



# Youth Job Center

Getting a job. Launching a future.

**847-864-JOBS**

Preparing youth ages 14-25  
for success in the workplace

[www.youthjobcenter.org](http://www.youthjobcenter.org)



# YOUTH JOB CENTER 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

# A LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

As we reflect on the past year and the transition of Youth Job Center's leadership, we want to thank the staff, Board, and partners for their flexibility as we navigated new processes and programs and their enthusiasm for embracing a new vision. We are grateful to Karen Tollenaar Demorest, who retired after eight years of steering the agency through program expansion, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the social change that followed. YJC is in good shape, with healthy finances and services that grew in response to changing times for our community and our young adults.

Over the last few years, Youth Job Center transitioned from a job placement agency to a comprehensive workforce development organization for young people. We expanded our career coaching and wrap-around services, increased our partnerships with local government agencies, and revamped our service model to serve more clients better and more efficiently. We have already increased key performance indicators needed to achieve success for the young adults we serve annually.

As we head into 2023, we are excited to celebrate our 40th anniversary. We want to acknowledge the power of the partnerships which have brought us to this point and thank you all in advance for continuing your support and friendship as we prepare young people for success in the workplace and in life.



Lucretzia M. Jamison  
Executive Director

Jessica Ticus  
Board Chair

# MEET DESTINY

Destiny came to YJC during her senior year of high school after a recommendation from a close friend and former YJC client. Destiny is a goal-driven Evanston native who moved around a lot. Destiny's mom works as a C.N.A, and growing up, Destiny knew she wanted to follow in her mom's footsteps and pursue a career in healthcare. Once she returned to Evanston, she came to YJC looking for additional support to help her achieve her long-term goal of becoming a Registered Nurse.

Destiny initially became a member of our Core Services, where she worked alongside her Career Advisor, Peter, to identify her goals and create actionable steps to achieve these goals. Peter also connected her to other necessities, like SNAP benefits and interview attire. After identifying her goals, Destiny completed YJC's Workforce Readiness Training, which provided her with a resume, mock interviews, and tips on navigating the workforce. Here is where she was connected to her Financial Coach, Trevor.

Destiny describes Trevor as her greatest advocate, "whatever problem I have, he'll tackle it with me." Through Trevor, Destiny found employment at a local Giordano's restaurant. While working, she continued to seek Trevor's assistance with financial advising and opened her own savings account shortly after starting her job, which helped to increase her net worth.

Now that Destiny has secured employment and is reaching financial independence, she is working towards other goals for herself – like becoming a nurse. Destiny is now working with YJC's Career Pathways team to enroll in Oakton Community College. Soon she will be on her path toward obtaining a Nursing Degree and hopes to work at Northwestern Memorial Hospital one day. When looking back at her time with YJC, Destiny encourages other young adults not to be afraid, "YJC can help you with anything that you need, from finding clothing, to food, to a job. Accomplishing your goals, getting a good job, finishing school – that's for everyone."



# OLD NAVY'S THIS WAY ONWARD

Since 2015, Youth Job Center (YJC) has partnered with Old Navy for their This Way ONward (TWO) program, which provides young adults with an 8-week paid internship at local Old Navy stores. Leading up to the internship, YJC provides clients with personalized employment training, interviewing tips, and individualized support with their YJC Career Advisor. After completing training, interns are placed into paid internships at Old Navy stores throughout the Chicagoland area. TWO provides a meaningful employment experience for interns and allows them to develop skills that can be used throughout their careers.

This year, YJC trained 150 young adults for TWO internships. Of those 150 clients, 74 were placed and completed their 8-week internship. Clients who excel during their internship and demonstrate strong customer service skills may be asked to join Old Navy's team in a part-time or full-time capacity. This year, we had 50 interns transition into permanent positions with Old Navy! In addition to the TWO program, YJC supports Old Navy with temporary, seasonal hiring around the holidays. YJC placed 29 clients this past winter into these temporary, seasonal positions.

