

Opportunity Youth Programs

Survey Summary

The mission of the Raikes Foundation is to empower young people to transform their lives. The foundation is currently exploring what additional role we might play to **strengthen outcomes for opportunity youth (youth ages 16-24 who are neither enrolled in school nor employed) in King County.**

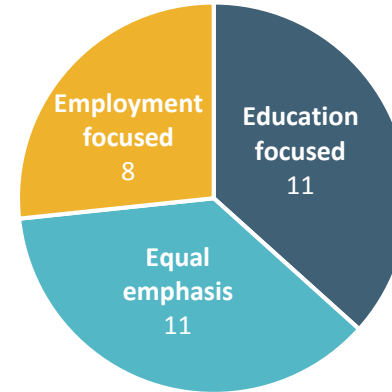
As part of our strategy exploration, we are working closely with Community Center for Education Results (CCER) and King County Employment and Education Resources to collect information and gain a baseline understanding of both our community's current strengths and our future needs.

This survey was conducted in early 2016 to build this comprehensive picture and included not only Open Doors programs, but also other opportunity youth serving programs in both education and employment.

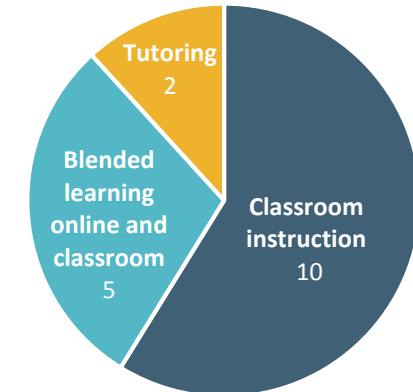
Thirty programs out of the 50 contacted participated (60%) in the survey, with higher participation rates from Open Doors programs. The following pages summarize some key findings from this survey.

Survey Respondents

The program survey received a distribution of responses from education-focused, employment-focused programs and those with equal emphasis.

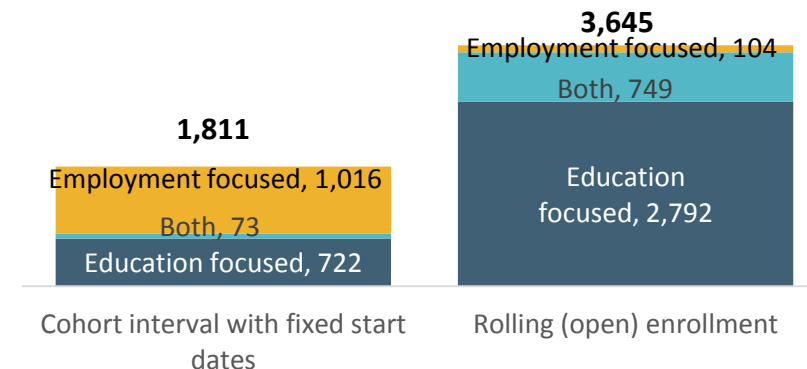


Classroom instruction was the most common instructional approach among respondents.



The majority of youth are being served through open enrollment programs.

Number of youth served last year by enrollment type:

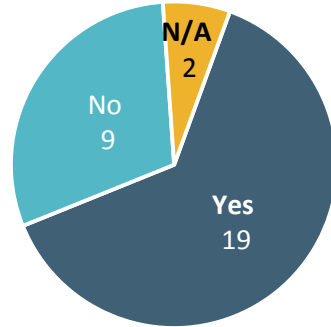


*Some programs (not shown) indicated an "Other" enrollment type

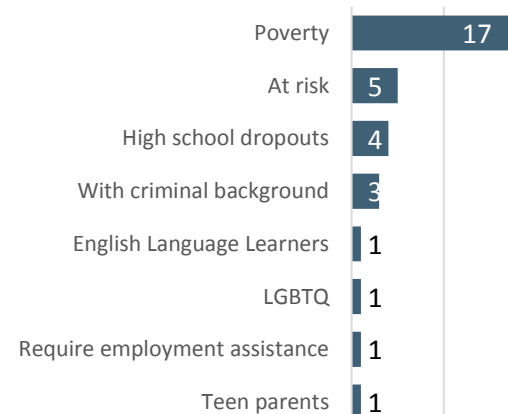
Program Characteristics

The majority of survey participants (19 out of 30) focus on providing services to youth populations

