

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

The Employment & Training Administration's (ETA) Growth Opportunities (GO) grant initiative supports the placement of youth (15-18) and young adults (18-24) who have experienced school expulsion or justice system contact and who exhibit risk-factors associated with delinquent or criminal activity into paid work experiences aligned with their career and educational goals. It also provides funding for services such as mentorship, legal assistance, and transportation that support participants' program involvement and success. The goals of the grant include:

- Help youth avoid violence and build conflict resolution skills;
- Introduce and prepare youth for the world of work;
- Help youth identify career interests and attain skills and good work habits; and
- Provide income to youth to start them on the path of earning living wages

Justice-involved youth and young adults will be prepared for and introduced to the world of work through placement into paid work experiences. In addition, the program encompasses occupational education and training in in-demand industries, leadership development, mentorship, and post-program placement into employment and/or education. These grants focus on youth and young adults most impacted by and associated with community violence, particularly in areas of concentrated crime, poverty, and significant recent community unrest.

GO grantees have a violence prevention partner with significant experience in outreach to individuals with a high risk of committing violence (and/or becoming a victim) to interrupt the cycle of violence. Grantees also have a regional or local justice system partner that collaborates with the violence prevention partner.

Eligible participants:

- Are at least 15 years old and no older than 24 years of age on the date of enrollment;
- Reside in the targeted geographic area, or plan to return to the area upon release from incarceration;
- Have been expelled from a school OR had juvenile or adult justice system contact; and
- Have one or more risk-factors associated with delinquent or criminal activity.

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded \$33,311,239 in GO grants to 13 organizations across 15 states in the second round of funding to support programs that provide job training and supportive services to justice-involved young people.

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The successful round 2 applicants are listed below and project summaries are on the following pages.

Recipient	City	State	Amount
<a href="#">Ambassador For Christ Youth Ministries, Inc.</a>	Houston	TX	\$1,999,530
<a href="#">Epidaurus</a>	Tucson	AZ	\$4,000,000
<a href="#">Goodwill Industries International, Inc.</a>	Rockville	MD	\$4,000,000
<a href="#">Knoxville Leadership Foundation</a>	Knoxville	TN	\$2,000,000
<a href="#">Land of Sky Regional Council</a>	Ashville	NC	\$3,999,459
<a href="#">MERS/Missouri Goodwill Industries</a>	St. Louis	MO	\$2,000,000
<a href="#">National Urban League</a>	New York	NY	\$4,000,000
<a href="#">Our Piece of the Pie, Inc.</a>	Hartford	CT	\$2,000,000
<a href="#">PathStone Corporation</a>	Rochester	NY	\$2,000,000
<a href="#">Peckman Vocational Industries, Inc.</a>	Lansing	MI	\$1,999,999
<a href="#">Southwest Counseling Solutions</a>	Detroit	MI	\$1,312,500
<a href="#">Towards Empowerment Incorporated</a>	Cleveland	OH	\$1,999,751
<a href="#">Volunteers of America Southeast Louisiana</a>	New Orleans	LA	\$2,000,000
<b>Total – 13 grants, Programs in 15 states</b>			<b>\$33,311,239</b>

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## Ambassadors for Christ Youth Ministries, INC. (AFC)

Houston, TX

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$1,999,530
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Direct
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	160
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	15-18 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	“Gloves Not Guns” Youth Boxing & Mentoring Club, and the Bluff Faith Community Coalition Ministerial Alliance (PBFCCMA)
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	Entire city of Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, AR
<b>Sub-grantees (if applicable):</b>	N/A

AFC was formed in 2006 for the purpose of providing mentorship, training, and social service programs to at-risk, underprivileged, and displaced youth through a multifaceted youth development program. AFC has provided an outlet and platform for growth to over 12,000 at risk youth with partnerships through schools, churches, and youth programs in the communities it serves in Pine Bluff, Arkansas and Houston, Texas.

AFC uses screening and assessment processes to create an individualized developmental plan (IDP) to help youth identify employment, vocational, educational, and training needs and establish goals. AFC will introduce and prepare at-risk youth for the world of work; create partnerships with community groups to assist with mentoring and providing leadership and work opportunities for youth and help in reducing the crime rate of at-risk youth.

