



United Way of
Southeast Louisiana

A close-up photograph of two hands shaking, symbolizing agreement or partnership. The hands are positioned on the left side of the page, with the background being a blurred, sun-dappled green and yellow foliage.

ORLEANS SUMMER IMPACT GRANTS

2022 REPORT



YMP Summer Grant Announcement

REPORT SUMMARY

THE CHALLENGE

Of the 400,000+ people residing in New Orleans, 57% of households are considered ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) or living in poverty [[United Way ALICE Report, 2023](#)]. Within that figure, 60% of the population are youth under 24 [[New Orleans Youth Alliance Youth & Well-being Dashboard, 2020](#)], and 41% of our youth live in poverty [The Data Center, 2022], more than double the national average. Summer months are particularly a time of great stress and scarcity for our New Orleans ALICE families. Many school-provided resources for children and youth are suspended once the school year ends, including access to nutritious food, clubs, sports, after-school academic enrichment programs, in-school mental and behavioral health counseling, and much more, leaving wide gaps in care and support.

These existing challenges were compounded further by the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past three pandemic years, New Orleans youth have experienced exacerbated learning loss from inequitable virtual learning environments and school closures, decreased overall mental health and wellness, and a shortage of summer employment and internship opportunities. A lack of youth support, especially among youth in poverty, has long-term consequences, including lower graduation rates, lower earnings as an adult, over-incarceration, and physical and mental disabilities [National Institutes of Health, 2019]. The data makes it clear our community must continue to offer opportunities and invest in our youth's well-being.

REPORT SUMMARY

CALL TO ACTION

The New Orleans Children and Youth Planning Board released in 2020 the [Youth Master Plan](#) (YMP) in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Youth and Families and the New Orleans Youth Alliance. The plan is a comprehensive roadmap for creating and sustaining a positive, youth-development-focused, results-oriented New Orleans that works for all our young people from birth to 24. It is a ten-year, multisector plan for improving the lives of children and youth of New Orleans, developed by young people, parents, educators, community and sector leaders, and other key stakeholders.

The Youth Master Plan lays out 30 solutions within six (6) areas and centers on five (5) developmental stages from birth to 24. These six priority areas include:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Health and Well-being | 4. Economic Stability |
| 2. Youth Voice | 5. Safety and Justice |
| 3. Learning | 6. Space and Place |

The plan is aligned with United Way of Southeast Louisiana's (UWSELA) Blueprint for Prosperity and its mission to eradicate poverty in our communities. So in response, UWSELA partnered with the Children and Youth Planning Board, Baptist Community Ministries (BCM), and the New Orleans Youth Alliance to create opportunities and investments that would uplift and activate YMP priorities and strategies. In 2022, UWSELA and BCM launched the Summer Impact Grant to expand and deepen summer services among existing summer programs for New Orleans children and youth.

UWSELA and BCM allocated \$500,000 in grant funding ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 across 37 Orleans youth-serving organizations to increase education, health, and workforce support over the summer months. The partners designed the grants to prioritize organizations aligned with YMP priorities and serving young people of color, ages 11 to 24, living below the [ALICE Threshold](#). The proposed outcomes of the grant sought to help close the achievement gap, improve health outcomes, reduce crime, and scale summer programs in underserved neighborhoods.



Dinerral Shavers Educational Fund: GIRLS NOLA Initiative

OUR **SUMMER 2022** PROGRAM PARTNERS

- About FACE (About Family and Community Engagement)
- ARISE Schools- Mildred Osborne/ARISE Academy
- Arts Council of New Orleans
- Bard Early College
- College Track
- Covenant House New Orleans
- Dancing Grounds
- Dinerral Shavers Educational Fund
- Directed Initiatives for Youth Inc., Dba Excite All Stars
- Educators for Quality Alternatives
- Efforts of Grace, Inc.
- Free Alas
- Friends of Lafitte Greenway
- Friends of the New Orleans Public Library/New Orleans Public Library (COLLAB)
- Generation Success
- Grow Dat Youth Farm
- Jesus Project Ministries
- Kedila Family Learning Center
- Living School, INC
- Make Music NOLA
- Milne Inspiration Center (MIC-AMPED)
- New Orleans Technical Education Provider (NOTEP)
- Operation Spark
- Reconcile New Orleans, Inc.
- Ride New Orleans
- Silence Is Violence
- Son of a Saint
- The 18th Ward
- The Beautiful Foundation
- The Cosmetology Institute, LLC
- The Level Up Campaign
- Thrive New Orleans
- Trinity Christian Community DBA Trinity Community Center
- unCommon Construction
- Upturn Arts
- Young Aspirations Young Artists Inc.
- YouthForce NOLA



