



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

## Pathways to a Brighter Future

*Opportunities for Youth (OFY) is a collaborative partnership among government agencies, nonprofit organizations and employers that was launched in 2015 in response to the unfortunate emergence of Maricopa County as one of the country's most concentrated populations of young people, aged 16-24, who are not in school and not working. Seeing the chance to leverage the resources of Arizona State University to address this critical issue, Dean Jonathan Koppell created a home for OFY in the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions in 2017. To amplify our ability to positively impact the lives of "opportunity youth," the College formed the Center for Human Capital and Youth Development (CHCYD). CHCYD is a hub through which faculty, researchers, students, community partners, youth, and policymakers can collaborate on research, practice, and policy initiatives to support the educational, career and life goals of Maricopa County's Youth.*

*OFY works to lower the rate of opportunity youth in the Greater Phoenix Area by supporting the many organizations and employers working in this arena by convening partners and essential constituencies, facilitating countywide systems change, and connecting youth with resources and opportunities for success. In these roles, we rely on the active participation of youth, service providers, educational partners and employers to inform and guide OFY's ongoing efforts to develop solutions in existing educational and employment systems. Since OFY does not directly serve youth, we acknowledge that our efforts are only as effective as they are meaningful to youth, community partners, and employers, and so we depend on their participation in developing these solutions. We also would like to take this opportunity to thank our funders for supporting the OFY initiative, and making it possible to maintain our momentum in the Greater Phoenix Area as well as helping us to achieve our 2018 accomplishments.*

### The OFY Team

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*Director - ASU Center for Human Capital & Youth Development*

**Robin Hollis, Ed.D.**  
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*Program Coordinator*

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*Community Engagement Coordinator*

**Felix Moran**  
*Youth Outreach Coordinator*

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*Marketing Specialist*

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*Research Specialist - ASU Center for Human Capital & Youth Development*

*An Initiative of:*

**ASU Watts College**  
of Public Service and Community Solutions  
Arizona State University

James Hoyt  
Executive Director



# Youth Outreach & Retention

## Outreach Overview

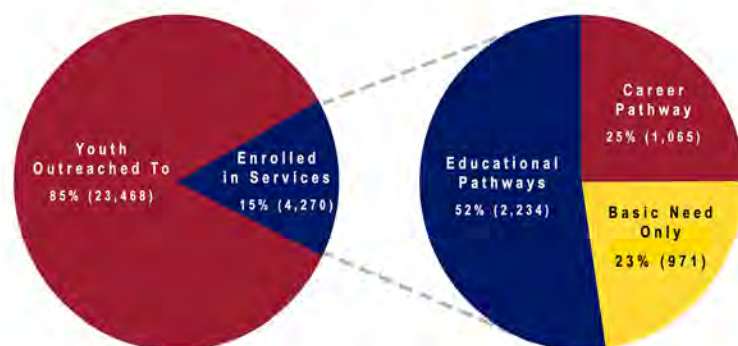
In 2018, the OFY Outreach Team focused on meeting opportunity youth where they already were, increasing overall effectiveness. This included visiting youth-specific locations and events, through social media platforms, and by engaging youth and service providers within other systems serving OY (i.e., child welfare, criminal justice, education institutions, and housing/homelessness systems).

## Outreach Data

OFY partnered with AmeriCorps Public Allies to employ eight Recruitment Specialists in 2018, establishing the OFY Youth Outreach Team. With the objective to expand community outreach efforts, this team educated local youth about the resources and opportunities offered by OFY Reengagement Centers. In an area as expansive as the Greater Phoenix Area, where nearly 14% of the total youth population are OY, it is vital to devise more innovative approaches to youth outreach. For this reason, we focused on developing new ways (e.g., through social media, community canvassing, etc.) to connect with youth and bring awareness to the resources that OFY and our partners offer.



OFY and its 14 Reengagement Centers conducted outreach to 27,738 opportunity youth (compared to just 6,000 in 2017). Of those youth, OFY Reengagement Centers enrolled 4,270 in services (2,200 in 2017). Over half (52%) of those young people pursued an educational pathway, whereas 25% pursued a career pathway and 23% received basic needs services within the Centers.



In addition to outreach, OFY focused on retention by strengthening the youth referral process and optimizing communications between Reengagement Centers.

## The Youth We Serve

OFY's 2018 data, collected amongst 14 Reengagement Centers, suggest the following demographic distribution among the youth we served:

- **51.0% White**
- **18.7% Black/African American**
- **4.8% American Indian/ Alaskan Native**
- **2.7% Asian/Pacific Islander**
- **6.2% Mixed Race**
- **16.6% Not Recorded**

In addition to this racial breakdown, **54.4% of the population served indicated that they identify as Hispanic/Latino in ethnicity\***. We have been able to gain a better understanding of the obstacles local youth face in Maricopa County, by better getting to know these young people themselves.

