilities and opportunities so many never had even imagined. ”

- Amy Friedman, Co-founder and Executive Director

“ PRC believes people who know they are loved, are taught to believe in themselves and are given the opportunity to excel can live amazing lives. Love, confidence, resource, and opportunity changes the narrative of a person, their family and their community. ”

- PRC Program Staffer



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Positive Results Corporation (PRC) covers Spa 6 and the 2nd District (South L.A., Watts, Compton, Gardena, etc.), targeting Black, Latina(o)(x), Mixed-Race youth and TAY age 10-25, who are or may be at-risk, underserved, homeless, economically challenged, unemployed, LGBTQ, returning to the community, or previously incarcerated. PRC identifies Youth Leaders, age 15-24, who will receive stipends and be trained to be peer advocates, who will then train the younger youth. PRC also provides healthy food, safe transportation and workshop spaces for participant weekly workshops and leadership sessions. Youth Leaders conduct and facilitate many of the workshops and conduct outreach in their community.

www.prc123.org



“ No matter what kind of violence or abuse you are living in, no matter what has happened to you, you deserve the best and we want to show you the best. We want to show you that there is so much potential in you and help you to see the love that’s inside of you by us giving you that love. ”

- Kandee Lewis, Executive Director

“ *Proyecto Pastoral is playing a key role in creating an educational pipeline of supports in Boyle Heights.*

Proyecto's IMPACTO youth program works with students holistically to build their skills and leadership, and reaches some of the most vulnerable students to ensure every student succeeds.”

- Anthony, IMPACTO ACM participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Proyecto Pastoral's IMPACTO youth development program serves low-income, Latino youth, 100% of which come from working families living at or below the federal poverty income level, and 98% are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. IMPACTO serves 800 youth annually TK-8th grade in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. IMPACTO plans to serve youth from Hollenbeck Middle School, Roosevelt High School and Mendez High School with Academic Case Management services; youth ages 11-14 with after-school and summer programming at Dolores Mission School and at the Aliso-Pico Recreation Center; youth with after-school programming at Mendez High School; and youth ages 11-18 with sports and recreation at the Aliso-Pico Recreation Center. Proyecto aims to increase the number of youth served through Mendez after-school programming and the sports and recreation programming.



www.proyectopastoral.org



“ *Proyecto Pastoral is playing a key role in creating an educational pipeline of supports in Boyle Heights. Proyecto's IMPACTO youth program works with students holistically to build their skills and leadership, and reaches some of the most vulnerable students to ensure every student succeeds.*”

- Cynthia Sanchez, Executive Director

“ Building a stronger community where the youth can feel safe is possible through effective community programs and development projects. ”

- R.A.C.E. Program Staffer



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



R.A.C.E. seeks to increase internal capacity to reach more clients with the end goal reducing gang-related violence in West Athens and Westmont neighborhoods. R.A.C.E.'s target populations are individuals and families that are involved or at-risk for involvement in gang activity and community violence. R.A.C.E.'s population demographics are Black/African American and Latino youth, individuals and families from ages 14 and up. R.A.C.E. plans to hire additional staff needed to support the Workforce Readiness and Life Skills Program and its major activities, including increased services as well as improved impact measurement.

www.race4communities.org



“ There are 300,000 at-risk youth in Downtown LA – most have witnessed or been victims of violence. Here at R.A.C.E. (Reclaiming America's Communities through Empowerment), we develop youth programs that help protect them from being associated with delinquent peers. We reach out to the homeless and get them off the street so they can experience a nurturing home away from home. ”

- Reynaldo Reaser, Executive Director, RACE

“ My experience within the mentor program has been very accommodating to my needs. The Mentorship Coordinator does a wonderful job assessing my needs and actively engaging in my life to make sure that I have support and assistance with accomplishing my goals. What I enjoy most about this program is the emotional support and comfort I get during this transitional phase in my life. ”