One client who excelled during her internship is Jacinta (pictured). In February of 2022, Jacinta began attending our specialized high school Workforce Readiness Training, which supported her in job preparation and resume development. During this time, Jacinta learned of the TWO program and was eager to become a Brand Associate intern at her local Old Navy. Jacinta thrived in her internship and loved engaging with and assisting customers in the store. Through her excellent customer service skills and willingness to learn, Jacinta was offered a part-time role at Old Navy!

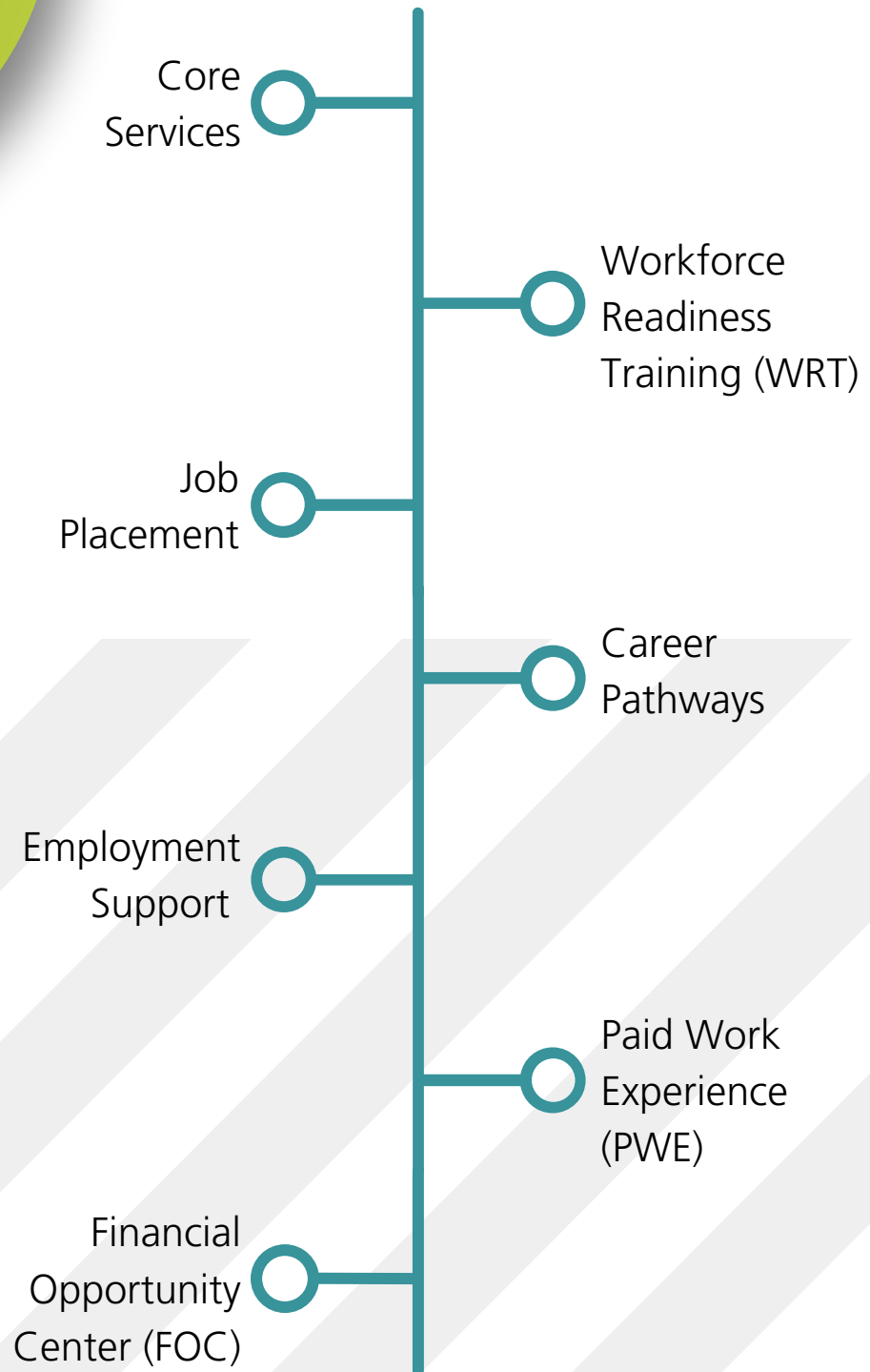
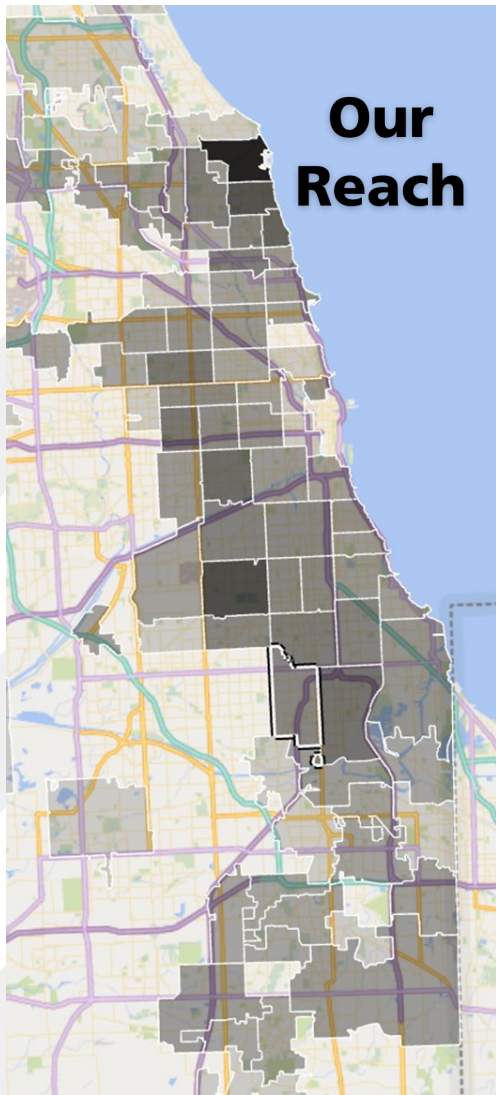
Over the last year, we have seen tremendous growth with our TWO program. We are now assisting Old Navy stores and training young adults for positions throughout Illinois. We are excited to continue to grow our partnership with Old Navy and place more young adults into employment through the **Power of Partnership**.



