

# 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 such as mentorship, legal assistance, and transportation that support participants' participation 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.
- 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 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 awarded \$46,494,726.00 in grants to 14 organizations across 13 states in the fifth round of funding 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
<a href="#"><u>Access Connections to Success</u></a>	Southaven	MS	\$1,999,333.00
<a href="#"><u>CPLC Nevada Inc</u></a>	Las Vegas	NV	\$2,000,000.00
<a href="#"><u>Employ Milwaukee, Inc.</u></a>	Milwaukee	WI	\$2,000,000.00
<a href="#"><u>Fresno Area Workforce Investment Corporation</u></a>	Fresno	CA	\$2,000,000.00
<a href="#"><u>Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, Inc.</u></a>	Louisville	KY	\$1,936,736.00
<a href="#"><u>International Youth Foundation</u></a>	Baltimore	MD	\$5,100,000.00
<a href="#"><u>It's My Community Initiative, Inc.</u></a>	Oklahoma City	OK	\$2,000,000.00
<a href="#"><u>Jobs for the Future</u></a>	Boston	MA	\$5,100,000.00
<a href="#"><u>Knoxville Leadership Foundation</u></a>	Knoxville	TN	\$2,000,000.00
<a href="#"><u>Midwest Urban Strategies, Inc.</u></a>	Elm Grove	WI	\$5,100,000.00
<a href="#"><u>National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation</u></a>	Washington	DC	\$5,100,000.00
<a href="#"><u>OIC of America, Inc.</u></a>	Philadelphia	PA	\$5,098,657.00
<a href="#"><u>Peckham Vocational Industries, Inc.</u></a>	Lansing	MI	\$2,000,000.00
<a href="#"><u>STRIVE International, Inc.</u></a>	New York	NY	\$5,060,000.00
<b>Total – 14 grants, 13 states</b>			<b>\$46,494,726.00</b>

\*The city in which the recipient is located. It does not necessarily indicate the location where the grantee is delivering services.

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

## Access Connections to Success

Southaven, MS

**Award Amount:** \$1,999,333.00

**Applicant Type:** Direct

**Participant Enrollment Goal:** 200

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

**Violence Prevention** Eagle's Nest Family Services

**Partner(s):**

**Target Area(s):** Shelby County, TN

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

Access Connections to Success (ACTS) is a 501(c) non-profit career development and resource center established in 2001 under the auspices of Brown Missionary Baptist Church and has since served individuals and employers in the Midsouth. ACTS Career Center has been serving their community at no cost to the client or the employer. They draw their strength from dedication to serve their community and from their mission to promote career and economic growth.

Access Connections to Success serves the Midsouth area which encompasses Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas. For the last two decades, ACTS has provided workforce development, workforce training, job placement in and created pathways to economic mobility for over 30,000 Mid-southerners; and is especially proud of its Youth Employment program that has provided real living wages and on-site job experiences to youth and young adults ages 15-25 for over 20 years.

### 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%)
- Recidivism Rate (<10%).

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

## CPLC Nevada, Inc.

Las Vegas, NV

**Award Amount:** \$2,000,000

**Applicant Type:** Direct

**Participant Enrollment Goal:** 156

**Age Group Served:** 15-18 years old

**Violence Prevention** Boys Town Nevada/ Changing the Narrative

**Partner(s):**

**Target Area(s):** City of North Las Vegas and City of Las Vegas, Nevada

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

CPLC Nevada is one of the largest Latino nonprofits in the country, providing services to people of all backgrounds while honoring our Mexican American roots. Our programs give individuals and families a seat at the table. We facilitate growth through five Areas of Impact: Health & Human Services; Housing; Education; Economic Development; Advocacy. With offices in six southwestern states and clients across the country, CPLC impacts almost 1 million lives every year.

CPLC Nevada, Inc. mission is to Drive Economic and Political Empowerment. Incorporated as a 501 c 3 in Nevada in 2014. CPLC Nevada, Inc. is well-known and respected throughout Nevada as an entity managing grants and implementing high quality programming.