- The most common age range of focus is 16-21 year olds this is likely partially linked to the participation of Open Doors programs in the survey.
- Additionally, most of the survey respondents focus on providing services to impoverished populations (17 out of 30)



Populations of focus**

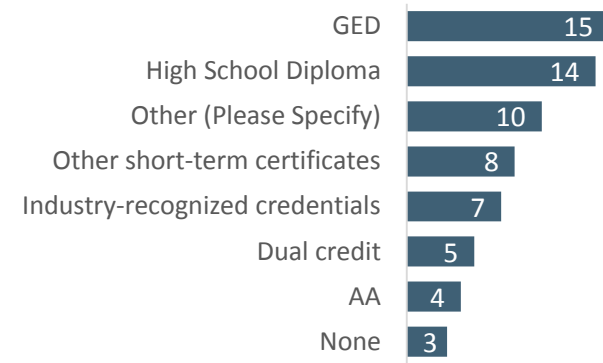


- Poverty**
 - Low Income
 - Homeless/Recently homeless
 - Experiencing housing instability or food insecurity
 - Exiting foster care
- At risk**
 - Of becoming homeless
 - To violence
 - Generally
- Criminal backgrounds**
 - Adults with criminal backgrounds
 - Gang affiliated
 - Juvenile justice

*Some programs focus on multiple populations. Sum of programs is greater than 30.

** The survey asked an open-ended question “Does your program focus on specific youth populations? (e.g. teen parents, homeless, juvenile-justice-involved, etc.)” A focus on high school dropouts can be presumed for the Open Doors programs.

GEDs and high school diplomas were the most commonly offered credential by count of programs. These programs also tended to be larger by youth served in the last year.



- Half of the surveyed programs offer a GED and/or a high school diploma.
- Of youth reported served in surveyed programs last year, 88% were in programs that offered a GED and/or high school diploma.

*Some programs offer multiple credentials. Sum of programs is greater than 30

Programs use a range of criteria and methods for determining eligibility. Almost a third (9) did not report a set method or criteria.

- Eligibility criteria
 - The three types of most frequently referenced criteria were academic (17), employment (12), and demographic (10)
- Method of determining eligibility
 - Multiple programs (4) reported interviewing prospective enrollees to determine eligibility
 - Other methods include evaluation, referral from councilors, background checks, and screenings

Eligibility Criteria*



- Academic**
 - Education-level
 - Not enrolled in school
 - Non-traditional educational path
 - Other
- Employment**
 - Limited-work experience
 - Eligible to work in U.S.
 - Other
- Limited Resources**
 - Income
 - Homelessness
 - Other risk factors
- Demographics**
 - Age
 - Other

*Some programs use multiple eligibility criteria. Sum of programs is greater than 30

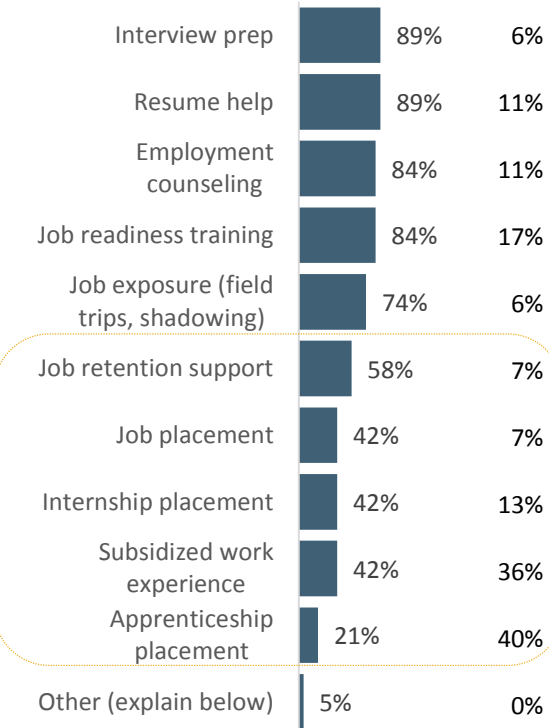
Services Offered

Employment supports and social services

Employment services range in depth and availability. The majority offer some form of resume help/ interview training to most participants. The types of employment supports that are real game changers (circled) are offered the least frequently and often via partnership.

