



---

## TITLE II PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

# YOUTH JUSTICE & YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

**PREPARED BY**

**MIGUEL A. GARCIA, ADVOCACY COORDINATOR;  
ANTI-RECIDIVISM COALITION**

**KENT G. MENDOZA-MORALES, MANAGER OF  
ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY ORGANIZING; ANTI-  
RECIDIVISM COALITION**

**APPROVED BY**

**BIKILA OCOHA, PH.D**

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR; ANTI-RECIDIVISM  
COALITION**

---

**MAY 2021**

## **TITLE II PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND PROCESS**
- **YOUTH STATEMENT**
- **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**
- **YOUTH JUSTICE & YOUNG ADULTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
  - **JUVENILE JUSTICE IMPROVEMENTS**
  - **COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS & SERVICES**
  - **JOB TRAINING**
  - **MENTORING, COUNSELING & TRAINING PROGRAMS**
  - **AFTERCARE / REENTRY**
  - **PROTECTING JUVENILE RIGHTS**
- **OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER**
- **CONCLUSION**



## TITLE II PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & PROCESS

THE UNITED STATES OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION (OJJDP) ADMINISTERS TITLE II GRANT PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED BY THE JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT (JJRA) OF 2018 TO SUPPORT STATE EFFORTS FOR DELINQUENCY PREVENTION AND JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS. CALIFORNIA'S BOARD OF STATE AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS (BSCC) IS THE STATE AGENCY THAT RECEIVES AND ADMINISTERS THESE GRANTS AWARDED BY THE OJJDP. TITLE II GRANTS ALSO REQUIRE THAT A STATE ADVISORY GROUP IS CREATED TO ADVISE ON THESE GRANTS. IN CALIFORNIA, THAT ADVISORY GROUP IS THE STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION (SACJJDP).

FOR STATES TO RECEIVE TITLE II GRANTS, THEY MUST SUBMIT TO THE OJJDP A 3-YEAR JUVENILE JUSTICE STATE PLAN. IN THE PAST, THE SACJJDP DEVELOPED CA'S 3-YEAR PLAN FOR 2018-2020, WHICH INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES: AFTERCARE/REENTRY, ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION AND PLACEMENT, COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES, DIVERSION, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, AND MENTORING, COUNSELING, AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.

THE SACJJDP SOUGHT AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY INPUT TO HELP DEVELOP ITS 2021-2023 3-YEAR PLAN TO DETERMINE NEW LOCAL PROGRAM AREAS OF FOCUS AND TYPES OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT TITLE II GRANT FUNDS SHOULD SUPPORT. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, THE SACJJDP AWARDED CONTRACTS TO FIVE COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBOS) AND ONE NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE, NO MORE THAN \$5,000 EACH, TO HOST COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS TO IDENTIFY ESSENTIAL AREAS OF NEEDED SUPPORT. EACH CONTRACTOR WAS SELECTED BASED ON GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION WHICH INCLUDES, (1) LARGE COUNTY AND (1) MEDIUM COUNTY IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, (1) LARGE COUNTY AND (1) MEDIUM COUNTY IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, AND (1) ADDITIONAL SMALL COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA, AS WELL AS (1) NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE.

THE ANTI-RECIDIVISM COALITION (ARC), ONE OF THE FIVE SELECTED CBOS, IS A NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION IN CALIFORNIA THAT SERVES AS A SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY NETWORK FOR CURRENTLY AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED MEN, WOMEN, AND YOUNG ADULTS. ARC WAS SELECTED AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ONE LARGE COUNTY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. DESPITE THE SHORT TIMEFRAME AVAILABLE TO EXECUTE THIS PROJECT, ARC'S ADVOCACY MANAGER, KENT MENDOZA, AND ADVOCACY COORDINATOR MIGUEL GARCIA MANAGED TO CONVENE FIVE ZOOM VIRTUAL LISTENING SESSIONS WITH A DIVERSE GROUP OF 38 YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (89% OF THE GROUP HAD DIRECT EXPERIENCE WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM) RANGING FROM THE AGES OF 15-THROUGH 30- YEARS-OLD FROM ACROSS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. THESE VIRTUAL LISTENING SESSIONS TOOK PLACE FROM APRIL 7TH - MAY 5TH EACH WEDNESDAY FROM 1:30 PM-

