

HEARTLAND ALLIANCE

NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Opportunity Youth Employment Toolkit



Heartland Alliance's National Initiatives on Poverty & Economic Opportunity is dedicated to ending chronic unemployment and poverty. Today, millions of youth are not working or in school. Our policy and field building efforts work to ensure that these opportunity youth can access and succeed in employment and training. Our Opportunity Youth Employment Toolkit offers resources that youth employment stakeholders can use to guide programming for opportunity youth facing the most significant challenges and barriers to employment, including extreme poverty, homelessness, or justice system involvement.

PROVIDING TRUE OPPORTUNITY FOR OPPORTUNITY YOUTH
Promising Practices and Principles for Helping Youth Facing Barriers to Employment

May 2015, Research Brief

Many opportunity youth—youth who are not working or in school—will benefit substantially from quality, meaningful, and accessible employment training, especially if the training is relevant to their needs, addresses their barriers, and provides them with the skills and experience they need to succeed in the workforce. This research brief identifies promising practices and principles for helping youth facing barriers to employment, and offers guidance on how to design, implement, and improve employment services for opportunity youth.

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Learn promising practices and guiding principles for designing, implementing, and improving employment services for opportunity youth.

CASE STUDY: ROCA

From: Brandon, Chelsea, and Stephanie, 2016

PROBLEM STATEMENT
Roca is a transitional job training program for young men with justice system involvement. The program provides a range of services, including job training, case management, and support services, to help these young men succeed in the workforce.

HEARTLAND ALLIANCE **Roca**

Roca uses transitional jobs to coach high-risk, justice-involved young men around positive behavior change, including success in work.

CASE STUDY: DAYBREAK

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FOR OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

PROBLEM STATEMENT
Daybreak is a social enterprise that provides transitional jobs and training for young men with justice system involvement. The program provides a range of services, including job training, case management, and support services, to help these young men succeed in the workforce.

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Daybreak's in-house social enterprise helps youth experiencing homelessness practice employment skills in a real-world setting.

CASE STUDY: LARKIN STREET

PROBLEM STATEMENT
Larkin Street is a transitional job training program for young men with justice system involvement. The program provides a range of services, including job training, case management, and support services, to help these young men succeed in the workforce.

HEARTLAND ALLIANCE **LARKIN STREET**

Larkin Street offers youth experiencing homelessness a range of employment services, including transitional jobs, to meet youth where they are in the process of securing safe, stable work.