



The Denver Opportunity Youth Initiative, supported by the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, is aimed at providing education, career opportunities and support systems to opportunity youth by partnering with nonprofit, government and business organizations to create a pipeline to meaningful work experiences and careers.

The initiative reconnects 16- to 24-year-olds to work and school, and gives them the support they need to stay on the path to success.

Our youth are tomorrow's talent. Today there are close to 9,000 youth aged 16 to 24 who are disconnected from school or work, yet are talented and motivated to find their path. With historically low unemployment rates, there are jobs available and some are going unfilled. We help remove barriers and connect employers to these eager youth.

We get more done together. The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce is leading this effort with 29 partners from the nonprofit, government and business organizations. We know we accomplish more together and our collaboration means we all move toward the same goals, creating better opportunities for our youth.

We put youth on a path to success. Our partners ensure our youth can access the education and career training they need and make sure that challenges like transportation or childcare are addressed so that they're ready to get to work and be successful.

KEY WORDS

Opportunity Youth: Youth aged 16 to 24 who are not engaged with school or work.

Internships: Paid opportunities in real work environments that expose youth to the requirements and expectations of a particular career or industry.

Job Shadow: A short-term unpaid experience in a workplace that is a student's area of interest.

Apprenticeship: An employer-driven model and form of experiential learning that combines on-the-job training as a paid employee with related classroom instruction.

Postsecondary Education: Continued education following graduation from high school or equivalency such as: credential or certificate programs, two- or four-year colleges, training programs or the armed forces.



Since 2014, the Denver Opportunity Youth Initiative has help youth find meaningful work and careers. Every one of our youth that we get back on track is a future savings to the economy of \$170,740.

HOW WE'RE DOING



687

youth have enrolled since Denver Opportunity Youth Initiative's founding in 2014.



85%

have begun working towards a high school diploma or equivalency.



28%

have been awarded a high school diploma or equivalency.



83

youth enrolled in postsecondary education.



59

youth in internships or job shadows.



79

youth have been placed in jobs.

EMPLOYERS

91 employers engaged.
4 industry sectors participating: construction, manufacturing, health care and retail/hospitality.
Partnerships with 6 apprenticeship programs.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

8 engaged youth leaders.
2 youth hired on as youth engagement strategists.

★ WINS ★

Denver Public Schools and federal dollars are on track to fund many of the innovations we have seeded, helping us maintain services while reducing costs.

INTERESTED TO LEARN MORE ?

Contact Lorena Marquez Zimmer, talent pipeline director, at (303) 620-8064 or lorena.zimmer@denverchamber.org.

