



CLASP



Serving Out-of-School Youth Under WIOA: A Community Partnership Approach





Kisha Bird, Director of Youth Policy, CLASP and Project Director, Campaign for Youth— CLASP seeks to improve the lives of low-income people. We develop and advocate for federal, state and local policies to strengthen families and create pathways to education and work. CLASP's youth policy work aims to advance policy and practice that will improve the education, employment, and life outcomes for youth in communities of high youth distress. a national coalition chaired by CLASP. The Campaign for Youth is a group of leading national youth serving and policy organizations dedicated to elevating the needs of youth who are out of work, out of school, and out of the mainstream and the policy and practice solutions needed to help them thrive.



Tyler Wilson, Director of Government Relations, The Corps Network

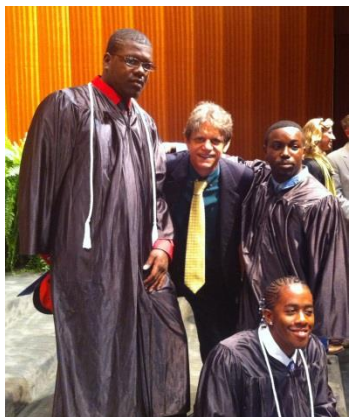
As Director of Government Relations for The Corps Network, Tyler focuses on developing and advocating legislative and policy initiatives for the Corps Network; providing analysis and tracking of Congress, the White House, and federal agencies; and working with advocacy organizations here in DC on improving the outlook for youth development and other issues for Corps. He also focuses on raising Corps' federal and legislative profile, improving internal government relations operations, representing The Corps Network publicly, and developing new Corps initiatives on education and workforce development, along with other key Corps issue areas.

Tamara Atkinson, Deputy Executive Director, Workforce Solutions – Capital Area Workforce Board

Tamara has held this position for 3 years, and has served the Board in progressively more responsible positions for 14 years total. Ms. Atkinson has oversight of contracts that include federal subsidized child care, SNAP Employment and Training, Temporary Assistance to Need Families, and the Workforce Investment Act. Further, Ms. Atkinson has led the Board in building strong public-private partnerships that have resulted in significant non-federal funding to expand the Board's mission, including most recently the Aspen Institute's Forum for Community Solutions' Opportunity Youth Investment Fund. Ms. Atkinson serves as executive leadership for the Austin Opportunity Youth Collaborative, a role which has solidified her passion for building better systems for formerly disengaged youth. She has lived in Austin for 16 years, not counting the 4 years that she attended undergraduate at The University of Texas. She also lived and worked in Morocco as the Director of an English Language Center, and holds a Master's Degree of Arts.



A M E R I C A N YOUTHWORKS



David Clauss, YouthBuild Program Director, American YouthWorks David Clauss, LMSW is the YouthBuild Program Director for American YouthWorks, where he manages several YouthBuild Programs, including Casa Verde Builders (Affordable Housing/Green Building), Green Energy Corps (Weatherization/Energy Audits) and Computer Corps (Computer Refurbishing). Before becoming director, David worked as a YouthBuild Counselor for over 12 years and has been honored by YouthBuild USA as both a Counseling and Directors Fellow and was named a 2011 Workforce Champion by Workforce Solutions Capitol Area. As a private consultant he has led trainings on experiential learning, working with adjudicated youth and assisted with staff training and program design for new YouthBuild grantees.

Selena Yzaguirre, Americorps Member, American YouthWorks - Graduate of American YouthWorks

Agenda

- Welcome and WIOA Highlights
- The Corps Model
- American Youth Works, Austin, TX
- A Workforce Board Perspective
- Youth Perspective
- Open Discussion (Q & A)

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

- Passed with wide bipartisan majority in Congress
 - Senate voted 93-5; House voted 415-6
- WIOA was signed into law by President Obama on July 22, 2014
 - Many provisions take effect July 1, 2015; others July 1, 2016
- First reauthorization of national workforce programs in 16 years
 - Updates the law for changes in the economy
 - Emphasizes newer, proven strategies in workforce development

WIOA Expands and Improves Services to Disadvantaged Youth

- **75%** of Youth funds required to be spent on out-of-school youth
- New **16-24** age range for out-of-school youth eligibility
- Requires at least **20 percent** of Youth Formula Funds be spent on paid and unpaid work experiences (including Summer Jobs programs)
- Adds youth “living in a high-poverty area” to the low-income criterion for youth activities
- In-school youth eligibility includes low-income individuals ages 14 to 21 *who are English language learners and those who have a disability*
- Encourages Career Pathways for adults and youth

The Corps Network



The Corps Model: Adult mentors (Crewleaders) guide crews of youth (Corpsmembers, 16-25 & older veterans) to perform community and conservation service projects in urban areas or on public lands. Tied to those projects, Corpsmembers receive educational, workforce development, and supportive services.