AFC, in partnership with violence prevention partners, provides mentoring support and leadership skills, connections with justice system partners to provide referrals, data, and support. The relationships with employer partners afford opportunities for paid work experiences for the youth, as well as paid jobs, internships, and apprenticeships.

AFC makes available job training and career education opportunities for the youth to prepare them for college and careers. AFC provides supportive services for the needs of the youth, e.g. housing, mental health, substance abuse, social, or community resources etc. AFC will also provide case management services to continue to assist youth after their time in the program ends.

Proposed Outcomes: Education and Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after Exit (70%); Education and Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit (60%); Median Earnings (\$5,750); Credential Attainment

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(50%); Measurable Skills Gains (80%); Job Placement (25%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); and Recidivism Rate (<10%).

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## Epidaurus DBA Amity Foundation

Tucson, AZ

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$4,000,000
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Intermediary
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	348
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	18-24 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	LA Regional Reentry Partnership, and the Amity Foundation
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	Los Angeles, San Diego, and Desert Hot Springs/Coachella Valley, CA
<b>Sub-grantees (if applicable):</b>	Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCDC) in Los Angeles, SBCS in San Diego, and OneFuture Coachella Valley in Riverside County working with Equus Workplace Solutions and Desert Best Friends Closet

California Growth Opportunities is a partnership of Amity working with employment subgrantees, justice partners, and employers to address need for employment support and violence prevention, including mentoring, conflict resolution, leadership development, paid work experience, and placement into unsubsidized employment for justice-involved young adults in high-poverty, high-crime communities with recent community unrest.

California Growth Opportunities serves participants with case management, employment preparation, paid work experiences, supportive services, credential attainment, violence prevention, mentoring and conflict resolution services, and placement into unsubsidized employment in high growth fields.

The subgrantees will provide services that include identification, recruitment, selection and retention, job preparation, career exploration and planning, case management with needs assessment and employment barrier identification, and the creation of an Individual Development Plan (IDP) for each participant. As part of the program, participants receive supportive services provided directly and by referral, paid work experience of at least 200 hours, attainment of industry recognized credentials and placement into unsubsidized employment, and follow-up support for 12 months after exit.

Proposed Outcomes: Education and Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after Exit (70%); Education and Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit (60%); Median Earnings (\$5,750); Credential Attainment (50%); Measurable Skills Gains (70%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); and Recidivism Rate (<10%).

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## Goodwill Industries International, Inc.

Rockville, MD

**Award Amount:** \$4,000,000.00  
**Applicant Type:** Intermediary  
**Participant Enrollment Goal:** 350  
**Age Group Served:** 18-24 years old

**Violence Prevention Partner(s):**

Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands SC, Greenville Mentoring Collaborative, Greenville Technical College, Goodwill Industries of Houston, Mayor’s Office of Gang Prevention and Intervention, Change Happens!, Goodwill Business Advisory Council Mentoring, Project Kinship, Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana, Eden Gardens Development Corporation, I AM WORTHY

**Target Area(s):**

Spartanburg and Union counties, SC, Harris County, TX, including Houston city, Orange County, CA, including Santa Ana City, Caddo, De Soto and Red River parishes, LA, including Shreveport City and Pierce County, WA, including Tacoma City

**Sub-grantees (if applicable):**

Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands South Carolina (Greenville/Spartanburg), Goodwill Industries of Houston, Goodwill of Orange County (Santa Ana, CA), Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana (Shreveport), and Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Region (Tacoma, WA)

Goodwill LifeLaunch Growth Opportunities (GO) plans to prepare justice-involved young adults for work and careers through placement in paid work experiences and delivery of other critically needed supports, including wrap-around supportive services; violence prevention, mentorship, conflict resolution and leadership development training; education and occupational skills development; and job search and placement services.

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Goodwill LifeLaunch GO will help young adults interrupt the cycle of justice system involvement by focusing on their strengths and goals; increasing their skills and competencies; gaining an understanding of local labor markets, employment opportunities, and career opportunities; earning while learning through work experience opportunities; and entering and retaining employment.