### 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%)
- Recidivism Rate (<10%).

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

## Employ Milwaukee, Inc.

Milwaukee, WI

**Award Amount:** \$2,000,000

**Applicant Type:** Direct

**Participant Enrollment Goal:** 160

**Age Group Served:** 15-18 years old

**Violence Prevention Partner(s):** The City of Milwaukee Office of Community Wellness and Safety

**Target Area(s):** Milwaukee, WI

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

Employ Milwaukee is the local workforce development board serving Milwaukee County. By convening leaders from business and industry, economic and workforce development, education and training as well as community partners and policy makers, our vision is to develop workforce solutions that promote regional economic growth and employment opportunity for all job seekers.

Employ Milwaukee aims to reduce youth involvement in the justice system and address barriers to employment through paid work experiences, mentorship, skills training, and trauma-informed support. The program focuses on empowering justice-involved youth aged 15-18 by equipping them with the tools to achieve long-term career success and break cycles of system involvement.

### 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%)
- Recidivism Rate (<10%).

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

## Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board

Fresno, CA

**Award Amount:** \$2,000,000  
**Applicant Type:** Direct  
**Participant Enrollment Goal:** 154  
**Age Group Served:** 18-24 years old

**Violence Prevention** FRWDB-Young Adult Services (YAS)  
**Partner(s):**  
**Target Area(s):** Fresno, CA  
**Sub-grantees (*if applicable*):** N/A

The Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB) is a Governor-designated local workforce development area (LWDA) in accordance with provisions of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). FRWDB was first granted this status in 1983 under prior federal legislation. FRWDB has a long and successful history of preparing justice-involved youth and young adults for work, utilizing all the service elements required by the Growth Opportunities grant program and is committed to changing lives, improving livelihoods, reducing violence, and strengthening communities through the Course Correct project. Fresno Area Workforce Investment Corporation (FAWIC), a 501 (c)(3), the administrative arm of FRWDB, oversees the administration of WIOA funding in Fresno County.

The Course Correct initiative is designed to reduce community violence and recidivism by offering justice involved youth structured training, mentoring, violence prevention, and work experience. Through partnerships with local businesses, probation services, and community-based organizations, Course Correct consists of a six-phase approach that includes individualized assessments, Career Technical Education (CTE), and post-program follow-up services.

### 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%)
- Recidivism Rate (<10%).

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

## Goodwill Industries of Kentucky

Louisville, KY

**Award Amount:** \$1,936,736

**Applicant Type:** Direct

**Participant Enrollment Goal:** 150

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

**Violence Prevention** Louisville Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods (OSHN)

**Partner(s):**

**Target Area(s):** Louisville, KY

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

Goodwill Industries is strongly affiliated with Goodwill Industries International but operate autonomously in our region. Founded in 1923, Goodwill Industries of Kentucky is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with 2,000-plus dedicated employees driven by the mission to serve Kentuckians who are recovering from addiction, reentering society from incarceration, lacking education or transportation, unhoused or homeless, surviving chronic poverty or living with an intellectual or physical disability. Through the power of work, Goodwill gives a hand up to these individuals, not a handout, to help them achieve and maintain employment to gain a better quality of life.

Pathways to Success will introduce justice-involved young adults ages 18-24 years old to the world of work, while providing them with paths to better career opportunities through placement into paid work experiences.

### 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%)
- Recidivism Rate (<10%).

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

## International Youth Foundation

Baltimore, MD

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$5,100,000
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Intermediary
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	425
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	15-18 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	Connect ED NY, Inc and NC-Youth Juvenile Justice Center
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	Lumberton, Fairmont & Pembroke in Robeson County, NC and Rome City, Utica City and surrounding areas in Oneida county, NY
<b>Sub-grantees (<i>if applicable</i>):</b>	Connect Ed NY, Inc. and North Carolina Youth Juvenile Justice Center (NC-YVPC)

For 34 years, International Youth Foundation's sole focus has been to help young people succeed. Their work is fueled by the belief that young people everywhere possess dreams, ambition, and the same spark of potential. Rooted in the belief of youth as problem-solvers, change-makers, and leaders, their initiatives are catalysts for change. They forge global and local partnerships that transform lives, together.

The International Youth Foundation (IYF), a U.S.-based global intermediary organization, and their local violence-prevention partners, Connect ED (subsidiary of Central New York Health Home Network, CNYHHN) and North Carolina Youth Violence Prevention Center (NC-YVPC) propose a three-year \$5.1 million Growth Opportunities (GO) program, to prepare 425 justice-involved youth (15-18 years old) in New York (NY) and North Carolina (NC) for the world of work.