Percent of programs offering these supports:

% delivered via partnership

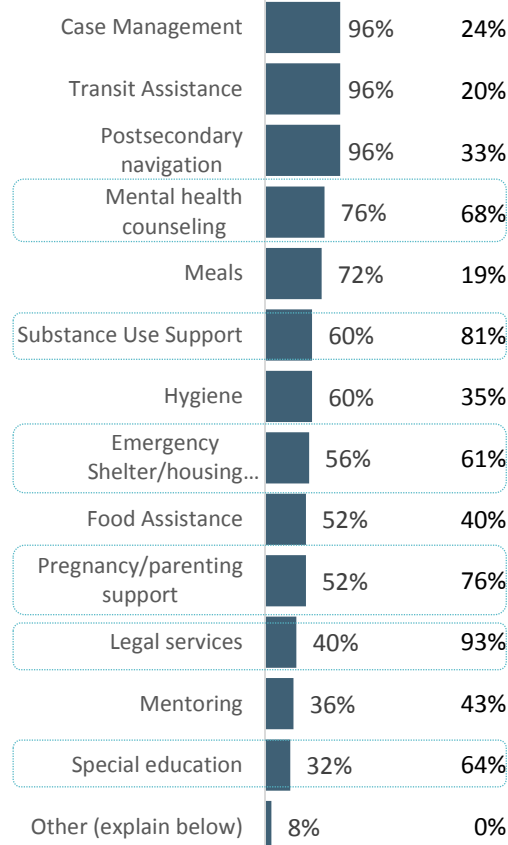


Service	Key Partnerships Mentioned
Job readiness training	For short-term certifications: Parks and Recreation, YMCA, Dept. of Health. For Eco-Restoration certification: South Seattle College
Job exposure (field trips, shadowing)	Seattle Parks and Recreation
Subsidized work experience	Seattle Youth Employment Program, King County Employment and Education Resources
Internship placement	Seattle Youth Employment Program, community colleges (South Seattle CC, SVI)

A range of **social services** are offered and through a variety of community partnerships. Supports for higher barrier populations are the most likely to be delivered via partnership. There may be opportunities for improvement in the seamlessness of these partnerships or capacity-building of certain partners across the OY system.

Percent of programs offering these supports:

% delivered via partnership



Service	Key Partnerships Mentioned
Case Management	Teen Feed; ROOTS Young Adult Shelter
Postsecondary navigation	Seattle Education Access, Seattle District Colleges
Mental health counseling	Auburn Youth Resources, Valley Cities, Navos, CHS, Ryther Child Center, Atlantic Street Center, Olive Crest Sexual abuse and exploitation counseling: King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
Meals	Teen Feed
Substance Use Support	Auburn Youth Resources, Valley Cities, Navos
Pregnancy/parenting support	CareNet, Public Health, Nurse Family Partnership, YWCA, Planned Parenthood, 45 th St Youth Clinic, Country Doc
Emergency Shelter/housing assistance	YouthCare, YMCA, Auburn Youth Resources, Neighborhood House, ROOTS Young Adult Shelter, Multi-service Center, Bridge to Prosperity
Food Assistance	Teen Feed
Legal services	Columbia Legal Services, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Lawyers Fostering Independence, Center for Children and Youth Justice, Open Door
Special education	Renton School District, Seattle Public Schools

