

OUR BACKGROUND



MISSION: To identify “opportunity youth” in Wilson, and develop strategies that will connect them with meaningful employment, education, or training opportunities in our community.

VISION: A robust workforce pipeline in Wilson that matches living-wage career options with adequately trained workers, resulting in low unemployment and high quality of life.

Core Team:

- Wilson Forward
- Wilson Chamber of Commerce
- City of Wilson

OUR PROGRESS

Partnerships: The Wilson Workforce Alliance has thus far brought together 23 actively connected organizations that meet monthly to identify existing gaps, local opportunities, and previously unexplored partnerships and pathways to connecting Opportunity Youth. Alongside our core team of leadership, these organizations include high-level representation from:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Wilson County Schools | Wilson County DSS |
| Barton College | NC Works |
| Wilson Community College | Local Employers |
| Wilson County Government | Elected Leaders |
| Wilson Police Dept. | Local Nonprofits |
| Wilson County Library | |

23 ACTIVELY CONNECTED ORGANIZATIONS



WHAT WE LEARNED

NEEDS:

Awareness: Many critical community partners were unaware of the number of Opportunity Youth existing in Wilson County and the challenges facing them. By expanding awareness among partners, we saw providers reassess their existing programming and recruitment efforts to target OY in more intentional ways.

Clear Pipelines and Partnerships: Clear understandings of pipelines to employment were not only needed by OY, but by program providers as well. Partners did not always have a clear understanding of complementary services and referral processes to support OY. By establishing stronger partnerships through the WWA network, referral and support pathways were established or clarified.



Two OY Youth connected and hired at local employers directly through WWA Partnerships!

PLANS FOR SUSTAINABILITY



Our community's greatest strength is our partnerships. Continuing to strengthen Wilson Workforce Alliance partnerships through facilitated monthly meetings is critical, as well as expanding the voices engaged in the work by looking outside of the established group to who can help us further our work. By continuing to learn from lessons from teams across the state, we can use this growing network of community partners and leadership to implement initiatives to connect our youth across Wilson County.