– Youth participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Safe Place for Youth (SPY) serves youth who are combating homelessness or housing insecurity. SPY's The Mentorship Project is a low-barrier, trauma-informed, mentorship and diversion program where community members mentor youth in order to build a positive, healthy relationship with an adult in their lives. The program helps high-risk youth build confidence, increase access to education and employment, improve social-emotional well-being and refine skills of independent living in order to prevent recidivism.

www.SafePlaceForYouth.org

“ The young people we serve at SPY are among the most marginalized, underserved, and at-risk youth in our community. Fleeing abusive home environments or aging out of the foster care system, many of our youth have never had an adult mentor of any kind. Having a reliable, dedicated person to talk to can go along way and we are happy to make those connections possible through this program. ”

– Alison Hurst, Executive Director



“Sanctuary of Hope helps to bring young people in culturally underserved communities such as myself resources, education and mentorship when we need it most. I met Janet Kelly of SOH at the start of college where she offered me a financial solution to support my educational journey. I am extremely grateful to Janet Kelly and all of the staff members of Sanctuary of Hope because if it weren't for them providing the resources that I needed, I wouldn't be standing anywhere close to where I am standing today.”

- Youth Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Sanctuary of Hope serves youth in the southwest area of South Los Angeles that include Dorsey and Crenshaw High School and the northern South Bay region that includes Inglewood, Hawthorne, Gardena, Carson, and Glendale. Sanctuary seeks to fulfill the unmet needs for vulnerable youth under the age of 18 seeking: (1) A life coach for crisis or general counseling support: (2) Basic Need Supports (3) Education Coach to provide college preparation, access, and counseling services: (4) Character/Leadership Development activities that include art therapy, digital literacy, field trips, relaxation and coping mindfulness.

www.thesoh.org



“A promising future is more than thriving. It's living in the moment every second and minute of the day. The work we do everyday at Sanctuary of Hope is aimed at helping youth realize their potential and to address life circumstances head on with an optimistic futuristic outlook.”

- Janet Denise Kelly, MBA, Founder & Executive Director

“ I'm glad that I gained a friendship and mentor from Sharefest. The college prep classes made me realize that college wasn't a crazy idea and I could do it so I motivated myself to get there. ”
-- Thomas



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Sharefest seeks to expand the size and scope of their Youth Leadership Academy for students in LAUSD Continuation High Schools. Sharefest will continue to build out programs at four schools – Avalon (Wilmington), Angel's Gate (San Pedro), Patton (Harbor City), and Simon Rodia (South Gate) – and add a fifth school (either John Hope in South LA or Moneta in Gardena). Sharefest will hire additional instructors and program managers to expand and integrate schoolbased programming with activities at new Youth Center and our annual Workday.

www.sharefestinc.org



“ After years of working within the South Bay communities I have been continually inspired by the tenacity and determination of local youth to rise above their circumstances. Sharefest comes alongside those youth to empower them with life skills, educational opportunities, mentorship, and leadership training. I truly believe they are becoming leaders of collaborative change within their communities. ”

- Chad Mayer, Executive Director

“ The Ready to Rise Program has helped me to grow. Before the program, I was not doing good in school. Now that I have my Ready to Rise Case Manager, I am getting the help that I need to do better in school, I want to enroll into college after graduation, and my family is receiving support services. ”

-- SCC Program Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Southern California Crossroads provides violence prevention and youth development programming to youth who have three or more risk factors for criminal involvement and/or have experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences shown to result in trauma and compromise healthy function. Crossroads' school-based Mentoring Program targets students at-risk for criminal activity and provides counseling, mentoring, conflict resolution and referral services.

www.socalcrossroads.org



“ R2R has been a tremendous addition to our existing school-based mentoring and violence prevention services for middle and high school students in Lynwood and Compton. Our Student Mentors do a tremendous job with youth participants during school. However, the addition of social workers has allowed us to address the social issues that families face at home and in the community. ”

-- Paul Carrillo, Co-founder and Executive Director

“ How has having a mentor helped you? ”

She's helped me understand certain things in life, made me have an open mind, and help me figure things out when I feel completely lost. She gave me another perspective, and allowed me to look up to somebody. ”