- Corps are descended from the **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)**
- Corps offer a **tested and proven** youth development model
- Corps are operated in a wide variety of settings like **Workforce Centers**, as in Larimer County, CO



The Corps Network

Elements of “The Corps Model”



Community & Conservation Service Projects: Brownfields & Hazards Remediation; Disaster Recovery & Response; Energy/Water Efficiency & Weatherization; Green Infrastructure; Habitat & Ecosystem Restorations; Historic Preservation & Construction Trades; Horticulture & Landscaping; National Service (AmeriCorps); Renewable Energy; Transportation & Trails; Urban Agriculture & Forestry; Urban Development & Infrastructure
Education: Service Learning; Informal STEM; Core Competencies; GED & HSD; Charter Schools; Postsecondary Success; Education Awards; Mentoring

Workforce Development: Industry-Recognized Credentials & Certificates; Essential (Soft) Skills; Employer Partnerships; WIB/One-Stop Collaboration; Career pathway planning; Resume Development; Job Shadowing; WIA

Supportive Services: Counseling, Transportation, Healthcare, Childcare, Public Aid Referrals, Court-Involvement Liaison; Case Management/Check-ins

The Corps Network

Leveraging Partnerships & Resources



- Corps accomplish important projects for local, county, state, and federal governments while providing youth development services
- Corps enroll national and state AmeriCorps and VISTA members providing postsecondary education awards after a term of service
- Corps recruit drop-outs and disconnected youth based on community needs



The Corps Network

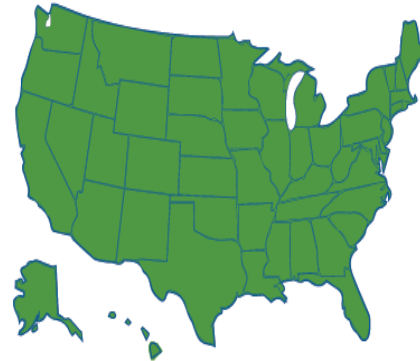


There are **100+ Corps**
working in every state &
DC.

Corps enroll **23,000** youth
each year.

Demographics:

- 60% below poverty line
- 55% unemployed
- 20% court-involved
- 35% women
- 48% minorities



Find Your Local Corps

Interested in joining a Corps,
working for one, or volunteering?

Take a look at the list below to
find a Corps near you.

Program Outcomes:

- 12,600 Corpsmembers earned certifications and credentials
- 4,412 Corpsmembers earned their HSD or GED
- 100% job placement at Sustainability Institute; 90% job placement rate at Civic Works' Center for Green Careers; 80% job placement and 10% recidivism rates for Civic Justice Corps
- 75% persistence rate through the first year of college for Postsecondary Success Strategy Corps



Mission

The mission of YouthBuild USA and YouthBuild International is to unleash the intelligence and positive energy of low-income young people to rebuild their communities and their lives.

Key Program Elements:

- GED/Diploma
- Job training in construction & other high-growth industries
- Community service
- Youth voice in decision-making
- A loving, positive peer environment
- Wrap-around support services
- Some students receive Americorps stipends for college

About Us

- Serve 16-24 year old “**opportunity youth**”
- Over **260** programs in **45** states
- Serve appx. **10,000** young people each year

Demographics:

- 95% enter without a diploma;
- 94% of the YouthBuild students are unemployed;
- 29% are court-involved ;
- 91% are low-income;
- 80% are minorities.



