The BAYTAY Workforce Initiative

Improving Employment Outcomes for Systems-Involved Youth in the Region

ABOUT THE BAYTAY WORKFORCE INITIATIVE

In early 2021, the California Opportunity Youth Network (COYN) launched the BAY TAY Workforce Initiative in partnership with New Ways to Work, John Burton Advocates for Youth, and Pivotal through the support of philanthropic partners the Tipping Point Community and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation. The objective of the initiative is to expand workforce opportunities for transition-age youth involved with the region's foster care, juvenile justice and youth homelessness systems by identifying the barriers these youth are currently facing, discovering and supporting implementation of innovative strategies, and advancing policy and programmatic changes. We intend to build on the work led by the Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative (LA OYC) and City of Los Angeles, and supported by the seven workforce boards in the region, to better serve these systems-involved youth and young adults.

Key activities of the initiative include:

- Working with the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) and the U.S. Department of Labor (U.S. DOL) to finalize the federal waiver submitted by the state to increase access for systems-involved youth to programs and services funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- Forming and engaging the BAYTAY Workforce Partnership, a regional collaborative consisting of workforce boards, their public partners, community-based organizations and others.
- Conducting a scan of quality youth workforce practices drawn from Los Angeles and around the country.
- Developing a Core Practice Model to support systems-involved youth engagement and success in the youth workforce development system.
- Providing implementation support for selected Bay Area workforce boards and their partners, including waiver adoption and implementation of the Core Practice Model.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

To support the project and advance local workforce board adoption of successful and innovating strategies, COYN is developing the BAYTAY Workforce Partnership. The BAYTAY Workforce Partnership will leverage the combined expertise and connections of the region's youth workforce leaders to elevate the priority of young people within the workforce system and achieve far-reaching systems improvements and reforms that have the potential to transform the career trajectories and lives of systems-involved youth and young adults.

To learn more or join the BAYTAY Workforce Partnership, please contact Sean Hughes with COYN at sean_hughes@caloyn.org.

ABOUT COYN

The California Opportunity Youth Network (COYN) is a statewide organization that works to transform systems, policies, investments, and narratives to ensure all youth and young adults in California have the opportunity to flourish in adulthood. Founding members include the Alliance for Children's Rights and the Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative, Bay Area Community Resources and the Roadmap to Peace Initiative, the Santa Clara County Opportunity Youth Partnership, Urban Strategies Council and the Opportunity Youth Initiative, Wild Rivers Community Foundation and the Building Healthy Communities Initiative, and Youth Will.