Proposed Outcomes: Education and Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after Exit (70%); Education and Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit (60%); Median Earnings (\$5,750); Credential Attainment (50%); Measurable Skills Gains (70%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); and Recidivism Rate (<10%).

## Knoxville Leadership Foundation

Knoxville, TN

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$2,000,000
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Direct
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	160 young adults
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	18-24 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	Amachi Knoxville, KLF mentoring partners, Community Mediation, and over 25 employers, including academic, behavioral, health, social, and service partners
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	Must reside in a Knox County high-poverty, high-crime urban areas
<b>Sub-grantees (if applicable):</b>	N/A

GO-KNOXWORX supports young adults (YAs) who reside in the target area or who plan to return to the area upon release from custody or out-of-home placement. Other beneficiaries of service include YAs with justice system contact, including diversionary programs or alternative sentencing; risk factors associated with delinquent or criminal activity such as gang membership; an incarcerated parent; a diagnosed learning disability; anti-social attitudes or behaviors; or documented substance abuse before the age of 12. YAs who were expelled from school, left before completion, or had an education plan in place while attending school also are intended beneficiaries.

GO-KNOXWORX will offer participants academic programs that assist them in completing high school and obtaining other diplomas, as well as skill training programs to enter career pathways for local in-demand industries such as advanced manufacturing, construction, building maintenance, customer service, culinary, and healthcare services. Participants will earn industry certification, complete skill

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training, and receive on-the-job training. Participants will be placed in full-time unsubsidized employment around the sixth month after entering the program. Once participants enter full-time employment, case managers will create a transition plan to provide follow-up support for 12 months.

GO-KNOXWORX focuses on removing barriers to employability by providing intensive case management, engaged employer networks, requiring violence prevention mentoring with conflict resolution skill building, as well as co-locating academic tutors, behavioral health, and social service providers at our Elm Street Workforce Development Center.

KLF will continue to expand the employer network for work placements. Case managers will create and monitor an individual development plan with each participant to define and support achieving individual work, academic, and life-skill goals during the program.

Proposed Outcomes: Education and Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after Exit (70%); Education and Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit (60%); Median Earnings (\$5,750); Credential Attainment (50%); Measurable Skills Gains (70%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); and Recidivism Rate (<10%).



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## Land of Sky Regional Council

Ashville, NC

**Award Amount:** \$3,999,459

**Applicant Type:** Intermediary

**Participant Enrollment Goal:** 350

**Age Group Served:** 18-24 years old

**Violence Prevention Partner(s)** Land of Sky Regional Partner

**Target Area(s):** Asheville, NC; Knoxville and Cocke County, TN

**Sub-grantees (if applicable):** East Tennessee Development District, My Daddy Taught Me That, the YWCA of Asheville, and the SPARC Foundation

Land of Sky provides opportunities to advance equity for justice-involved young adults by providing training, mentorship, leadership development, paid work, educational opportunities, and supportive services that will start them on paths to living wage jobs in local high-demand industries, as well as help them to implement evidence-based strategies for reducing community violence.

Central to the delivery of employment, education, and violence prevention services for justice involved or at-risk young adults are the partnerships within the communities., especially the trained Community Health Worker – Violence Prevention Professionals (CHW-VPP), peer leaders with lived experience.

The Land of Sky men’s development program promotes pro-social friendships, strong interpersonal skills, good decision-making, acceptance of responsibility, and accountability for actions. The prison-prevention program focuses on sustainable employment, secure housing, and recovery support for those returning from incarceration who face numerous barriers to reintegration. While the program for women includes providing safe, affordable housing, to women and their families, and evidence-based programs designed to help participants succeed in school and beyond.

Employment programs including digital skills training, job readiness training, job placement services, pre-employment transition services, supported employment, work adjustment for adults and students, Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) training, and coaching

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sessions for successful interviewing, and preparation for position advancement and career mobility. Participants will gain knowledge of structural and social determinants of health and ways to address them, advocacy skills, leadership skills, and civic participation.

Proposed Outcomes: Education and Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after Exit (70%); Education and Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit (60%); Median Earnings (\$5,750); Credential Attainment (60%); Measurable Skills Gains (70%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); and Recidivism Rate (<10%).