Bard Early College: Bard Early College New Orleans

IMPACT & RESULTS

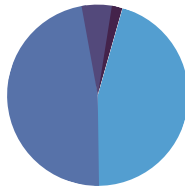
8,999

MEALS PROVIDED



3,519

YOUTH SERVED



- Ages 11-13: 45.4%
- Ages 14-17: 47.4%
- Ages 18-20: 5.4%
- Ages 21-24: 1.9%

10,981

PROGRAM HOURS



TYPES OF FUNDED PROGRAMS

- STEM and Digital Programming
- Civic Leadership/Advocacy & Mentorship
- Literacy & Academic Enrichment (youth and teens)
- Workforce Development
- Health and Wellness
- Expressive Arts
- College Prep
- Sports and Recreation



Reconcile: Workforce Development Summer Success Program



Lafitte Greenway BELite Youth Mural Arts Project: Basketball Court Revival



College Track: Summer College Access Programming for New Orleans Scholars

SELF-REPORTED OUTCOME HIGHLIGHTS

- *Achievement of industry-based certifications for in-demand technical fields.*
- *Acquisition of soft skills to improve communication, team-building, and other skills to support career readiness.*
- *Youth-created plans and community engagement strategies to improve public transportation options for New Orleans residents.*
- *Youth developed a deep understanding of the history of civil rights and the impact of racism in all systems (e.g., education, criminal justice, housing) to build their interest and ability in policy advocacy.*
- *Creation of a large-scale public mural on the Lafitte Greenway, which connects people to nature, their destinations, and each other.*
- *Paid internships supported more economic stability for low-income participants.*
- *Exposed and deepened youth interest in vocational entrepreneurship.*
- *Participants received college/secondary education support to ensure successful enrollment post high-school graduation.*
- *Programs provided a safe space and place for youth experiencing trauma and instability at home.*
- *Participants were screened for trauma using the Traumatic Events Screening Inventory (TESI) and the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) to assess trauma exposure and experience.*
- *Academic enrichment programs helped students recover math and/or seminar credits lost due to poor academic performance during the school year.*
- *Youth received comprehensive sexual health education and financial literacy training.*
- *Some parents reported better communication and interactions at home and school as a result of the positive experience their child had in their summer program.*

SELF-IDENTIFIED PROGRAM CHALLENGES

- Staff capacity and turnover
- COVID exposures
- Undiagnosed behavioral and mental health of participants
- Communication with parents
- Weather (outdoor programs)
- Transportation
- Language barriers
- Curriculum building
- Financial literacy/ logistics for stipends and gift cards
- Inconsistent communication with school partners
- Family instability/Youth in transitional housing/homeless
- Consistent data collection
- Technology

LESSONS LEARNED

- Create more leadership opportunities for youth participants (e.g., vision, program design, implementation).
- Value of engaging local culture bearers and indigenous leaders and having the ability to compensate them appropriately for their time and knowledge.
- Offering a wider variety of courses resulted in a significant increase in enrollment.
- Experiential field trips were a success, and participants asked for more opportunities.
- Advanced planning and time management would mitigate interruptions in program delivery.
- Additional staff training is necessary to meet various participant learning styles and cultural competencies.
- Support and self-care practices is essential for staff to avoid burnout.
- Build better communication and feedback mechanisms among parents and providers.
- Invest in better internet connection to avoid programming disruption (STEM and programming camps).
- Offer virtual and in-person options for participant comfort.
- Waiting lists across programs indicate more summer programming is needed and critical.
- Include more language options beyond English.
- Varying digital and in-person outreach strategies built more diverse participant cohorts.



YMP PROGRAM-LEVEL DATA SNAPSHOTS

Self-Reported

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- **Dinerral Shavers Educational Fund:** Summer funding allowed program to purchase school and hygiene supplies for all female participants, assist families needing school uniforms, and provide additional assistance such as nursing scrubs and supplies for students in dual enrollment programs.

YOUTH VOICE

Increase in enrollment capacity:

- **18th Ward:** Increase youth opportunities in New Orleans | summer 2021 actual = 150 vs. summer 2022 actual = 830 (466% increase in enrollment capacity)
- **Jesus Project Ministries:** 61% increase in enrollment from the summer of 2021 to the summer of 2022. In addition, the stipends and the wages for mentors and coordinators were increased.