A M E R I C A N YOUTHWORKS

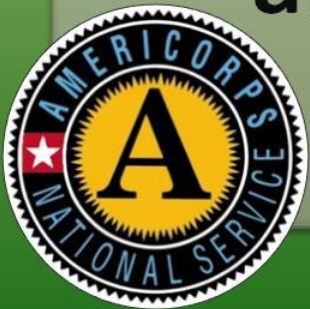


- Started as a literacy program in the 70's
- Became a GED program that incorporated service learning
- Began a YouthBuild program, Casa Verde Builders, in 1994
- "Environmental Corps" – now Texas Conservation Corps started in 1995



A M E R I C A N
YOUTHWORKS

**A unique combination of
academics, hands-on job training
and community service for
young adults**





The TX Conservation Corps



Casa Verde Builders



YouthBuild





Media Corps



Through YouthBuild programs, young people ages 16-24 work toward their GED or high school diploma, learn job skills and serve their communities by meeting real community needs, and transform their own lives and roles in society.



They split their time between the construction site and the classroom:

50% Academics

40% On-site service & training

10% Other Development Activities



YouthBuild as a model for working with disengaged youth

- ❖ Increase school attendance & performance
- ❖ Opportunity to learn and practice job skills
- ❖ Creates new positive peer group
- ❖ Earn AmeriCorps college scholarships
- ❖ Builds pride through contributing to community
- ❖ Stipends help older students pay their bills
- ❖ Wrap-around services for youth



Who joins YouthBuild?

Typical YouthBuild Participants

- 17 – 24 yrs. Old
- HS Drop-out
- Unemployed or underemployed
- **Often face many challenges:**
- Low Income (80%MFI/200% FPIL)
- Homeless or runaway
- Foster youth
- Behind Academically
- Youth offender
- Child of incarcerated parent



YouthBuild – a proven, effective model

- ❖ American YouthWorks 2007-2012 (206 enrollees)
- ❖ Placement in Education or Employment – 77%
- ❖ Attainment of a Degree or Certificate – 82%
- ❖ Retention Rate – 73%
- ❖ Recidivism Rate – 0%



Wrap-Around SUPPORT SERVICES

Through Case Management, Counseling & Life Skills Classes participants build on personal strengths, learn personal responsibility and access community resources.

Counselors responsible for coordinating important support services needed to address barriers to successful participation in YouthBuild. At the beginning of the program participants work with staff to create their **Individual Development Plan (IDP)**, based on their unique goals and challenges.

- ❖ Mental and Physical Health
- ❖ Child Care
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Substance Abuse
- ❖ Family & Relationship Issues
- ❖ Educational Background
- ❖ Financial Emergencies
- ❖ Legal Issues.



TRANSITIONAL SERVICES

Focus on placement in employment & post-secondary education. YouthBuild Staff provide case management & support services to alumni:

- ❖ Career Workshops
- ❖ Job Shadowing Days
- ❖ College Enrollment and Registration
- ❖ Internships
- ❖ Internet Job Searches
- ❖ Mock Interviews
- ❖ Resume Writing Assistance
- ❖ Professional Licensing
- ❖ Employment Referrals
- ❖ Assistance with Job Applications
- ❖ Assistance with Financial Aid Forms
- ❖ College Visits
- ❖ Drivers License Preparation



The overall goal of Career Development is to support students and graduates as they continue their education, advance in the workplace, and make plans for their future.