- Youth Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The Youth Mentoring Project is designed to target the complex barriers that face low income youth in the greater Pasadena area. Stars provides a network of relationships for students in middle school, high school and college that provide academic support, leadership opportunities, and mentoring relationships that help students stay in school and prepare for and succeed in college. Stars serves students in the Pasadena Unified School District footprint and the broader San Gabriel Valley. Stars seeks to expand staff hours, hire an additional mentor coach, and expand our college scholarship support, and increase the number of students in the program.

www.gostars.org



“ Stars is grateful to be chosen as Ready to Rise grantees, and are appreciative of the opportunity to strengthen our Youth Mentoring Project. Stars' goal is to provide a network of caring relationships for low income middle school, high school and college students; supporting students through after-school programming, mentoring, youth leadership opportunities, and preparation and support to succeed in college and graduate with a bachelor's degree. ”

- Nancy Stiles, Executive Director

“ TXT has given me the opportunity to learn under various tech professionals and gain the foundations that will help me build toward my passion. TXT has helped me do a lot of searching to understand what I value professionally and personally so I can pursue the best education possible. ”

-- Bryan Z., Youth Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Teens Exploring Technology's (TXT) high-quality and high-impact programs are designed to develop a culture of innovation, collaboration, confidence and strong academics. Youth learn to identify problems in their community and develop tech solutions to improve low-income communities. Alumni of the program have gone to work for companies like Microsoft, Snap Inc, GOOP, and Live Nation.

www.ExploringTech.org



“ R2R has helped us grow our staff and help us inspired more youth in South Central Los Angeles. We are developing more leaders, entrepreneurs, and tech innovators in low-income communities ”

-- Oscar Menjivar, Executive Director & Co-founder

“ AXC has taught me so much and has gotten me started on my career as a mechanic. I'm now a mechanic at Grand Mobil Service Station in Diamond Bar. I love this and I want to do this for the rest of my life. ”

- Victor Olivares, AXC Graduate



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The Learning Centers has partnered closely with the Pomona Unified School District (PUSD). In the last ten years, as the Pomona Unified School District graduation rate has risen from 72% to 91%, TLC has been proud to support 3,500 students who have completed TLC CTEC courses, of which 40% are PUSD students. Through alumni outcome tracking, TLC observes that aside from the career-based education that students receive, the training they receive in essential and transferable skills that promote Career Readiness such as resume creation, interview skills, and financial literacy has positively impacted their employment opportunities. While the Pomona Unified School District is the largest partner district for CTEC and TLC, students from school districts across the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire, from Covina to Ontario, participate in CTEC programming and earn high school credit. The Learning Centers will fully build out 2-year career pathways in CTEC programs in Art, Welding, Culinary arts, Urban agriculture and green utilities.

<https://fairplex.com/tlcfairplex/home>



“ As educators and social leaders, we have a responsibility to proactively tackle a rapidly changing economic and educational climate. In response, TLC is committed to instilling essential skills and technical capabilities that will serve students well in the workforce. CTEC is a unique model that provides youth positive outlets for their creativity and energy to help them build sustainable futures. ”

- Holly Reynolds, Executive Director

“ I wanted to show people that I have some type of talent [so] I committed and cared.

Art makes me feel like I have a future in myself. Somewhat makes me feel like I could accomplish things I doubted on. ”

- Ramon, VIP, Camp Joseph Paige



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company's (US) Voices from Inside Program (VIP) provides transformative theatre-arts education & mentorship to Los Angeles County adolescents, ages 13-19, who are currently or formerly incarcerated, as well as those in high-needs areas who are vulnerable to incarceration. In collaboration with the Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network (AIYN), US conducts our intensive VIP residencies at Title 1 schools, community centers, and juvenile day reporting centers located in our chronically underserved target neighborhoods of South LA/Watts and Pacoima/San Fernando, as well as in juvenile detention facilities — such as Central Juvenile Hall and Campus Kilpatrick — that serve incarcerated minors from throughout LA County. VIP project seeks to expand to serve high needs youth via 14 multiweek residencies; which includes the roll-out of a brand new alumni program.