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## MERS/Missouri Goodwill Industries (MMGI)

Saint Louis, MO

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$2,000,000.00
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Direct
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	160
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	15-18 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	MY 180 Youth Program
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	St. Louis City and County, MO

**Sub-grantees (if applicable):** N/A

The MMGI Juvenile Transition Program has successfully partnered with the Family Court in St. Louis City since 2007 and in St. Louis County since 2018 to provide our successful innovative Juvenile Transition Program to high-risk youth in targeted communities in St. Louis City and County.

MMGI works with the courts and other justice partners to provide outreach and recruitment.

The MMGI Case Manager will provide an intake interview of the youth and family, and a questionnaire to allow the family to identify needs or services they would like to receive. Together they, in communication with the mentoring and violence prevention provider, will complete an individual employment plan (IEP) that will address the following services as appropriate. These services include needs assessments, employment barrier identification, referral for mentoring and violence prevention services, career exploration and planning, job preparation, trauma-informed case management (to include follow-up), and a work experience plan. The IEP will identify the goals and objectives for the youth and family, work experience, and training.

Proposed Outcomes: Education and Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after Exit (70%); Education and Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit (60%); Median Earnings (\$5,750); Credential Attainment (60%); Measurable Skills Gains (70%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); and Recidivism Rate (<10%).

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## National Urban League (NUL)

New York, New York

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$4,000,000
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	400
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	18-24 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	PeacePrint, Bright Star, Serving Our Streets, Cure Violence Walnut Park
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	Buffalo, NY; Chicago, IL; St. Louis, MO
<b>Sub-grantees (if applicable):</b>	Buffalo Urban League (BUL), Chicago Urban League (CUL), and the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis (ULSTL)

The GO Program is a unique opportunity for the National Urban League (NUL) to leverage the expertise and experience of our affiliate network. NUL has identified the Buffalo Urban League (BUL), Chicago Urban League (CUL), and the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis (ULSTL) as distinctly equipped to execute the GO program because of their roles in spearheading community violence prevention efforts in response to significant unrest, demonstrated commitment to combatting persistent poverty and violent crime, and capacity to deliver high-quality federally funded programs.

In partnership with their established networks of justice system, employer, violence prevention, and social services organization affiliates, they will provide basic and supportive services, paid work experiences, and violence prevention focused mentorship and leadership training to justice-involved youth over the life of the grant. These services include NUL’s one-of-a-kind Expungement Program Clinics during which legal professionals can expunge or seal 100 felony or misdemeanor charges per hour, complete with certificates of expungement. Leveraging the expertise of our affiliate network, our experience successfully managing federally funded reentry programs, and innovative new expungement resources, NUL is poised to break the cycle of recidivism and persistent low-employment prospects among justice-involved youth as a GO Program Intermediary.

Basic services will include job preparation, career planning, case management, individual development plans, employment barrier identification, and needs assessment. Educational opportunities will include assessing college and career readiness and the need for ongoing supportive and post-program services; and providing opportunities for occupational training leading to industry-recognized credentials. Paid work experiences will include work readiness training, opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials, workplace simulations, orientation to work experience, and transportation and contingency plans. Mentorship & leadership activities will include violence prevention, conflict resolution, and leadership curricula delivered by mentors with lived experience of incarceration or community violence. Supportive services will include substance abuse treatment, childcare, transportation, housing, healthcare, mentorship, mental health counseling, educational opportunities, and vocational training.

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Proposed Outcomes: Education and Employment Rate 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter after Exit (60%); Education and Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit (70%); Median Earnings (\$5,750); Credential Attainment (50%); Measurable Skills Gains (70%); Initial Job Placement (80%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); and Recidivism Rate (<10%).

## Our Piece of the Pie, Inc. (OPP)

Hartford, CT	
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$2,000,000.00
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Direct
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	180
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	18-24 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	OPP
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	Hartford, CT
<b>Sub-grantees (if applicable):</b>	N/A

Hartford GO will expand and enhance the proven Hartford Youth Service Corps (HYSC) comprehensive youth development, employment, and education model for justice-involved young adults. OPP’s unique model centers on the personal and consistent relationship developed between each young person and a caring, committed, and proactive Youth Development Specialist (YDS) with whom they will partner to identify their goals and create a plan to address personal, academic, and workforce needs.