62:30 PM. PARTICIPANTS WERE GUARANTEED A \$50 STIPEND PER LISTENING SESSION AND HAD TO SUBMIT A W-9 FORM TO ENSURE PAYMENTS WERE MADE PROMPTLY. SOME PARTICIPANTS PARTICIPATED IN ALL FIVE LISTENING SESSIONS WHILE OTHERS ONCE OR TWICE; HOWEVER, NEW PARTICIPANTS JOINED EACH SESSION THANKS TO OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS. DURING THESE LISTENING SESSIONS, IT WAS AMAZING TO SEE THE GENUINE AND AUTHENTIC PARTICIPATION FROM THE PARTICIPATING LEADERS WHO WERE OPEN AND WILLING TO SHARE THEIR STORIES, IDEAS, WISDOM, AND PERSPECTIVES ON THE ISSUES THEY BELIEVE SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED. THEY EVEN CAME UP WITH THE NAME FOR THIS GROUP AND THROUGH A VOTING PROCESS, DECIDED TO CALL THEMSELVES THE YOUTH JUSTICE AND YOUNG ADULTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YJYAAC).

AS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CONTINUES TO AFFECT HOW PEOPLE COMMUNICATE DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING AND OTHER GUIDELINES, THE YJYAAC STILL HAD GENUINE CONVERSATIONS DESPITE IT BEING ON A VIRTUAL PLATFORM. WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS, TIME, AND COMMITMENT TO THIS COLLABORATIVE PROJECT. WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOU ALL, ESPECIALLY SINCE MANY OF YOU HAVE ONLY BEEN HOME FOR LESS THAN TEN MONTHS. WE ARE PROUD OF WHAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED IN YOUR JOURNEY IN THE SHORT TIME YOU'VE BEEN HOME WITH US!

THANK YOU TO ALL THE YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS AND THE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS THAT HELPED US ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT TOGETHER. THANKS TO THE SACJJDP FOR ALLOWING ARC TO SPEARHEAD THIS FUN AND EXCITING PROJECT WITH FANTASTIC YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT PARTICIPANTS WHO LED US TO THIS REPORT.

## PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS:

- ANTI-RECIDIVISM COALITION (ARC)
- ARTS FOR HEALING & JUSTICE (AHJN)
- COALITION FOR ENGAGED EDUCATION
- FATHERS & FAMILIES OF SAN JOAQUIN (FFSJ)
- LA YOUTH UPRISING COALITION (LAYUP)
- TIA CHUCHA'S CENTRO CULTURAL
- UNDERGROUND GRIT (UG)
- YOUTH JUSTICE COALITION (YJC)

MAY 2021

## TITLE II PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

# YOUTH STATEMENT

AS YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS WHO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM HAS DIRECTLY IMPACTED, WE KNOW FROM OUR OWN EXPERIENCES WHAT IS NEEDED FOR YOUTH GOING THROUGH THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN CALIFORNIA. WE BELIEVE THE CURRENT SYSTEM NEEDS SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS AND THAT IT MUST START MODELING A POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT APPROACH INSTEAD OF SIMPLY PUNISHING YOUTH FOR THEIR ACTIONS AND MISTAKES AND PUTTING THEM IN JAIL. WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR INVESTMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR YOUTH AND THE SUCCESS OF THEIR FUTURES.

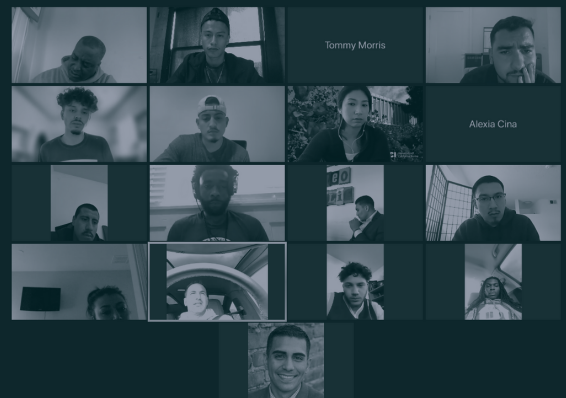
YOUNG PEOPLE NEED OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES THAT WILL ALLOW THEM TO FEEL SAFE AND SUPPORTED DURING THEIR DEVELOPMENT. PROVIDING HOUSING, MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES, AND EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE NECESSARY COMPONENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL YOUTH PLAN AND REENTRY, PARTICULARLY FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS LIKE US, WHO CARRY A LOT OF TRAUMA FROM OUR INCARCERATION. THIS IS WHY WE STRONGLY VALUE MENTORSHIP AND SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE SIMILAR EXPERIENCES LIKE OUR OWN. THESE ARE MENTORS BASED AT CBOS AND FROM WHOM WE CAN SEEK GENUINE HELP, GUIDANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY. HAVING MENTORS HONORS THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT TREATING EVERY RETURNING YOUTH PRECISELY THE SAME BUT GENUINELY MAKING SURE THAT THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS ARE MET IN A CASE-BY-CASE SITUATION.

