Opportunity REBOOT

MENTOR MINNESOTA

Search INSTITUTE

Employment and Economic Development MINNESOTA

youthprise

5 YEARS

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

COMMUNITY BRIEFING AND CALL TO ACTION

WED, FEBRUARY 12, 2020
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM CST

MIDPOINTE EVENT CENTER
415 PASCAL ST. N, ST. PAUL, MN 55104

PROGRAM

11:30 AM
GALLERY WALK, NETWORKING, REFRESHMENTS

11:55 AM
OPENING REMARKS & INTRODUCTIONS

12:00 PM
OVERVIEW OF OPPORTUNITY REBOOT GRANT PROGRAM AND MODEL

12:10 PM
EVALUATION FINDINGS

12:40 PM
EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

1:10 PM
WHAT'S NEXT & CALL TO ACTION

1:25 PM
CLOSING REMARKS

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Opportunity Reboot

Creating Career Pathways for Disconnected Youth

Opportunity Reboot addresses the economic challenges confronting young people, and is one solution to the persistent racial disparities in our state. While the Twin Cities ranks #1 among the largest 25 metro areas for the proportion of adults working, the Twin Cities ranks 23 out of 25 for the largest employment gap between white and black residents.

Opportunity Reboot mobilizes public and private resources to sustain and grow the work of organizations creating career pathways for youth who are disconnected from education and employment. Training and technical support is provided to help organizations bridge best practices in youth development and workforce development in order to more effectively create pathways to school, career and life success.

Target Population: Youth between the ages of 14 and 24 who are either homeless, in foster care, involved in the juvenile justice system or disconnected from school and work.

Core Activities:

- Education programming to ensure youth obtain a high school diploma or GED
- Enrolling/co-enrolling youth in post-secondary programs relevant to their career interest;
- Providing supportive services to ensure basic needs are met that support education/career goals; and
- Helping youth secure industry recognized credentials in high demand local industries.

Outcomes since Launching in 2016:

- Served **1,449** youth;
- Placed **634** youth in jobs;
- Provided support for **337** youth that have retained employment for over 6 months; and
- Provided credentials or certification in high-demand industries for **492** youth.

Communities Served:

Minneapolis, MN	Saint Paul, MN	Sauk Rapids, MN	Duluth, MN
Northfield, MN	Faribault, MN	Red Wing, MN	

Opportunity Reboot is supported by the Corporation for National and Community Services' Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) was a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service that received funding from 2010 to 2016. Using public and private resources to find and grow community-based nonprofits with evidence of results, SIF intermediaries received funding to award subgrants that focus on overcoming challenges in economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development. Although CNCS made its last SIF intermediary awards in fiscal year 2016, SIF intermediaries will continue to administer their subgrant programs until their federal funding is exhausted.

Opportunity Reboot Grantees Programs:

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation:

Provides culturally competent employment and educational programs and wraparound services for 44 to 65 homeless youth at Prior Crossing, a youth housing facility in Saint Paul, MN. ***Saint Paul, Minnesota***

Initiative Foundation/ Sauk Rapids-Rice School District:

The primary goal of Compass is for high school students to succeed! Therefore, this blended alternative educational program emphasizes career and college readiness, civic engagement, and overall well-being. Students are offered appropriate academic accommodations and individualized programming, a structured and supported setting, connections to mentors and community partners, and a balance between alternative and mainstream settings. Compass staff is here to help students discover, learn, and navigate their path to success. ***Sauk Rapids, Minnesota***

Migizi Communications:

A Green Jobs Pathway that serves 60 Indian youth per year by providing education, training, supports, and experiences needed to prepare them to become financially independent, self-determining adults. The project also helps American Indian youth discover their cultural role as caretakers of the Earth. ***Minneapolis, Minnesota***

Guadalupe Alternative Program (GAP):

Offering the YouthBuild model for over 100 participants from Saint Paul's West Side, Dayton's Bluff, Payne-Phalen, and Greater East Side neighborhoods. ***Saint Paul, Minnesota***

Tri-city Bridges to the Future:

A collaborative in Faribault, Red Wing, and Northfield that offers career pathways approaches for 130 youth ages 14-24. The primary focus is high school completion with dual enrollment options through partnerships with area higher education institutions and postsecondary training in career clusters that have clear pathways to higher degrees. ***Northfield, Faribault, and Red Wing, Minnesota***

SOAR Career Solutions:

The Opportunity Youth of Duluth (OYOD) project is implemented in partnership with SOAR Career Solutions, Life House, Woodland Hills, Duluth Workforce Development, Lake Superior College, Duluth Public Schools Independent School District #709 and Duluth Adult Basic Education. The OYOD project builds upon the strengths of each partner agency and coordinates employment and stabilization services for "Opportunity Youth", addresses barriers to education and employment and provides them with an "on-ramp" toward a life of meaningful employment and social engagement. This project incorporates transitional and traditional employment readiness models in order to meet the individualized needs of youth. ***Duluth, Minnesota***

The long-term goals of Opportunity Reboot are to holistically support young people to sustain living wage employment; achieve stable housing, establish a web of social capital, and to contribute to their community.