Hartford GO will enhance HYSC paid service-learning, employment, mentorship, and leadership services, increase access to wrap-around services and educational opportunities, help participants prepare for well-paying jobs, and integrate conflict resolution skills to reduce community violence. Via referrals from justice system partners and direct street outreach, OPP will engage prospective participants in its Universal Enrollment process to determine eligibility and suitability, identify strengths and needs, and match each participant with a YDS with whom they will partner throughout their program involvement and who will serve as their coaches and mentors.

Key Hartford GO services will include: (1) YDS and youth partnerships to create and carry out an Individual Success Plan (ISP) that incorporates specific action steps for achieving career, education, and personal success; (2) job readiness and career services via Career Competency Development Training and a wide range of workshops including brief stackable credential trainings; (3) lessons that build conflict resolution and emotional regulation skills via the evidence-based TEB (Thoughts, Emotions, and Behaviors) model; (4) referrals to community partners and in-house supportive services to address barriers to employment and success; (5) 320+ hours of paid work experience for each youth through HYSC service-learning projects and employer internships; (6) a 9-module leadership development course, along with opportunities to serve as Youth Ambassadors to co-lead service-learning projects; (7) job placement support via a pool of reentry-friendly employer partners; (8) education services that re-

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connect youth without high school diplomas to alternatives (e.g. OPPportunity Academy, Penn Foster secondary education and services to prepare youth for and support the transition to postsecondary education; and (9) 12-month follow-up services to ensure continued success in employment and/or education.

Proposed Outcomes: Education and Employment Rate 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter after Exit (70%); Education and Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit (60%); Median Earnings (\$5,750+); Credential Attainment (50%); Measurable Skills Gains (70%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); Recidivism Rate (<10%); and Completion of Career Competency Development training (90%).

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## PathStone Corporation

Rochester, NY

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$2,000,000.00
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Direct
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	160
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	18-24 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	585 SNUG
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	Rochester, NY
<b>Sub-grantees (if applicable):</b>	N/A

PathStone’s GO in’ Up will introduce and prepare justice-involved young adults for the world of work through paid work experiences, occupational education and training for in-demand industries, leadership development, mentorship, and placement into unsubsidized employment or education on a path to more equitable career opportunities with their peers. GO in’ Up will contribute to the Biden-Harris Administration’s comprehensive strategy to combat gun violence and other violent crime with preventative measures proven to reduce violent crime, support public safety and, increase community well-being. In addition to young adults most impacted by community violence, beneficiaries of GO in’ UP will include their families, neighbors, community members, and local businesses.

PathStone has selected an evidence-based Multiservice Pre-Apprenticeship Reentry Program model centered on case management to improve recidivism, education, community engagement, and employment outcomes for our justice-involved participants. This model enables seamless coordination across the service continuum and with our key partners in violence prevention and the justice system, as well as employers. Activities include basic services/employment and career services; supportive services; paid work experiences; occupational training; credentialing; placement into educational/occupational opportunities; mentorship; leadership, follow-up; and retention.

Proposed Outcomes: Education and Employment Rate 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter after Exit (70%); Education and Employment Rate 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter after Exit (60%); Median Earnings (\$5,750); Credential Attainment (50%); Measurable Skills Gains (70%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); and Recidivism Rate (<10%).



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## Peckman Vocational Industries, Inc.

Lansing, MI

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$1,999,999.00
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Direct
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	160
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	Youth 18-24 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	The Turning Point of Lansing; Without Walls Outreach (WOW Outreach)
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	Lansing and Flint, MI
<b>Sub-grantees (if applicable):</b>	N/A

Peckham has an established presence providing vital employment services and educational interventions to young people in the cities of Lansing and Flint, MI. The Opportunities Program will prepare corrections-involved youth and young adults for employment while also mitigating violence in the high-poverty, high-crime communities of Lansing, and Flint, MI. Youth and young adults involved with the corrections system, including those who are at the center of gun violence and/or who have experienced significant trauma which impacts their ability to fully function, are our target group. Residents of both cities will also benefit from this intervention by way of safer communities.