WE MUST STOP RELYING ON THE SAME OLD TOOLS OF PUNISHMENT AND INCARCERATION AND CREATE ENVIRONMENTS WHERE YOUTH CAN RECEIVE HELP FROM CREDIBLE MESSENGERS, WHO LIKE MENTORS, ARE ALSO ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE, ARE BETTER EQUIPPED AT SERVING AND WORKING WITH YOUTH, AND CAN FOLLOW EACH YOUTH IN THEIR TRANSITION AS RETURNING MEMBERS OF SOCIETY OR SIMPLY JUST BE THERE SUPPORTING THE YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY. YOUTH SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE MENTOR, CREDIBLE MESSENGERS, AND LIFE COACHES, THEY SHOULD ALL HAVE ACCESS TO WRAP-AROUND SERVICES OFFERED BY THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE IT TAKES MORE THAN JUST A VILLAGE TO RAISE A YOUTH. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR FUTURE.

TO FOSTER A SYSTEM THAT FOCUSES ON POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN PUNISHMENT AND SURVEILLANCE, WE ASK THIS BODY TO INVEST IN COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE ALREADY WORKING TO SUPPORT SYSTEM-IMPACTED YOUTH. PROPER YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES SHOULD NOT COME FROM PROBATION OR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT TRAINED OR HAVE THE NECESSARY BACKGROUND -

-NEEDED TO WORK WITH YOUTH LIKE HOW MENTORS, SOCIAL WORKERS, AND OTHER SERVICES PROVIDERS DO. INSTEAD, THE STATE SHOULD INVEST IN COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN BETTER ADDRESS YOUTH NEEDS AND HELP THEM AVOID A CYCLE OF RECIDIVISM THROUGH UNIQUE MENTORING AND COUNSELING. THERE IS A MYRIAD OF RESOURCES THAT CAN BE PROVIDED TO OUR YOUTH WITH THE HELP OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR CBO'S, WHETHER IT BE JOB TRAINING, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, OR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES. CBOS CAN DO SO MUCH MORE THAN OUR CURRENT SYSTEMS.

LASTLY, THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL SOCIAL AND MENTAL IMPACT THAT FALLS ON YOUTH WHEN THEY ARE LABELED DELINQUENT OR TROUBLED YOUTH. CHILDREN TRAPPED IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM ARE OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD OR JUDGED FOR ACTING IMPULSIVELY AND ARE CAST OUT OF SOCIETY DUE TO THE BARRIERS THAT KEEP THEM FROM RECEIVING THE CARE THEY REQUIRE AS YOUNG PEOPLE. WITHOUT ANY RESOURCES LIKE MENTORSHIP, OUTREACH PROGRAMS, OR EDUCATION, FREE OF JUDGMENT, THAT HELP THEM UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A POSITIVE MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITIES, YOUTH WILL CONTINUE TO FILL THE GAPS IN THEIR CARE WITH NEGATIVE BUT PREVENTABLE BEHAVIORS. AS SYSTEM-IMPACTED YOUNG PEOPLE, WE ASK THAT THIS BODY TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT OUR PEERS IMPACTED BY THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM.





