

Program Models for Serving Opportunity Youth

Program Name	Program Type	How it Works	Age Range	Appropriate For	Maryland Location?
Year Up	Promising practice	6 months of soft skills and job training followed by 6 months of paid work in top IT companies. Includes peer and career mentoring.	18-24	Youth with transportation Youth who have a diploma	Yes (Baltimore)
Job Corps	Evidence based	Residential 12-month program. Students receive stipend for work and obtain vocational certificate and/or GED. Includes career mentoring for one year following program exit.	16-24	Youth w/o a diploma Youth seeking new environment	Yes (Laurel and Woodstock campuses)
National Guard Youth ChalleNGe	Promising practice	Residential 20-week program in a quasi-military setting. Includes mentoring for one year following program exit.	16-18	Youth w/o a diploma Youth with behavioral challenges	Yes (Gunpowder)
Gateway to College	Promising practice	Youth work toward earning a high school diploma while earning an associate's degree or postsecondary certificate at the same time. Most programs operate on a college campus.	16-20	Youth at 8 th grade level or more Youth with past truancy or absenteeism	Yes (Montgomery College)
Latin American Youth Center (Promotor Pathways Program)	Promising practice	LAYC's programs are accessible via drop-in centers that offer services ranging from housing to leadership programs to substance abuse treatment. The Promotor Program pairs youth with licensed mentors for up to six years to address specific barrier removal and make connections.	18-21	Youth with very significant obstacles, such as homelessness or trauma	Yes (Riverdale and Silver Spring)

Youth Advocate Programs	Evidence based	One of the only programs with a “no kickout” policy. Baltimore’s YAP helps youth in DJS and DSS custody to transition back into the community through wraparound services that include the family with the goal of reducing recidivism and systems involvement.	16-21	Youth in systems Youth with a record and in danger of reoffending Youth with psychiatric needs	Yes (Baltimore)
YouthBuild	Promising practice	Positive youth development and leadership are at the core of this skills building program that includes vocational training, educational attainment, and paid work. Many locations partner with CBOs to offer childcare and housing.	18-21	Youth w/o a diploma Youth in systems or transitioning out are prioritized Youth with a nonviolent criminal record	Yes (Baltimore)
Living Classrooms (Fresh Start)	Best practice	40-week job training program for males to learn carpentry and boatbuilding, attain credentials, and learn life skills. Includes follow-up mentoring.	16-19	Youth with a history of systems involvement	Yes (Baltimore and Prince George’s)
Urban Alliance (Young Adult Internship)	Promising practice	A 2 week professional and soft skills boot camp followed by year-round paid work. On Fridays, youth work with mentors on life skills and financial literacy.	18-20	Transitioning foster youth	Yes (Baltimore)
Per Scholas	Experimental	250 youth from the National Capital Region will receive industry recognized certification and job placement assistance in the technology field.	18-24	Youth who have a diploma	D.C. Location, but open to Prince George’s and Montgomery residents
Project RISE	Promising practice	Cohorts of youth complete a sequence of activities over 12 months, culminating in paid work and follow up mentoring.	18-24	Youth w/o a diploma Youth who were close to graduation	No

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas (Skills to Succeed)	Experimental	This program identifies disconnected youth among families already being served by the United Way. Youth receive daily programming that includes financial literacy, tutoring, career planning, and assistance applying for and preparing for postsecondary.	16-24	Youth from families already receiving services in the community Youth motivated to consider postsecondary	No
Philadelphia Youth Network (E3 Power Centers)	Promising practice	These neighborhood-based drop-in centers use positive youth development principles in all education, employment, and empowerment activities, along with case management, peer mentoring, and life skills.	16-24	Varying levels of work readiness and education.	No
Maine Youth Transition Collaborative (Opportunity Passport)	Experimental	Rural youth transitioning from foster care are grouped into close cohorts and participate in a variety of modules depending on their needs. The Opportunity Passport module offers financial literacy courses with matching funds awarded for successful participation that may be used toward a specific asset (usually a car).	17-24	Youth transitioning from foster care	No
Chicago Young Parents Program	Experimental	Mothers of children enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start will receive traditional home visiting (using Parents as Teachers), CBT, and case management, as well as group activities, including age-appropriate activities for the mothers and their children. The program will culminate in paid work at Head Start centers.	14-24	Young mothers who have dropped out of high school or postsecondary and are not working	No
Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment	Experimental	Rural youth receive career-focused mentoring, paid work during the school year, and career readiness programming. Partnership between Title I Youth Program and CBO.	16-18	Rural youth who are returning to high school because of the state's new compulsory age law.	No