



### OUR BACKGROUND



The collective vision of the 10 participating agencies is that all 16 to 24-year-olds have a path to success in Wayne County. Wayne County Public Library and its core community partners have a long history of working collaboratively to identify and work towards solutions to community needs. We know that “success” looks different for everyone but by leveraging our diverse pool of resources, we can help youth find their path, hence the name “Pathfinders.”



### OUR PROGRESS

- Our biggest wins throughout this process have been:
1. Increased understanding of the complex barriers faced by Opportunity Youth among county leaders from all sectors.
  2. Robust partner engagement resulting in decreased information silos across sectors. Over 80% of partner agencies have senior-level involvement.
  3. The launch of a collaborative, career development event for young adults called “Career Glow Up.” The purpose of the event is to have intentional conversations with youth about the supports they need in taking the next step on their career journey.




### WHAT WE LEARNED

- Reaching youth starts with authentic relationships and honest conversation.
- Youth benefit from and appreciate mentorship from trusted adults.
- The barriers Opportunity Youth are complex and often multifaceted.
- To be effective, local organizations must intentionally create a culture of collaboration and information sharing.




### PLANS FOR SUSTAINABILITY



**As the program comes to a close, what is your biggest opportunity for continued growth as a team?**

Our biggest opportunity for growth is increasing our reach across the county through marketing efforts and obtaining funding to expand current efforts.

**What is your greatest strength, as a team, that will help sustain your progress?**

Our greatest strength is our collaborative relationships and connections across the county to leaders and youth.

**What do you need the most to sustain your work?**

We will benefit from continued information sharing among the county teams, striking the right balance of knowledge sharing and programming, and optimizing our team’s structure for increasingly effective partnerships.