### 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%)
- Recidivism Rate (<10%).

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

## It's My Community Initiative, Inc.

Oklahoma City, OK

**Award Amount:** \$2,000,000

**Applicant Type:** Direct

**Participant Enrollment Goal:** 130

**Age Group Served:** 15-18 years old

**Violence Prevention** LiveFree

**Partner(s):**

**Target Area(s):** Oklahoma City, OK

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

It's My Community Initiative (IMCI), a previously funded REO applicant, proposes to offer employment and education placement services to 130 youth through the Youth Growth Opportunities Program (YGO). These services seek to take proactive measures to reduce youth poverty and prevent cycles of violence.

IMCI's YGO Program blends evidence-based practices and research-based service delivery components with workforce system input, labor market considerations, and lessons learned from the successful execution of five previous DOL funded Reentry Projects. YGO will work to improve employment, recidivism, and violent crime arrest outcomes for youth.

### 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%)
- Recidivism Rate (<10%).

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

## Jobs for the Future

Boston, MA

Award Amount:	\$5,100,000
Applicant Type:	Intermediary
Participant Enrollment Goal:	450
Age Group Served:	18-24 years old
Violence Prevention	Memphis: Memphis Allies
Partner(s):	Nashville: 901 BLOC Squad; Omaha: YouTurn
Target Area(s):	Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee and Omaha, Nebraska
Sub-grantees ( <i>if applicable</i> ):	Youth Villages, Memphis Allies; Persevere in Nashville, TN and Omaha, NE

Jobs for the Future, Unlocking Youth Advancement will introduce and prepare young adults who are system-impacted for work and provide a path to career opportunities with paid work experiences.

Jobs for the Future, a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit is the intermediary applicant with sub-grantee partners Memphis Allies (a program of national child welfare organization Youth Villages) and Persevere.

### 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%)
- Recidivism Rate (<10%).

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

## Knoxville Leadership Foundation

Knoxville, TN

**Award Amount:** \$2,000,000

**Applicant Type:** Direct

**Participant Enrollment Goal:** 155

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

**Violence Prevention Partner(s):** Amachi Knoxville, the City of Knoxville, the Community Mediation Center, Focus Ministries, Men of Valor, and Turn Up Knox.

**Target Area(s):** Knoxville, TN

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

Knoxville Leadership Foundation Growth Opportunities Project (GO-KNOX) project, purpose is to provide occupational skills, employability, academic, and leadership training combined with work experience and violence prevention mentoring to support 155 young adults, aged 18 to 24, to gain long-term employment in in-demand industries and, in parallel, develop conflict resolution and other skills to succeed in the workplace and life.

GO-KNOX will leverage the KNOXWORX workforce development model proven to remove barriers to employment through intensive case management, mentoring participants, and helping them to succeed.

### 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%)
- Recidivism Rate (<10%).

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

## Midwest Urban Strategies, Inc.

Elm Grove, WI

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$5,100,000
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Intermediary
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	350
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	18-24 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	PACT Bradley House; Gary East Side Development Corporation; Visionz Group; Community Action of Greater Indianapolis
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	Detroit, MI; Hammond, IN; East Chicago, IN; Gary, IN; Michigan City, IN; and Indianapolis, IN
<b>Sub-grantees (<i>if applicable</i>):</b>	EmployIndy; Center of Workforce Innovations; Detroit Employment Solutions Corp.

Midwest Urban Strategies, Inc (MUS) is a consortium of high-performing urban workforce development boards, and convener of the GO MUS Network. MUS will focus on three local areas: Detroit (MI), Northwest (IN), and Indianapolis (IN). These communities have high numbers of young adults engaged in the criminal justice system and these WDBs are on the front lines, coordinating program service delivery that successfully prepares young adults for their future endeavors.

The GO MUS Network will provide young people with a network of supports, including comprehensive case management, job development, career exploration and guidance, leadership development, positive youth development, work experience, mentoring, supportive services, free training, access to Pre-Apprenticeships and Registered Apprenticeships, and the opportunity to give back to their community.