www.theunusalsuspects.org



“ We provide a positive, safe environment where incarcerated youth can learn to trust others, develop, self-respect, and explore non-violent solutions to conflict. I've seen rivals, in our program, come together in harmony to collectively write and perform an original play – a monumental breakthrough that occurs all through the theatre stage. ”

- Melissa Denton, Executive Director



“ Young Warriors has shared with me the autonomy we have to choose the life we want to live and what impact we want to have within ourselves and with the people around us. ”

- Tochtli O., Young Warriors Youth Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural's (TCCC) mission is to transform community through ancestral knowledge, the arts, literacy and creative engagement. TCCC provides a positive space for people to activate their natural capacity to create, imagine and express themselves in an effort to improve the quality of life for their community. Embracing the philosophy that every youth is a warrior of their own struggles, the Youth Warrior program helps develop youth leadership and communication skills through the power of the arts and proper mentoring.

www.tiachucha.org



“ Tia Chucha's youth empowerment program, Young Warriors takes a unique approach to youth development to help young people develop their leadership and communication skills through the power of the arts and proper mentoring. We are excited for the opportunity to expand this work to new partnerships with the support of the Ready to Rise initiative. ”

- Michael Centeno, Executive Director

“ I’ve grown as a person and I have more knowledge about college. I know that when I need help, I can just call my counselor. You go from just being alone in the world to having full support from someone. ”

-- United Friends Youth



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



UNITED FRIENDS of the CHILDREN

United Friends of the Children's Scholars Program serves current and former foster youth throughout all eight SPAs in the county with over 93% being youth of color. While program recruitment occurs throughout each SPA, the program is entering its second year of expansion into the Antelope Valley region. United Friends of the Children seeks to increase its overall program capacity to serve more youth.

www.unitedfriends.org



“ We are excited and grateful for the opportunity to partner with Ready to Rise to help promote more positive outcomes for our youth while also helping ensure they never enter the criminal justice system. ”

- Matt Strieker, Executive Director

“ I was born into dysfunction. Running away only made things worse. A friend told me about YES as an alternate to living in an alley. I didn't know that programs like this existed for people like me. They took care in making sure I stay on the growth track we created together. YES allowed me to see my self-worth. ”
- Youth Participant



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Youth Emerging Stronger's (YES) mission is to provide runaway, homeless and foster youth with safety, stability and housing, along with the relationships and resources to thrive now and in the future. YES' comprehensive program services address mental health challenges and teach the skills/mindset needed to meet individualized goals in education, workforce readiness and life skills.

www.youthemergingstronger.org



“ No contribution is too small for challenges as big as homelessness. Each one of us -as individuals or organizations- are community members and as such, must strive to reach beyond our own abilities and collaboratively ensure that we have a fair and impartial society for all. ”

- Mark Supper, President/CEO

**“ I’ve never had support like this.
Even from my own family. I have
so many reasons to believe in myself now...
And I know I don’t have to face anything
alone anymore. ”**

– Xavyer (GYFT)



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Youth Mentoring Connection seeks to provide support for ongoing and developing programs. Youth Mentoring Connection services at-risk youth (11-24 years old) from underserved Los Angeles County inner-cities. Youth served are mostly from single parent homes, living in poverty and residing primarily in the high-crime areas of South LA, Compton, Watts and Inglewood. Youth Mentoring Connection seeks to expand community programs such as the GYFT program (focused on the tangible goals of job placement, college, financial stability & housing), and the ECHO program (focused on trauma-informed group support), as well as strengthen worksite mentoring programs at HBO and Viacom by creating new school partnerships to increase and further diversify the population served.

www.youthmentoring.org



“ Youth Mentoring Connection knows that inside every confused, angry, shy, sad or otherwise disenfranchised youth is a gifted soul that came into this world to fulfill their own unique purpose. YMC mentors consistently show up to shine a light on their gifts, care for their wounds, affirm youthful dreams and offer sustenance in the way of deep conversation and guidance. ”

– Tony LoRe, Executive Director

Ready To Rise
Reflection Report - 2019