AYW meets Local Needs



AYW is Education



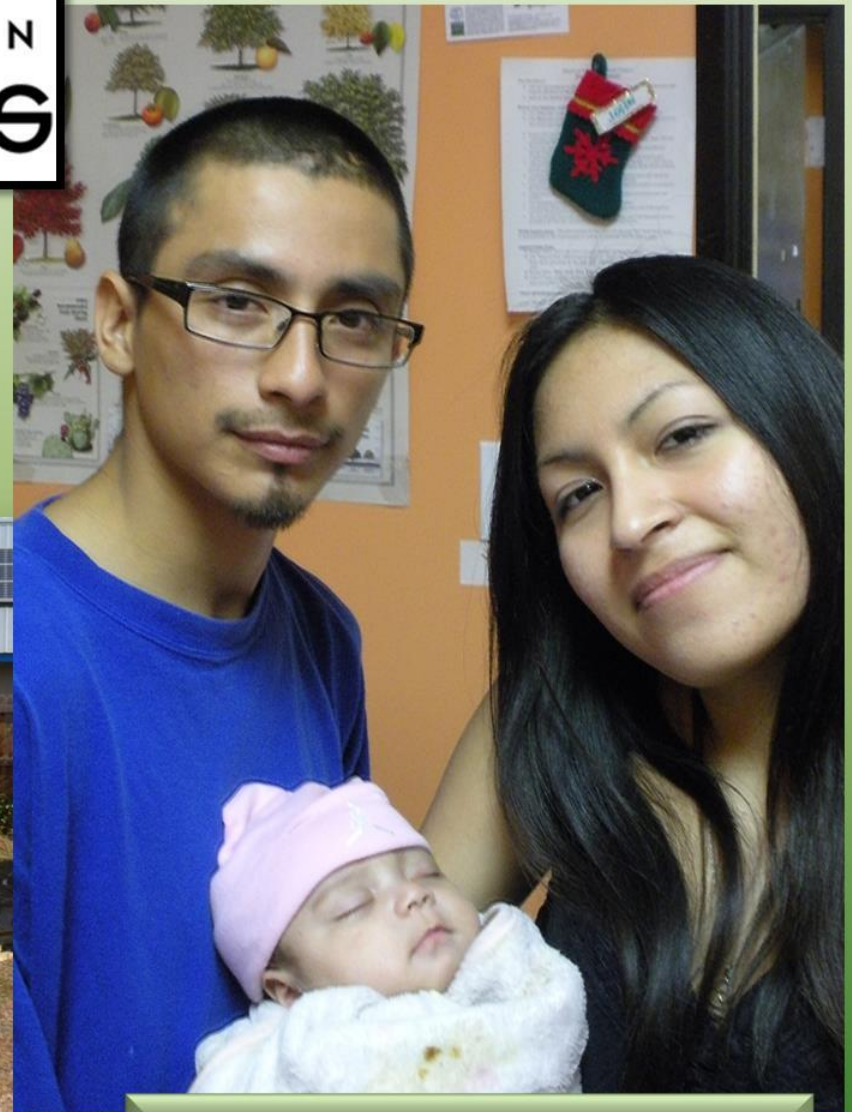
Job Training & Community Service





A M E R I C A N
YOUTHWORKS

Rebuilding
Communities



Rebuilding Lives

A Workforce Board Perspective

Tamara Atkinson, Deputy Executive Director
Workforce Solutions – Capital Area Workforce Board



Workforce Solutions

Capital Area

- We are the leadership and governing body for the regional workforce system in Austin/Travis County.
- We're responsible for the **planning, oversight, and evaluation** of workforce development activities.
- In addition to WIOA, we administer SNAP E&T, TANF, local governmental and private funding, and the region's **subsidized child care**.

Our Strength is our Partnerships

- Our guiding philosophy is that workforce development is a continuum and requires community-wide interaction.



Shifting to Out-of-School Youth Investments

For 5 years, Austin has been investing more than 80% of its WIA resources into OSY

Why?

1. Economic Imperative

- In Texas, the annual tax burden of HS dropouts is between \$193M and \$350M (Taylor et al., 2009)
- Opportunity Youth cost national taxpayers \$1.2 trillion over the youths' lifetime (Belfield, 2012)

2. The “SXSW” Effect

- Austin attracts youth from across the State

3. If not us, ...?

Importance of Serving Opportunity Youth

- In Austin, we have an estimated 11,000 youth between the ages of 16-24 who are not in school, higher education or work.
- Over 6,000 youth attended school in the Austin area.
- Of those who went to school regionally, we observe:
 - 58% completed their HS diploma or GED
 - 40% left during or before their 9th grade
 - Over half are Hispanic
 - 28% are African American
 - Over 60% are male

No single system owns responsibility for Opportunity Youth



Benefits of Working with American YouthWorks

- One of 4 community-based organizations which receive WIA funds
- Have strong track record with the Opportunity Youth population
- Excellent partner for earn and learn opportunities
 - YouthBuild (Construction & IT tracks)
 - Summer of Service / Summer Employment
 - AmeriCorps Service
 - Paid Internships