Opportunity Reboot

An evaluation of how to more effectively create pathways to school, career, and life success for opportunity youth.

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Opportunity Reboot Model

Youthprise partnered with six community programs in Minnesota to develop a program enhancement and technical assistance model known as Opportunity Reboot. The model expanded program services and integrated a systemic focus on four key components:

Study Participants

Data was collected between Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 through online youth surveys, in-depth journal/photo activities, focus groups, and interviews, and secondary data provided by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). One hundred and ninety-four youth participated in the online survey at two time points. Youth were 14-24 years-old; 49% identified as female, 45% were born outside the United States, and 84% identified as youth of color. A subsample of 29 youth participated in the journal/photo activities and interviews.

1. Integrated Positive Mentoring Relationships

Youth developed positive mentoring relationships both **within** and **outside** their programs. Youth who forged new mentoring relationships with adults **outside** of the program saw significant gains in their **orientation towards the future, civic efficacy, self-awareness, responsible decision making, relationship skills, job-seeking skills, resource identification skills, and financial literacy.** Youth who developed stronger relationships **within** the program experienced significant growth in:

- **Financial Literacy**
- **Job-seeking skills**
- **Resource identification skills**

> *"The teacher support. . . makes you wanna come back the next day, it makes you feel like you can do it. It's empowering, you know, to know that there's at least one adult in the school that will care about you and help you."*

75%

Formed a **mentoring relationship** with an adult **outside** of the program

2. Responsive Individualized Goal Supports

Youth described a variety of ways that program staff contributed to their goal development. Staff helped youth clarify goals, track them, connect their goals to college or future careers, and access critical resources.

> *"They [staff] share and talk about their experiences and they keep motivating me, that you have to have a goal."*

Percent of youth who felt that their progam...

77%	79%	81%	86%
Checked in with them regularly about their goals	Worked to meet their personal needs	Helped them identify what they are good at/where they may need help	Wanted to reach the goals they have set

3. Coordinated Career Pathway Supports

Youth described a variety of ways that program staff contributed to their career development. Youth appreciated opportunities to build skills such as hands-on work experience, leadership and life skills, and college and career preparation.

> *"I got my job, cause [program name]... it helped me figure out how to fill out an application, how to look for an interview."*

Percent of youth who felt their programs are a place to...

Reach career and education	82%
Explore education and career options	86%

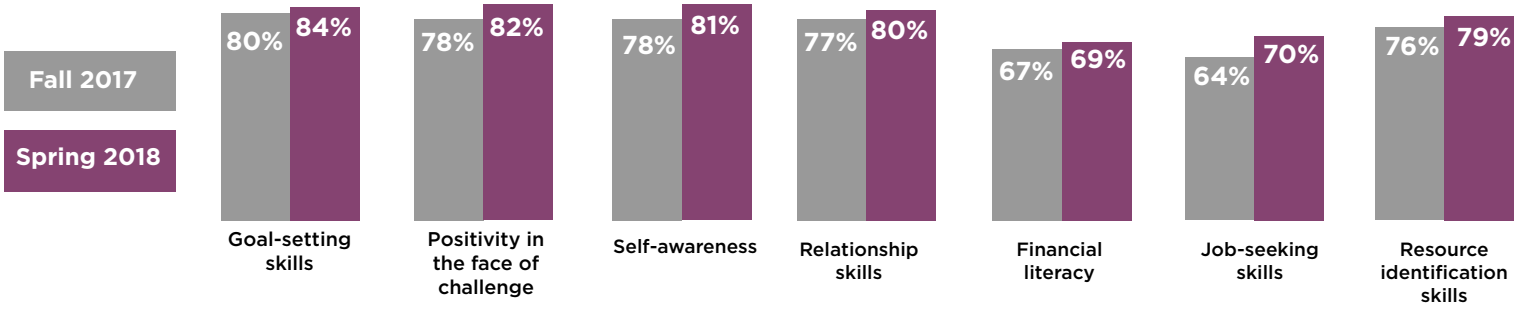
4. Impactful Cross-Sector Partnerships

100%

of partners using the Opportunity Reboot model established new **beneficial collaborations** to support opportunity youth