These data also suggest that youth from the following special population groups sought services from the Reengagement Centers:

Special Population	# of Youth	% of Youth Served
Homeless	638	17.28%
LGBTQ	641	15.01%
Disability	510	11.94%
Foster Youth	408	9.55%
Pregnant/Parenting	285	6.67%
Justice-Involved Youth	226	5.29%
DACA	130	3.04%
English Language Learners	104	2.44%
Primary Caregivers	75	1.76%
Undocumented	40	<1%
Refugee	20	<1%

\* These statistics were determined using *American Community Survey* methodology. In accordance with these methods, the ethnicity of Hispanic/Latino is represented separately from "Race", and is not considered in the population's racial breakdown.



# Educational Momentum

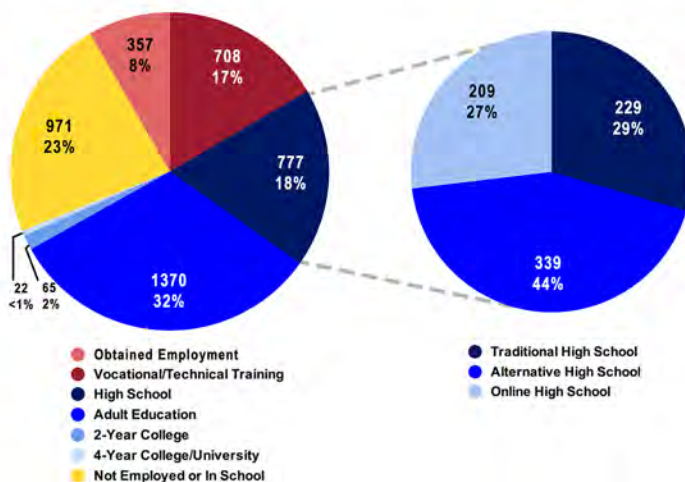
In 2018, OFY hosted an Educational Momentum Breakfast, aiming to build capacity and support networks for youth in the Greater Phoenix Area. Through this expansion of the Education Momentum Action Team, OFY is better able to serve youth at risk of disengagement from an educational pathway.



We have been working with local schools to implement a referral system aimed at bridging the resource gap for youth who are at risk of or have recently dropped out of school. This allows us to provide a “warm hand-off” between educational institutions and Reengagement Centers before

youth leave the education system, as it becomes more difficult to target and reengage these young people in support services after they have become disengaged.

Of youth enrolled in services through a Reengagement Center, 52% chose to pursue an educational pathway. Of those who enrolled in a high school (or equivalent) program, 44% are doing so through an alternative program.



# Career Connections

OFY Career Connections organized six hiring events in 2017-2018, connecting local employers and youth. Through these events, OFY engaged a total of 101 employers and 1,513 youth, and hosted over 200 interviews, which resulted in 93 on-site job offers!



OFY also implemented a new Manufacturing Training Program in 2018, laying the foundation for a new partnership among GateWay Community College, ARIZONA@WORK Maricopa County and the City of Phoenix, and OFY.

This innovative partnership uses federal and philanthropic funding to pay for youths' education in manufacturing, a nationally recognized credential, and ongoing support services.



In December 2018, the first cohort of the Manufacturing Training Program graduated, with 75% of participants continuing their education at GateWay Community College and 25% using their new certification to enter the workforce.



# Infrastructure Development

OFY is building capacity through the development of a cross-sectoral infrastructure, through its Leadership Council and four Action Teams. The work of the Leadership Council is imperative to providing strategic vision for and oversight of the OFY Initiative. This includes the development of a common agenda that defines strategies for political advocacy, community engagement, and shared metrics.

In addition to the Leadership Council, OFY's four Action Teams: Career Connections, Educational Momentum, Reengagement Centers, and Youth Leadership & Development, focus on eliminating barriers that affect youth. Supported by OFY staff, these teams are comprised of professionals and youth leaders in each of these areas. They convene on a monthly basis to examine the issues affecting OY and develop strategic solutions. Action Team co-chairs also meet bi-monthly outside of the Leadership Council to identify and implement overarching solutions to support OY in reengaging in educational and career pathways.



By the end of 2018, OFY increased overall partner participation by 52%, with Leadership Council membership increasing from 25 to 32 individuals, Career Connections partnerships increasing from 16 to 32 employers, Educational Momentum partnerships increasing from 19 to 30 organizations, and Reengagement Center partnerships increasing from 12 to 16 agencies.

