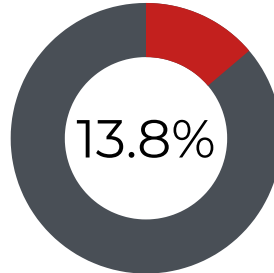


OYYA are young people who are not in school or working between ages

Percent of 16-24 who are OYYA in Texas

Out of 28 LWDB, only 20 mention OYYA in their strategic plan



Local Workforce Boards serve as one of the main supporters of our opportunity youth, yet there is inconsistency in funding and planning across the state. Opportunity youth and young adults are defined as those aged 16-24, who are not in school, and are not working. In Texas, OYYA make up 13.8%, or approximately half a million of those aged 16-24. This is higher than the national average, of 11.5%. OYYA are at a higher risk of being incarcerated, having a disability, living in poverty, and dropping out of high school.

OYYA are at a higher risk of being incarcerated, having a disability, living in poverty, and dropping out of high school. The needs of this population can vary quite a bit, but many opportunity youth need help getting back into school, getting into the workforce, finding childcare, fulfilling their basic needs, accessing physical and mental healthcare, and finding transportation, amongst other barriers.

The LWBs are groups of community leaders, positioned to oversee workforce programs and other services in their area and tasked with the management of WIOA (Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act) dollars that should be spent on preventing youth from becoming disconnected and in assisting youth and young adults in reconnecting. Although every Local Workforce Board has WIOA dollars that can be spent to better support OYYA, only 20 (of 28) LWB's even mention OYYA in their strategic plans or have a loose plan for their WIOA funds.

## Policy Recommendation

**REQUIRE LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARDS TO INCLUDE AN OYYA SECTION IN THEIR STRATEGIC PLAN WITH SPECIFIC GOALS, METRICS, AND TRANSPARENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

Strategic plans should be posted on LWB websites and sent to local officials. Additionally, LWB's should be required to give monthly financial reporting updates on their activities and expenditures, outlining how said actions tie back to their strategic plan, and these reports should be posted on their website to further ensure transparent and responsible spending. These requirements will encourage LWBs to be more strategic and transparent in their spending.