> *"It's always good to have somebody that's been through it and that has that job or has been through this experience, so they can relay their story on to us, so we know more about that concept."*

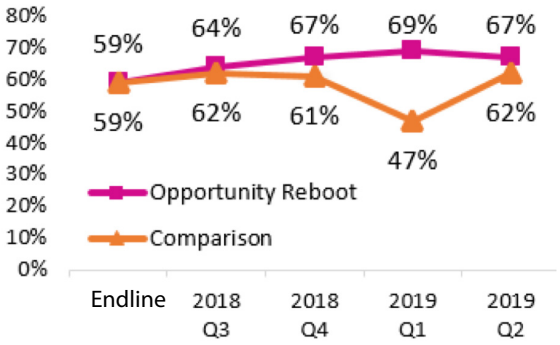
Youth made significant gains across key developmental and skill-building areas



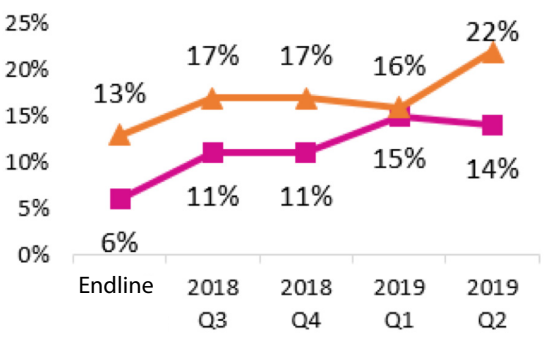
Youth had greater employment and wage attainment post-program

The evaluation leveraged data collected by DEED across five time points. Data from DEED was used to create a comparison group of youth who share similar demographic characteristics as youth who participated in Opportunity Reboot, but did not participate in similar programming. Findings showed that youths' employment rate exceeded that of the comparison group. The percent of Opportunity Reboot participants who were earning a living wage increased over time, however the absolute percentage still remained low.

Percent of youth who were employed



Percent of youth earning a living wage



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THANK YOU FUNDERS

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative
Bernicks Foundation
Bremer Foundation
Bush Foundation
City of Minneapolis/STEP-UP Discover
DEED Equity Funds
Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation
Transitional Employment Program
Essentia Health Corporate Contributions
F.R. Bigelow Foundation
Faribault Public Schools
Hardenberg Foundation
Hugh J. Anderson Foundation
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Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation
Minnesota Office of Higher Education
Minnesota State Funds
MN Youth Intervention Program Grant
Northfield Area United Way
Northfield Healthy Community Initiative
Northfield Public Schools General Fund
Northland Foundation
Northwest Area Foundation
Open Your Heart
Ordean Foundation
Proto Lab
Rice County Family Services Collaborative
Sauk Rapids-Rice School District
Securian Foundation
State of Minnesota
The Saint Paul Foundation
United Way - Head of the Lakes
Workforce Development Inc
Xcel Energy
YouthFirst

SOME WAYS TO BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT TO MAKE SURE OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ARE THRIVING IN MINNESOTA:

1. Sign up for updates from Youthprise to stay in the loop! Visit www.youthprise.org
2. Learn more about all the organizations involved and invest in them directly, by contributing dollars or volunteering.
3. Spread the word and share with your networks about the collective work we are accomplishing.
4. Encourage and support of this movement through public and private funding.
5. Share the Opportunity Reboot program, model and results to support more young people.
6. Think differently about collaboration, evaluation and leveraging existing resources.
7. Make evaluation a practice and not an afterthought in your work.
8. Mentor a young person by developing a mentoring mindset with all youth you encounter and/or through more formal mentoring channels. For training, visit www.MentorMN.org
9. Talk to your legislatures and other stakeholders about opportunity youth so we can deliberately amplify the voices of the marginalized and disconnected.
10. Let's stop using "at-risk" language and help shift the narrative about these young people and their potential in our communities and state!

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS

Opportunity Reboot Core Partners:

https://youthprise.org/

https://www.search-institute.org/

https://mn.gov/deed/

https://www.mentormn.org/

Opportunity Reboot Subgrantees:

https://www.wilder.org/

https://www.gapschool.org/

https://www.isd47.org/schools/compass

https://www.migizi.org/

https://www.soarcareers.org/

https://northfieldhci.org/programs/

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