Peckham's reputation for providing outstanding Offender Success services in partnership with local law enforcement and community service providers in Lansing and Flint has grown exponentially in recent years, leading to a strong rapport and robust relationships with hundreds of eligible young people in both communities. The additional relationships maintained by our Violence Prevention Partners strengthen that net.

Staff use this career research and the Universal Service Planning Guide (USPG) to help participants form their Individual Development Plan (IDP) with SMART goals. Through the USPG and IDP creation process, each participant reviews needed areas of support such as identification documentation, transportation (including "No Go" zones), childcare, financial management, expungement and record sealing, probation/parole requirements, housing, and mental health/substance use.

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Participants work with GO staff and mentors to identify and address needs, continue goal progress, receive life coaching and financial guidance, and additional employment supports. The program helps participants identify career interests; match them with educational opportunities, training, credential attainment and paid work experiences; deliver a proprietary leadership development curriculum; pair them with a caring mentor; and ultimately set them on a path to obtaining living-wage jobs.

Proposed Outcomes: Education and Employment Rate 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter after Exit (70%); Education and Employment Rate 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter after Exit (60%); Median Earnings (\$5,750); Credential Attainment (50%); Measurable Skills Gains (70%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); and Recidivism Rate (<10%).

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## Southwest Counseling Solutions

Detroit, MI

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$1,312,500.00
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Direct
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	105
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	15-18 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	The Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center (SWDCJC)
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	Detroit, Highland Park, and Wayne County, MI
<b>Sub-grantees (if applicable):</b>	N/A

The purpose of the Detroit Youth Growth Opportunity (DYGO) grant is to introduce and prepare justice-involved youth for the world of work through placement into paid work experiences, and onto a path to more equitable career opportunities with their peers. In Detroit, 67% of residents are participating in the labor force which ranks last among the top 100 cities by population. Detroit also has an 11% unemployment rate, highest among the top 100 cities. Contributing to high-poverty rates, many Detroiters are educationally disengaged. Only 17% of Detroit's third graders are proficient in English Language Arts, compared to 43% across the region. Graduation rates for Detroit Public Schools Community District have declined three years in row with 2020 rates of 72.45% down from 75.84% in 2019. Detroit's drop-out rates are 13.23% for the 2019-20 school year. For comparison, adjacent Districts within a 10-mile radius include Hazel Park at 6.25%, Warren at 4.65%, and Dearborn at 2.80%. One in five Detroit area residents lacks a high school diploma or HSE, and another third have earned only their high school diploma or HSE. This is important because postsecondary education or training is often essential to obtaining middle-skilled jobs.

The Detroit Youth Growth Opportunity (DYGO) encompasses occupational education and training in in-demand industries, leadership development, a mentorship component, and post-work experience placement into unsubsidized employment and/or education. Youth will be provided with information and referral for shelter/housing, sustenance, medical care, dental care, transportation assistance, court escort, interpreter/translator services, substance abuse treatment, victim advocacy, emergency assistance, life skills training, orientation to the criminal justice system, restitution, and legal services. A partnership with Legal Aid and Defender Association (LAD) will help address the civil legal needs of youth and their family including a range of services from advice and counsel to full representation as warranted. Finally, participating youth will be provided awareness, education, and understanding of the dynamics of violence and crime through classroom settings, support groups, survivor videos, role play, case studies and activities, and content exercises. SWCS and SWES (both subsidiaries of Southwest Solutions), along with community partners, will provide the services outlined in this NOFA.

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Proposed outcomes: Education and Employment Rate 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter after Exit (70%); Education and Employment Rate 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter after Exit (60%); Median Earnings (\$5,750); Credential Attainment (50%); Measurable Skills Gains (70%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); and Recidivism Rate (<10%).

## Towards Employment Inc. (TE)

Cleveland, OH

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$1,999,751.00
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Direct
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	160
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	18-24 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	reNOUNce / deNOUNce Gang Intervention Program
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	East side of Cleveland, OH (Central, Hough, Glenville, Mount Pleasant, Kinsman and Collinwood neighborhoods)
<b>Sub-grantees (if applicable):</b>	N/A

Lead applicant Towards Employment (TE) is a nonprofit community-based organization that, for decades, has been providing nationally recognized re-entry services in the targeted areas. TE and partners will use grant resources to enhance service models and deepen collaborations with employers serving justice-involved young adults.

