Reengaging San Diego’s Opportunity Youth:
SAN DIEGO YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PATHWAYS INITIATIVE (PATHWAYS) REENGAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT

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The focus of the PATHWAYS Reengagement Pilot program was on Opportunity Youth (OY) who were at risk of dropping out of high school (or have dropped out) or are generally disconnected from education and employment. There were two groups of OY participating in the Reengagement Pilot program those who were in high school [at severe risk of dropping out] and out-of-school.

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE (n=232)**
- **RACE & ETHNICITY**
  - 42% Hispanic
  - 37% African American/Black
  - 8% White
  - 5% Asian
  - 5% Do Not wish to answer

**THEORY OF CHANGE MODEL**
- **Assessment**
  - Skill level
  - Interest (what do you want to be?)
  - Need (e.g., housing, job, behavioral health, etc.)
- **Centralized Data Pool**
- **Outreach & Re-engagement** (Hope & Interest)
- **Educational Momentum** (Initial Success)
- **Certification & Credentialing** (Experience & Confidence)
- **Employment** (Results)
  - Sector-based employment
  - Tutoring
  - Credit retrieval/recovery
  - Enriched preparation/bridge programming
  - Revise sector-based plan

**SERVICES PROVIDED**
- **Case Management (All OY)**
  - Educational support (K-12 & post-secondary)
  - Career planning
  - Workforce training, internships & apprenticeships, and employment services
  - Comprehensive life skills, financial literacy & engagement activities
  - Social Supports

**RESULTS**
OY enrolled in the PATHWAYS Reengagement Pilot Program were 10% more likely to remain in school than students who didn’t receive reengagement services.

**OVERALL OUTCOMES (BY THE NUMBERS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OY enrolled in high school, college and/or employed</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth at severe risk of dropping-out remained enrolled in high school</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>OY graduated high school</td>
<td>49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>OY received internships</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>OY employed</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>OY participated in at least one life skills workshops</td>
<td>34%</td>
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**OY SURVEY RESULTS**
74 OY (32%) participants provided information on the impact of the reengagement pilot program.

- Impact on Career Goals: 89%
- Impact on Employment: 69.5%
- Impact on Personal Support (e.g., disability, homelessness, pregnant/parenting, criminal background, mental/physical health, foster care): 88%
- Impact on Emotional Support: 84.7%
LESSONS LEARNED

LESSON 1: When a collaborative creates a reengagement project, it needs to remain involved throughout the duration of the program to ensure program integrity.

LESSON 2: Account for limitations and restrictions that are placed on services when braiding public funding streams.

LESSON 3: Service providers’ Federal contracting and financial management experience is critical to the success of reengagement programming. This is evidenced through administrative capacity and management expertise due to the complexity of Federal contract administration.

LESSON 4: Service providers must have management staff with strong leadership capabilities.

LESSON 5: With a focus on individual goals, challenges, and barriers – reengagement success is dependent upon connecting, engaging and building trust with OY and their families.

LESSON 6: Case managers should be involved in the reengagement program planning phase. The reengagement program must include opportunities for programmatic adjustments during implementation as needed.

LESSON 7: Start with a small reengagement program or services and scale up over time. Integrate incremental outcomes and data tracking early in the process to demonstrate impact.

FOR THE FULL EVALUATION REPORT GO TO HTTP://WWW.SANDIEGOYDO.ORG