In addition to building capacity in our community, OFY also has been implementing systems changes at the Action Team level. Each team has begun to identify gaps in policies and services within their focus area that hinder effective youth outcomes, and is developing solutions to remedy those issues.

Finally, OFY has effectively diversified the initiative's funding portfolio by increasing its operating budget from \$75,224 in July 2017 to \$958,830 by the end of 2018, with support from 11 private and public funders.



## Learn More about Opportunities for Youth

[www.opp4youth.org](http://www.opp4youth.org)

480.727.8300

[OpportunitiesforYouth@asu.edu](mailto:OpportunitiesforYouth@asu.edu)

*Opportunities for Youth is an initiative of the ASU Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions, housed in the Center for Human Capital and Youth Development*



# Together We are Building the Pathways to a Brighter Future



New Pathways  
for Youth



NEIGHBORHOOD  
MINISTRIES

ASU Watts College  
of Public Service and Community Solutions  
Arizona State University



Literacy Volunteers  
of Maricopa County, Inc.

NAU  
NORTHERN ARIZONA  
UNIVERSITY  
Civic Service Institute

ARIZONA  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



GOC  
GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ACYR

COLLECTIVE  
STEP  
FOR YOUTH

Google

TLC  
Child Enrichment

Pro-Serv  
Commercial Cleaning, Inc.

Tempe  
Making waves in the desert



Domino's



marguerite casey foundation

THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

SOUTH MOUNTAIN  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ASU Prep Digital  
Arizona State University

funders'  
collaborative  
on youth  
organizing

Terros  
HEALTH

ARIZONA@WORK  
CITY OF PHOENIX

umom  
NEW DAY CENTERS

City of Phoenix

DO  
SOMETHING  
.ORG

UPI  
EDUCATION

fray's

the  
Y

100,000 OPPORTUNITIES  
Initiative

Teen Lifeline

PUBLIC  
ALLIES  
ARIZONA  
Everyone Leads

ASU Center for  
Human Capital and  
Youth Development  
Arizona State University



FIVE  
GUYS

ARIZONA@WORK  
MARICOPA COUNTY

MAILED

first  
star  
Early Childhood Care

F360  
WIRE COMMUNITIES TO DRIVE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

SOUTHWEST  
LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY

Jewish Family  
& Children's Service

K-VAUGHN  
CONSULTING

West-MEC

JAG

Ombudsman  
An Alternate Route

SCOTTSDALE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF AMERICA



YouthBuild

SILICON  
VALLEY  
community  
foundation

year up  
ARIZONA

SCHULTZ  
FAMILY  
FOUNDATION



StateFarm

PHOENIX  
COLLEGE

AT&T



Youth Leadership Institute



TRINITY  
Opportunity Release

DES  
New Pastor for a Stronger Arizona

FIBCO  
FamilyServices, Inc.

MARICOPA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Pastor Center  
for Politics and  
Public Service

Job Corps

United States  
Census  
Bureau

GRAD SOLUTIONS  
Your options, your way.



COLLEGE depot  
at phoenix public library

bloem365  
Uproot Abuse. Cultivate Kindness.



we steel rise

Genesis City  
A New Beginning for Youth  
SINCE 1991

Friendly House  
We're Our Community's Best Hope



TRIN  
& Associates  
Healthcare Education Services



College  
Success  
Arizona  
Access-Opportunity-Success

Opportunity  
Youth United

CA  
convoy associates, inc.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
Sonoran Center for  
Excellence in Disabilities

Educational Options  
Foundation

one.n.ten  
Today's Youth. Tomorrow's Future.



Arizona  
Charter Schools  
Association  
SUPPORT. ADVOCATE. LEAD.

Working together to support opportunity youth in the pursuit of education, career and personal development by connecting them with the foundational resources for success