LEARNING

- **Dinerral Shavers Educational Fund: GIRLS NOLA** mentorship program was able to serve all 15 of our mentees with summer enrichment, therapeutic, and team-building activities.
- **Kedila** was able to increase the field trip from once every week to once a week. A reading specialist was hired to design a reading program for our students, as most are reading below their grade level.

YMP PROGRAM-LEVEL DATA SNAPSHOTS

continued

ECONOMIC STABILITY

Workforce Development/Cross-community partnerships created:

- **unCommon Construction:** funding allowed program to extend partnership opportunities beyond schools to include Son of a Saint and YEP.
- **Friends of NO Public Libraries:** Able to partner with YouthForce NOLA to add an additional five paid teen internships.
- **Operation Spark:** Out of all enrolled students (42), 79% completed the course and earned school credit. Additionally, 70% earned certifications.
- **Living School:** We had 40 students recover or accelerate credits toward their graduation and graduate outcomes, while 12 students completed internships in fields that expanded their economic opportunity.
- **YouthForce NOLA:** Proposed outcome: YFI will provide training and meaningful work experience to 150 rising high school seniors with at least 130 completing the program.
 - Results: 182 people began YFI training.
 - 147 were placed in an internship.
 - 140 completed the entire summer of work-based learning through YFI.

Incentives and pay equity:

- **Jesus Project Ministries:** Six participants were paid a daily stipend, four earned minimum wage, and received a \$2.75 per hour increase to \$10 per hour. We were able to hire youth coordinators, one earned \$12 per hour, and two were paid \$15 per hour. The coordinators, all college students, were also provided free housing.
- **Reconcile New Orleans, Inc.:** Enrollment and program completion stipends increased enrollment vs. average #s. Five interns transitioned into externships with the following employment partners: Sheraton Hotel, Ace Hotel, and Omni Royal Hotel. Eleven interns who began during this period returned to school.
- **18th Ward:** Create more part-time jobs for teenagers | summer 2021 actual = 6 vs. summer 2022 actual = 64.(966% increase). Youth leaders earned \$15 per hour and got high-quality job training and leadership experience while helping The 18th Ward serve 830 youth in New Orleans.



YMP PROGRAM-LEVEL DATA SNAPSHOTS

continued

SAFETY AND JUSTICE

- **ASPIRE:** Aspire organized students to learn in five areas (building solidarity across Black and Latino youth, learning New Orleans civil rights history, training educators on how to better support students and disrupt school-to-prison and school-to-deportation pipelines, participating and voting on boards, advocating before leaders and policymakers for change). 100% of impact expectation was met as 100% youth participated

SPACE AND PLACE

- **Friends of NO Library:** Grant funding made implementation of the Teen Read and Ride program, which offered free 24-hour youth passes to allow tweens and teens to take the bus to and from the library, possible.
- Staff capacity building:
 - **Generation Success:** With funds they were able to hire an additional staff member who provided seamless transitions throughout the day and administrative support for our summer counselors. The additional staff person managed all logistical components of the program- including additional outreach necessary for partnership pipelines, additional services for our youth, and marketing to more students. To that end, all administrative duties were relieved from our educators, freeing them to make deeper, more meaningful, and engaging lessons while also holding students accountable for their growth and decision-making through SEL programming.
 - **Directed Initiatives for Youth, Excite All Stars:** Funding allowed hiring of two certified teachers in summer 2022 to add strength to our instructional team and enhanced our literacy workshops and STEM enrichment programming this summer. We were able to implement an intro to robotics and drone flight.
 - **Kedila** hired three additional staff to help bring the ratio of the students down to 1:12.





About FACE: Summer Social Set 22

TESTIMONIAL

"Michael was referred to us by the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office (OPDA) and successfully completed our diversion program in June, which resulted in his case being dismissed by OPDA. When he came to YAM, Michael had been expelled from his high school due to his behavior. Our lead arts educator and mentor, Journey Allen, wrote a personalized recommendation letter describing Michael's positive participation in YAM, including photos of his artwork and the completed mural. As a result of Journey's recommendation letter, Michael was accepted back into his high school. Michael has now re-enrolled in our fall YAM mural program and looks forward to continuing to grow his artistic and leadership abilities."

***Arts Council of New Orleans:
Young Artist Movement (YAM)***

A special thank you to the New Orleans Children and Youth Planning Board and the New Orleans Youth Alliance for their partnership and support.

ORLEANS PARISH

SUMMER IMPACT GRANTS

2022 REPORT



Baptist Community Ministries

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United Way of
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United Way of Southeast Louisiana

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