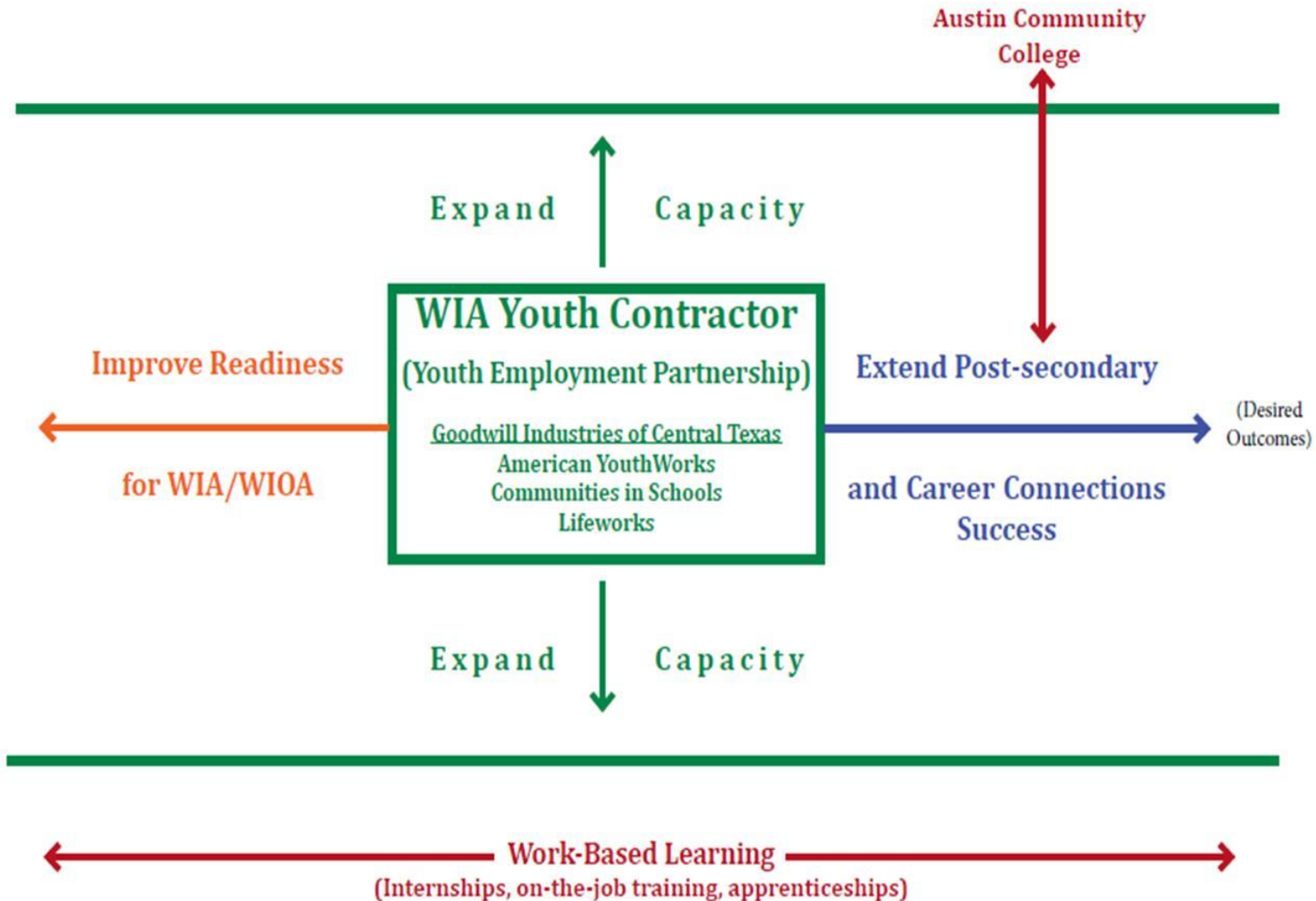
Austin & The Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions

- Austin was selected as funded site in 2013
- Requires fidelity to Collective Impact model of community organizing
- Call ourselves “Austin Opportunity Youth Collaborative”

Benefits so far:

- Created a common language and common agenda
- Emphasized career pathways , called Promising Pathways
- Emphasized common data elements and tracking
- Opened doors with funders and businesses because of association with Aspen
- Lifted up Youth Voice in our Workforce Board work

Austin Opportunity Youth Collaborative Promising Pathways Proposed Design



Thank you!

Tamara Atkinson

Deputy Executive Director

Workforce Solutions – Capital Area Workforce Board

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Youth Perspective: American Youth Works, Austin, TX

Questions?

Contact Information

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