



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

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

Opportunity Reboot Model

Youthprize 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:

1 
Integrated Positive Mentoring Relationships

2 
Responsive Individualized Goal Supports

3 
Coordinated Career Pathways

4 
Impactful Cross-Sector Partnerships

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 program...

77%

Checked in with them regularly about their goals

79%

Worked to meet their personal needs

81%

Helped them identify what they are good at/where they may need help

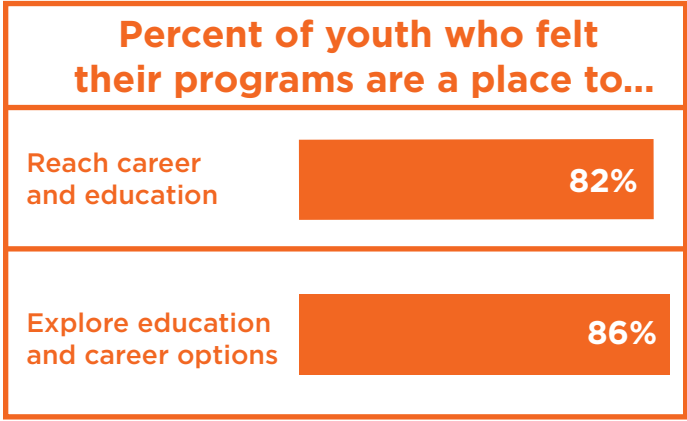
86%

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. ”

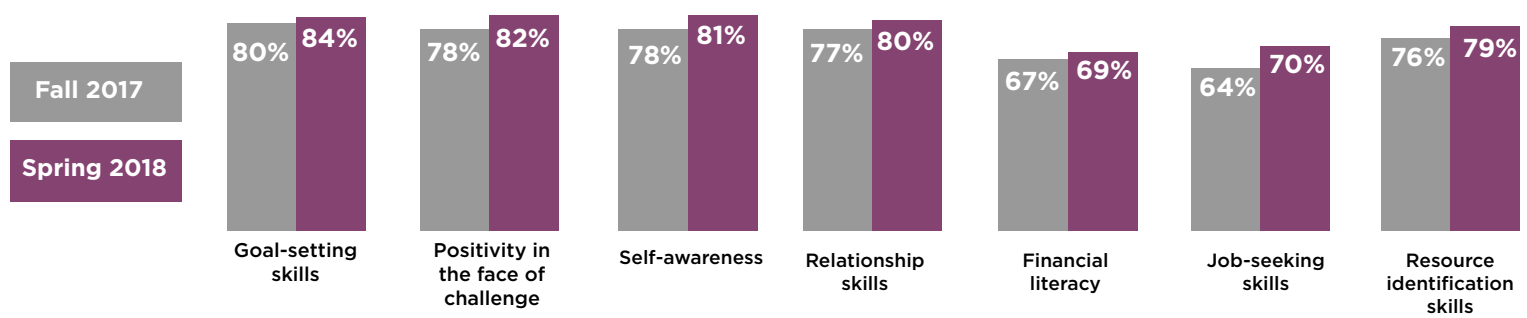


4. Impactful Cross-Sector Partnerships

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. ”

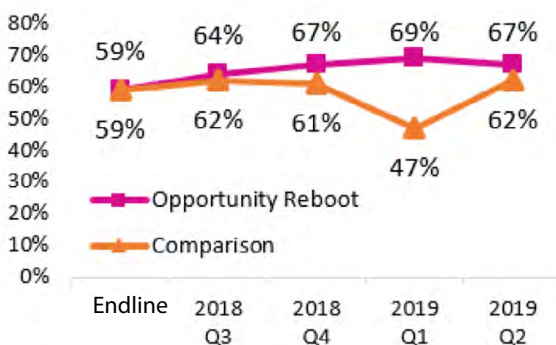
Youth made significant gains across key developmental and skill-building areas



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





Youthprise's mission is to increase equity with and for Minnesota's indigenous, low-income, and racially diverse youth.



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