Towards Employment and partners will recruit, assess, and enroll at-risk and/or justice-involved young adults into specifically aligned career and educational pathways, detailed in their Individual Development Plan (IDP) and Personal Career Map (PCM). Each young adult will receive 1:1 supports through a trauma-informed Case Manager and Career Coach, and a Mentor with relevant lived experience. Young adults will attend Career Readiness Training (CRT) Workshops that include violence prevention and conflict resolution curricula, as well as other leadership and life-skills training. Participants will receive wages for attending CRT and will transition to a paid work experience that aligns with their IDP and PCM. The participant's Case Manager, Career Coach, and Mentor will continue communication with the participant and provide follow-up services throughout the work experience and follow-up period of 12 months.

TE workshops are the gateway to TE's employment and career services, work readiness and job preparation; career exploration/planning; mentorship and leadership programming; paid work experiences; financial literacy, digital literacy, occupational training and career pathway opportunities; permanent job placement; and job retention/advancement support. They also integrate required violence

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prevention, conflict resolution, and leadership curricula. Described in expanded detail in the TE application, CRT is a trauma-informed workshop specifically for justice-involved young adults. The workshop simulates workplace environments with expectations for attendance, punctuality, performance, and collaborative engagement, and participants are paid \$15/hour to attend. Job preparation topics include: (1) orientation and exploration of career ladders in in-demand sectors, (2) employer visits and presentations including employer expectations, (3) soft skills (communication, teamwork, problem solving, and conflict management), (4) resume development, and (5) interview preparation.

Proposed outcomes: Education and Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after Exit (70%); Education and Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit (60%); Median Earnings (\$5,750); Credential Attainment (50%); Measurable Skills Gains (70%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); and Recidivism Rate (<10%).

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

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## Volunteers of America Southeast Louisiana (VOASELA)

New Orleans, LA

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$2,000,000.00
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Direct
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	200
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	15-18 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	Heroes of New Orleans, Jefferson Parish Juvenile Services, New Orleans Office of Gun Violence Prevention
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	New Orleans, Storyville, Harvey, Seabrook, Marrero, Estelle, Westwego, Avondale, Waggaman, Bridge City, Nine Mile Point, Jefferson, Elmwood, Harahan, River Ridge, Orleans Parish County, and Jefferson Parish County, LA
<b>Sub-grantees (if applicable):</b>	N/A

VOASELA’s Positive Pathways Program (P3) recognizes that youth can be a critical change agents in improving the safety and culture of a community. Using an intensive case management approach, Case Managers work as partners with at-risk, adjudicated, and justice-involved youth as they create goals on linked educational and career pathways.

The program follows the framework of Positive Youth Development by helping youth develop assets and agency (skill building) and a sense of contribution and belonging (leadership development and mentorship), and by offering an enabling environment (creating positive norms and expectations, forging healthy relationships with trusted adults and peers, providing emotional and physical safe spaces). Holistic wraparound services promote stability as youth navigate their career and educational pathways, celebrate benchmarks, and eventually lead to placement into unsubsidized paid work experiences, post-secondary educational opportunities, or attainment of an industry-recognized credential.

A comprehensive partnership network creates a developmentally appropriate continuum of care in which youth can develop the self-efficacy and skills they need to thrive. Primary activities include hard and soft skill training; linkages to educational, occupational, and job skills training; 1:1 career coaching, career planning and exploration; linkages to supportive services based on needs assessment; rectification of barriers to employment; and development of prosocial relationships with trusted adults and peers through mentorship and leadership development. Volunteers of America Southeast Louisiana (VOASELA) Positive Pathways Program (P3) provides work and educational opportunities to youth who are disproportionately affected by poverty, community violence, and unrest in metro New Orleans. Proposed

## Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

project activities will prioritize those living in Orleans Parish and 10 contiguous census tracts of the west bank of adjoining Jefferson Parish

Proposed outcomes: Education and Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after Exit (70%); Education and Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit (60%); Median Earnings (\$5,750); Credential Attainment (50%); Measurable Skills Gains (70%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); and Recidivism Rate (<10%).