

Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

The Employment and Training Agency's (ETA) Growth Opportunities (GO) grant initiative supports the placement of youth (15-18) and young adults (18-24) with school expulsion or justice system contact 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 that support participants' participation and success, such as mentorship, legal assistance, and transportation. 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.
- 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. 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 not 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 has awarded three rounds of funding. The third round awarded \$12,000,000.00 in grants to 3 organizations across 3 states to support programs that provide job training and supportive services to justice-involved young people.

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

Recipient	City	State	Amount
Metro Community Ministries	New York	NY	\$4,000,000
Local Initiatives Support Corporation	College Park	GA	\$4,000,000
Tri-County Jobs for Ohio’s Graduates	Akron	OH	\$4,000,000
Total – 3 grants, 3 states			\$12,000,000

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Metro Community Ministries

New York, NY

Award Amount:	\$4,000,000
Applicant Type:	Intermediary
Participant Enrollment Goal:	350
Age Group Served:	15-18 years old
Violence Prevention Partner(s):	A Better Day than Yesterday, VA; JESTES, GA; Youth Development Inc., CA
Target Area(s):	Weldon, NC; San Diego, CA; Richmond, VA; and Atlanta, GA
Sub-grantees (<i>if applicable</i>):	MCMI-Virginia, Richmond VA; MCMI-Atlanta, College Park GA; MCMI San Diego, El Cajon, CA; MCMI Weldon, Weldon, NC

Metro Community Ministries, Inc. is a community-based nonprofit organization committed to building the capacity of community, youth, and family structures to acquire success. Through the focused provision of support and developmental efforts, Metro will utilize education, employment, foundational development, and creative enhancements to assist communities to overcome adversities.

Metro will work with affiliates as subgrantees in each location to provide training, placement, and retention assistance. The program will focus on the five primary areas of service: core supportive services, paid work experience, mentorship and leadership development, and placement into educational opportunities.

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 Skill Gains (70%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); and Recidivism Rate (<10%).

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Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

College Park, GA

Award Amount:	\$4,000,000
Applicant Type:	Intermediary
Participant Enrollment Goal:	350
Age Group Served:	18-24 years old
Violence Prevention Partner(s):	EMERGE, New B.O.Y., Pathways Forensic & Mental Health Services, PLLC, Fight the Good Fight LLC
Target Area(s):	Detroit, MI; Indianapolis, IN; Minneapolis, MN; and Lufkin, TX
Sub-grantees (if applicable):	EMERGE Community Development, Flanner House, Legacy Institute for Financial Empowerment (LIFE), Southwest Economic Solutions (SWES)

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is a nonprofit organization with strong community partnerships. LISC works to connect hard-to-tap public and private resources with underinvested places and people working to access opportunities.

LISC serves their communities by providing financial, technical and management assistance to local partners and developers. They have 38 local offices serving 2,400 counties in 49 states, investing in housing, businesses, jobs and financial health, education, safety, and health.

The subgrantees will provide services that include tracking re-arrests and recidivism, working closely with local state and criminal justice partners, providing career services, financial coaching, income support access, and all other related supportive services.

Proposed Outcomes: Education and Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after Exit (74%); Education and Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit (66%); Median Earnings (\$5,875); Credential Attainment (60%); Measurable Skill Gains (70%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<4%); and Recidivism Rate (<7%).

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Tri-County Jobs for Ohio’s Graduates

Akron, OH

Award Amount:	\$4,000,000.00
Applicant Type:	Intermediary
Participant Enrollment Goal:	348
Age Group Served:	15-18 years old
Violence Prevention Partner(s):	Red Oak Behavioral Health, Akron, OH; Goodwill Industries of Michiana and the Gary Ten Point Coalition, Gary, OH; and the Cleveland Peacemaker Alliance, Cleveland, OH
Target Area(s):	Akron, OH; Cleveland, OH; and Gary, IN
Sub-grantees (if applicable):	Lead Agency JOG, Akron, OH; Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU), Cleveland, OH; and Center of Workforce Innovations (CWI) in Gary, OH

Since 1987, Jobs for Ohio’s Graduates helps youth with multiple barriers to success complete their education and successfully transition to employment at a livable wage or post-secondary job training.

Tri-County Jobs for Ohio’s Graduates is working with employment and leadership development subgrantees, justice agency and violence prevention partners, and employers to address need for employment support, violence prevention, including mentoring, conflict resolution, leadership development, paid work experience and placement into education and employment for justice-involved youth in high-poverty, high-crime communities with recent experience of community unrest.

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 Skill Gains (70%); Arrests for Violent Crime (<5%); and Recidivism Rate (<10%)