### 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%)
- Recidivism Rate (<10%).

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

## National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation

Washington, DC

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$5,100,000
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Intermediary
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	425
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	18-24 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	Covenant House; Partners for Progress; Work Options; Career Resource, Inc.; West End Neighborhood House; Peckham Human Services; Community Kitchen Pittsburgh; Café Momentum
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	Anchorage, AK; Denver, CO; Bridgeport, CT; Wilmington, DE; Dover, DE; Georgetown, DE; Flint, MI; and Pittsburgh, PA
<b>Sub-grantees (<i>if applicable</i>):</b>	Alaska Cabaret Hotel, Restaurant, and Retailers Association Educational Fund; Colorado Restaurant Fdn.; Connecticut Hospitality Educational Fdn.; Delaware Restaurant Fdn.; Michigan Hospitality Fdn.; Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association Educational Fdn.

The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) is a lead applicant and intermediary looking to support the proposed expansion of the Hospitality Opportunities for People (re)Entering Society (HOPES) program to serve individuals aged at least 18 years old and not older than 24 years of age in six (6) states: Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. NRAEF and its partners will enroll a minimum of 425 individuals during the grant period.

Through HOPES, NRAEF and its community collaborative partners in each state will connect over 425 participants with holistic case management, including post-release services and opportunities. Participants can advance from entry-level positions to trainer, shift-lead, line cook, assistant manager, and manager positions, as well as connect to apprenticeship via NRAEF's Industry Career Pathway.

### 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%)
- Recidivism Rate (<10%).

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

## OIC of America, Inc.

Philadelphia, PA

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$5,098,657
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Intermediary
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	450
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	18-24 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	Community Healing Initiative; Pitt County Detention Center; OIC Wilson; Rocky Mount Police Dept.
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	Monroe, LA; Portland, OR; East Central, NC; Greater Delaware County, PA
<b>Sub-grantees (<i>if applicable</i>):</b>	Clock Tower Schools; OIC of Ouachita; Portland OIC; OIC of Wilson; OIC of Rocky Mount

The OIC Young Adult Growth Opportunities 2024 project is led by OIC of America, which oversees a nationwide affiliate network. OICA will apply as an intermediary leading five sub-grantee partners, located in four communities in four different states.

The project will serve 450 participants in total. Three of the 5 (Wilson, Ouachita, and Portland) are currently implementing a successful Growth Opportunities project in their communities with the younger 15-18 age group. They are well-positioned with an experienced staff and robust program model to expand the program to the older age group.

### 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%)
- Recidivism Rate (<10%).

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

## Peckham Vocational Industries, Inc.

Lansing, MI

**Award Amount:** \$2,000,000

**Applicant Type:** Direct

**Participant Enrollment Goal:** 155

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

**Violence Prevention Partner(s):** The Turning Point of Lansing; Without Walls Outreach (WOW Outreach)

**Target Area(s):** Lansing, MI and Flint, MI

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

Peckham Vocational Industries, Inc. will prepare justice involved individuals ages 18-24 for employment while also mitigating violence in the high-poverty, high-crime communities of Lansing and Flint, MI.

Youth and young adults with previous or current involvement with the justice 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 Peckham's target group. Residents in the cities of Lansing and Flint will also benefit from the program's intervention by way of safer communities.

### 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%)
- Recidivism Rate (<10%).

# Growth Opportunities – Project Summaries

## STRIVE International, Inc.

New York, NY

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$5,060,000
<b>Applicant Type:</b>	Intermediary
<b>Participant Enrollment Goal:</b>	450
<b>Age Group Served:</b>	18-24 years old
<b>Violence Prevention Partner(s):</b>	The Community Based Public Safety Collective (all cities)
<b>Target Area(s):</b>	New York, NY; Birmingham, AL; and New Orleans, LA
<b>Sub-grantees (<i>if applicable</i>):</b>	STRIVE New York, New York, NY; Café Reconcile, New Orleans LA; STRIVE Birmingham, AL.

The STRIVE Future Leaders is an innovative, comprehensive young adult reentry program that incorporates evidence- based and -informed practices to improve employment outcomes for young adults who have been involved in the criminal justice system.

Future Leaders will improve employment outcomes for 450 youth by providing, in partnership with employers and the criminal justice system, occupational training, education, case management, and services and supports young adults need to enter the workforce, maintain long-term financially sustaining employment, sustain a stable residence and successfully address substance abuse issues and mental health needs.

### 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%)
- Recidivism Rate (<10%).