



TEAM 9

COMMUNITIES CONNECTED 4 SUCCESS (CC4S)

Serving Bladen and Columbus Counties



OUR BACKGROUND



The mission of our OSOW collaborative is to promote workforce development that fosters economic growth, community relations improvement, student and family development, life skills enhancement, and mental health durability through education and experience.

We joined OSOW to support the goal of empowering youth and families to be self-sufficient. Mentoring minority and economically disadvantaged youth, providing leadership and job readiness skills, and facilitating employment connections align with our vision. Moreover, the collaborative network sought to increase our involvement with local businesses, faith-based organizations, government agencies, and workforce development partners. CC4S continues to provide community support for job seekers and the disadvantaged youth in the Tri-County and surrounding area.



OUR PROGRESS

Throughout our journey in the OSOW collaborative, we've witnessed remarkable progress. Our team's commitment to sharing resources and growing together has been a driving force behind our success. We've exceeded our initial goal of reaching 212 youth, which represents 10% of Opportunity Youth in Bladen and Columbus counties. Our collaborative efforts have led to unprecedented collaboration among local businesses, faith-based organizations, government agencies, and workforce partners. This increased collaboration and resource-sharing have significantly expanded the reach of our programs, enabling us to provide more opportunities to a larger number of youth in need.

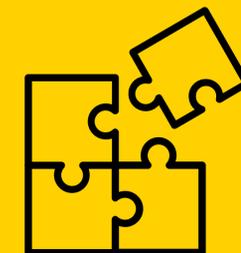
The collective dedication of our team, coupled with our network's determination, has enabled us to surpass our initial targets and bring about positive change in our communities. We are proud of the progress we've achieved and the impact we've made on the lives of Opportunity Youth in Bladen and Columbus counties.



WHAT WE LEARNED



One of the most eye-opening discoveries has been the remarkable strength and resilience of Opportunity Youth. It has become evident that with the right support and resources, these individuals possess determination and ambition. Throughout this journey, we've gained valuable insights directly from Opportunity Youth. Their experiences and perspectives have not only highlighted their potential and determination but have significantly influenced our collaborative approach. We've also recognized the importance of team retention. In a busy environment where everyone has multiple commitments, we've learned that effective communication is crucial. Furthermore, our work with Opportunity Youth is intricately connected to the local community's political climate. Building trust with populations facing apprehension often depends on understanding and navigating the broader political dynamics of our community. This awareness has been a vital element of our collaborative work, ensuring that we can make a meaningful and lasting impact.



PLANS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

- 1. Financial Support:** Partners provide crucial funding to cover operational costs, salaries, and expenses, enabling uninterrupted program delivery.
- 2. Capacity Building:** Through partners, we invest in staff development, enhancing our adaptability and effectiveness.
- 3. Program Expansion:** Partner support helps us reach more Opportunity Youth by expanding programs and outreach.
- 4. Technology and Infrastructure:** Partners help us upgrade technological systems for data-driven decision-making and program improvement.
- 5. Research and Evaluation:** Partner-backed research validates our impact, enabling evidence-based adjustments.
- 6. Sustainability Planning:** We collaborate with partners to develop long-term strategies beyond grant cycles.
- 7. Advocacy and Policy Support:** Partners advocate for policies that benefit Opportunity Youth and the community.
- 8. Measuring Impact:** Partners help us establish systems to measure and report impact, attracting more support.