*Counts those who said support was available to at least half of participants

*Asked of Education and Both programs only, n=20

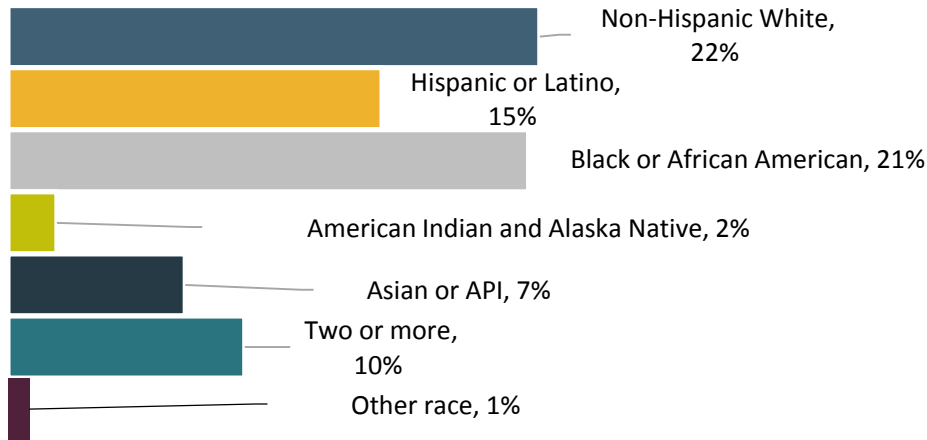
*Counts those who said support was available to at least half of participants

Note: Many programs say they connect youth to services based on partnerships but anecdotally we hear that not having on-site services is a barrier.

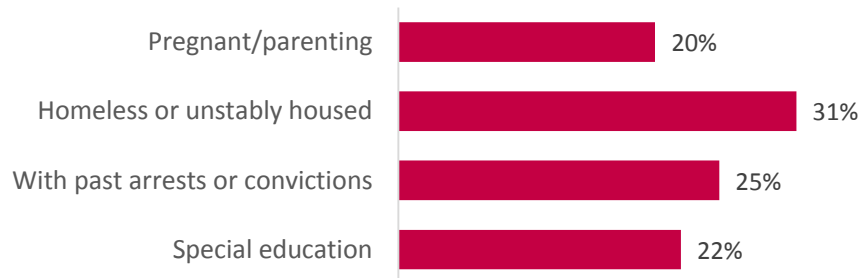
Population Characteristics

Who are we serving?

Of the population served in the most recent year, the race distribution is mostly non-Hispanic white, Hispanic/Latino, and Black.



Nearly a third of those served are reported to be homeless or unstably housed. About a quarter have past arrests or convictions, though only 3 programs mentioned focusing on populations with a criminal background.



Budget and Outcomes

For what cost and to what outcomes?

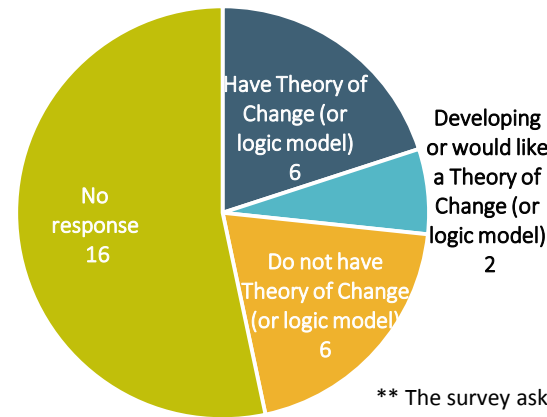
A rough estimate across surveyed programs suggests that we spend about \$6,000 per youth served. If we focus only on outcomes produced, the “cost per” increases significantly.

	Count in last full year	\$ / count
Youth Served		
# of Youth Served (duplicated)	5,629	\$6,331
Outcomes*		
# of GED/HS Diploma/Dual Credit earned	860	\$14,896
# of Any Credential earned	951	\$13,470
# of Employment Steps (job, internship, apprenticeship)	993	\$11,098

* Cost per outcome estimated by adding program budgets for those offering that outcome and dividing by total outcomes produced across those programs.

Theory of Change or Logic Model

Only 6 programs reported having a Theory of Change or Logic Model. Among those with either, there were common goals and intermediate elements to drive that change.



Goals

- Living wage jobs, pensions
- Financial self-sufficiency, post-secondary options
- Resiliency, advocacy, holistic fullness
- GED or diploma completion

Common elements

- Parent engagement/parent role
- Student interest, motivation, confidence
- Knowledge of options

** The survey asked: “Which of the following best describes where your program is in terms of the evolution of its model or approach?”