

# WHO ARE OPPORTUNITY YOUTH?

Denver's 16-24-year-olds who are disconnected from work or school

9,850

opportunity youth  
in Denver

\*That's 1 in 7 of the total  
Denver youth population

## HOW DO WE HELP THEM SUCCEED?

The Denver Opportunity Youth Investment Initiative connects youth with a navigator who will guide them to overcome their barriers, and provide assistance along the path to success.



First, the navigator will assess the skills of the youth to better serve their strengths and interests



The youth will further their education (GED, certificate, degree) with help from the navigator



The navigator will connect the youth with training and employee development to prep them for a job

Ready for work, the navigator will match and place a youth with a job at a local business



To ensure success throughout the placement, the navigator will connect youth with services such as: childcare, housing assistance, social services and mentorship to help them overcome their barriers

## MATCHING THE RIGHT TALENT TO THE RIGHT JOB

Opportunity youth are eager to further their education, enter the workforce and become a productive member of their communities.

Nationally, **5.8 million** young adults are out of school and seeking work

**74%** of jobs in Colorado will need a worker with some post-secondary credentials

**40%** of employers cite lack of skills as the main reason for job vacancies

For more information contact **Lorena Marquez Zimmer**, talent pipeline director, at (303) 620-8064 or [lorena.zimmer@denverchamber.org](mailto:lorena.zimmer@denverchamber.org).