# OUR SERVICES

Success for  
young people

in the workplace  
and in life



**1,069**  
**CLIENTS SERVED**

CLIENTS  
SERVED

**664**  
**HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS REACHED**

**257**  
**CLIENTS EMPLOYED**

CAREER  
PATHWAYS

**48**  
**CREDENTIALS RECEIVED**

"I am so grateful for YJC. I can't thank them enough for the work they have done to get me to this position."

-Chase, Career Pathways client



# FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER

74

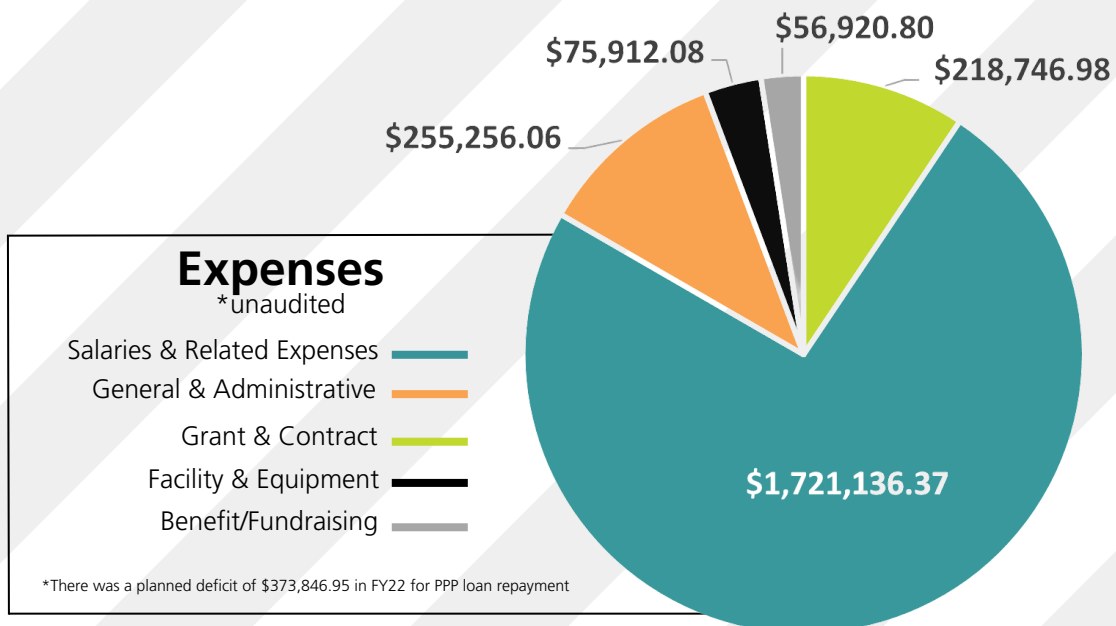
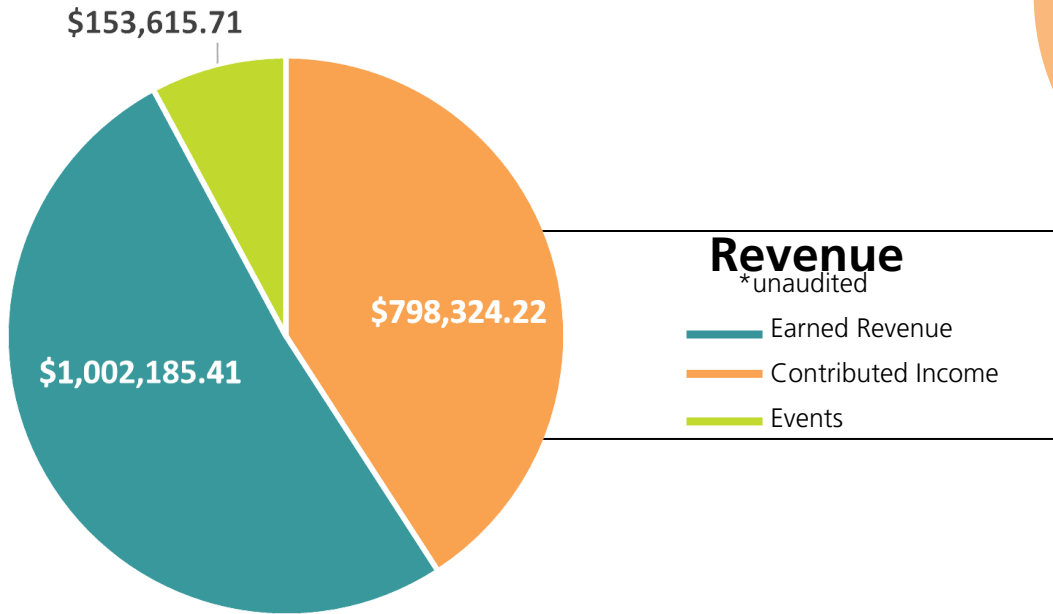
**CLIENTS RECEIVED  
FINANCIAL COUNSELING**

57

**RECEIVED ADDITIONAL  
FINANCIAL SUPPORT**



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**815**  
**VOLUNTEER HOURS**

**182**  
**MOCK INTERVIEWS**

**175**  
**RESUMES REVIEWED**

**96**  
**APPLICATIONS  
SUPPORTED**

# THANK YOU

# POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

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Chicago Community Learning Center (CCLC)  
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