# Leadership Council

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aguila Youth Leadership Institute</li><li>• Arizona Center for Youth Resources (ACYR)</li><li>• Arizona Department of Education</li><li>• Arizona Facts of Life</li><li>• ARIZONA@WORK - City of Phoenix</li><li>• ARIZONA@WORK - Maricopa County</li><li>• ASU Center for Human Capital &amp; Youth Development</li><li>• ASU Education Outreach &amp; Student Services</li><li>• ASU Watts College of Public Service &amp; Community Solutions</li><li>• Chicanos Por La Causa</li><li>• City Councilwoman Laura Pastor - Phoenix District 4</li><li>• City of Phoenix - Youth and Education</li><li>• City of Tempe - Youth and Education</li><li>• College Depot</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• County Supervisor Steve Gallardo - County District 5</li><li>• Covey Associates</li><li>• Goodwill of Central and Northern Arizona</li><li>• Grad Solutions</li><li>• Job Corps</li><li>• Jobs for Arizona Graduates (JAG)</li><li>• K-Vaughn Consulting</li><li>• Maricopa County Community Action Team</li><li>• Maricopa County Community College District</li><li>• one•n•ten</li><li>• Pastor Center for Politics &amp; Public Service</li><li>• Phoenix College</li><li>• Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego</li><li>• Phoenix Union High School District</li><li>• Public Allies Arizona</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rio Salado College</li><li>• Scottsdale Police Department</li><li>• Starbucks</li><li>• State Senator Heather Carter - AZ District 15</li><li>• Terros Health</li><li>• Trin and Associates/Arizona Tri-Caucus</li><li>• Trinity Opportunity Alliance</li><li>• U.S. Congressman Raul Grijalva - AZ District 3</li><li>• U.S. Congressman Ruben Gallego - AZ District 7</li><li>• UMOM Youth Resource Center</li><li>• University of Arizona Sonoran UCEDD</li><li>• Valley of the Sun YMCA</li><li>• Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC)</li><li>• Year Up</li><li>• The Zip Code Project, AzED</li></ul> |
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# Reengagement Center Action Team

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arizona Center for Youth Resources (ACYR)</li><li>• Arizona Department of Economic Security</li><li>• ARIZONA@WORK - City of Phoenix</li><li>• ARIZONA@WORK - Maricopa County</li><li>• Chicanos Por La Causa</li><li>• City of Phoenix - Youth and Education</li><li>• Collective STEP</li><li>• ASU EdPlus - Edge</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• College Depot</li><li>• Foster360</li><li>• Friendly House</li><li>• Glendale Community College</li><li>• Jewish Family &amp; Children Services</li><li>• Neighborhood Ministries</li><li>• one•n•ten</li><li>• Phoenix College</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phoenix Indian Center</li><li>• Rio Salado College</li><li>• Terros Health</li><li>• UMOM Youth Resource Center</li><li>• Valley of Sun YMCA</li><li>• We Steel Rise</li><li>• Year Up</li></ul> |
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# Educational Momentum Action Team

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aguila Youth Leadership Institute</li><li>• Arizona Center for Youth Resources (ACYR)</li><li>• Arizona Department of Education</li><li>• ASU Digital Prep</li><li>• Canyon State Academy</li><li>• City of Phoenix - Parks &amp; Recreation</li><li>• Arizona Preparatory Academy</li><li>• College Success Arizona</li><li>• Educational Options Foundation</li><li>• First Star ASU Academy</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Friendly House</li><li>• Genesis City</li><li>• Glendale Community College</li><li>• Grad Solutions</li><li>• Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County</li><li>• Maricopa County Community College District</li><li>• Neighborhood Ministries</li><li>• NAU Civic Service Institute</li><li>• Ombudsman Educational Services</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phoenix College</li><li>• Phoenix Union High School District</li><li>• Rio Salado College</li><li>• South Mountain Community College</li><li>• Southwest Leadership Academy</li><li>• TLC Child Enrichment</li><li>• Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC)</li><li>• Year Up</li><li>• The Zip Code Project, AzED</li></ul> |
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# Youth Leadership & Development Action Team

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arizona Center for Youth Resources (ACYR)</li><li>• Arizona Facts of Life</li><li>• ARIZONA@WORK - City of Phoenix</li><li>• Boys &amp; Girls Club</li><li>• Dress for Success Phoenix</li><li>• FIBCO Family Services</li><li>• Bloom365</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Goodwill of Central and Northern Arizona</li><li>• Jobs for Arizona Graduates (JAG)</li><li>• Jody McPhearson</li><li>• Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office</li><li>• MIKID</li><li>• New Pathways for Youth</li><li>• Pastor Center for Politics &amp; Public Service</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teen Lifeline</li><li>• Terros Health</li><li>• Trinity Opportunity Alliance</li><li>• Unified Progress International</li><li>• United States Census Bureau</li><li>• Year Up</li><li>• The Zip Code Project, AzED</li></ul> |
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# Career Connections Action Team

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arizona Center for Youth Resources (ACYR)</li><li>• Allied Tool &amp; Die</li><li>• ARIZONA@WORK - City of Phoenix</li><li>• AZ Precision manufacturing Apprenticeship Program</li><li>• Domino's</li><li>• Five Guys</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fry's Food and Drug</li><li>• Chicanos Por La Causa</li><li>• Goodwill of Central and Northern Arizona</li><li>• Maricopa County Community College District</li><li>• Pipeline AZ</li><li>• Pro-Serv Commercial Cleaning</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scottsdale Community College</li><li>• Starbucks</li><li>• State Farm</li><li>• Terros Health</li><li>• Trin &amp; Associates/ Arizona Tri-Caucus</li><li>• Trinity Opportunity Alliance</li></ul> |
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