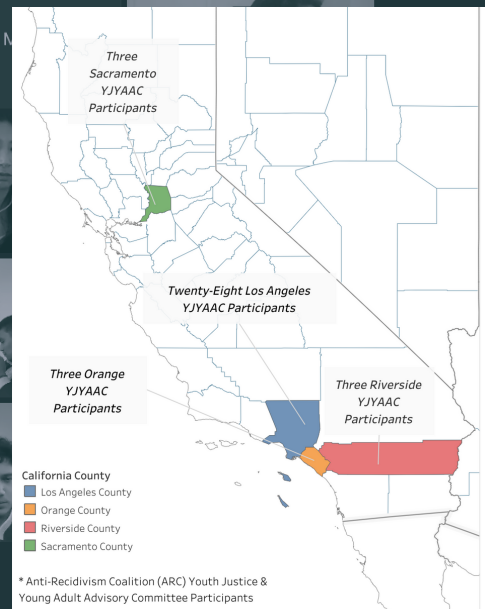
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IN MARCH 2021, THE STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION (SACJJD), WITHIN THE BOARD AND STATE AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS (BSCC), CONTRACTED WITH THE ANTI-RECIDIVISM COALITION (ARC) TO HOLD COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO RECEIVE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK IN DEVELOPING THE 2021-2023 3-YEAR STATE PLAN. THE 2021-2023 3-YEAR STATE PLAN WILL DETERMINE THE LOCAL PROGRAM AREAS OF FOCUS AND PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT FROM TITLE II GRANT FUNDS. IN DECIDING WHICH PROGRAM AREAS THE SACJJD SHOULD PRIORITIZE, ARC FACILITATORS CONDUCTED A POLL THAT INCLUDED ALL THE POSSIBLE TITLE II PROGRAM AREAS. FROM THE POLL RESULT, THE YOUTH JUSTICE YOUNG ADULT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (YJYAAC) WAS CREATED AND CONSISTED OF A DIVERSE GROUP OF FORMERLY INCARCERATED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO PARTICIPATED IN ALL FIVE LISTENING SESSIONS. FROM THOSE LISTENING SESSIONS, THE YJYAAC DEVELOPED THEIR TOP ESSENTIAL PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS: JUVENILE JUSTICE IMPROVEMENTS, INVESTMENTS IN COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, JOB TRAINING, MENTORING, COUNSELING & TRAINING PROGRAMS, AFTERCARE/REENTRY, AND PROTECTING JUVENILE RIGHTS.

## YOUTH JUSTICE & YOUNG ADULTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROGRAM AND SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS

THROUGH A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST MEETING ON APRIL 7, 2021, VOTED AND DECIDED TO NAME THE GROUP THE YJYAAC. WITH LEADING SUPPORT FROM DIRECTLY IMPACTED INDIVIDUALS FROM THE ARC'S ADVOCACY TEAM, THE YJYAAC WAS ABLE TO DO ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH TO A VERY DIVERSE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS FOR ALL THE LISTENING SESSIONS. ALL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS THAT PARTICIPATED HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM. DURING EACH MEETING OF THE FIVE LISTENING SESSIONS, POLLING THROUGH A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST MEETING ON APRIL 7, 2021, VOTED AND DECIDED TO NAME THE GROUP THE YJYAAC. WITH LEADING SUPPORT FROM DIRECTLY IMPACTED INDIVIDUALS FROM THE ARC'S ADVOCACY TEAM, THE YJYAAC WAS ABLE TO DO ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH TO A VERY DIVERSE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS FOR ALL THE LISTENING SESSIONS. ALL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS THAT PARTICIPATED HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM. DURING EACH MEETING OF THE FIVE LISTENING SESSIONS, POLLING WAS CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE EACH PARTICIPANT'S TOP SIX PROGRAM PRIORITY AREAS OF FOCUS. OVERALL, AFTER EVERY SESSION WAS COMPLETED, THE YJYAAC CAME UP WITH THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS OF FOCUS AREAS THAT THE SACJJD AND BSCC SHOULD PRIORITIZE: 1) JUVENILE JUSTICE IMPROVEMENTS, 2) COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, 3) JOB TRAINING 4) MENTORING COUNSELING & TRAINING PROGRAMS 5) AFTERCARE/REENTRY, AND 6) PROTECTING JUVENILE RIGHTS.

CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE EACH PARTICIPANT'S TOP SIX PROGRAM PRIORITY AREAS OF FOCUS. OVERALL, AFTER EVERY SESSION WAS COMPLETED, THE YJYAAC CAME UP WITH THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS OF FOCUS AREAS THAT THE SACJJD AND BSCC SHOULD PRIORITIZE: 1) JUVENILE JUSTICE IMPROVEMENTS, 2) COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, 3) JOB TRAINING 4) MENTORING COUNSELING & TRAINING PROGRAMS 5) AFTERCARE/REENTRY, AND 6) PROTECTING JUVENILE RIGHTS.



## TITLE II PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

# JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

WITH THE OVER-RELIANCE ON A MODEL OF PUNISHMENT THROUGH SUPERVISION AND INCARCERATION, THE YJYAAC ENVISIONS A COMMUNITY-CENTRIC APPROACH THAT IS NOT SIMPLY RELYING ONLY ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OR SUPERVISING AGENCIES BUT INCLUDES CBOS AND THEIR STAFF WHO COME FROM THE SAME COMMUNITIES AND SHARE SIMILAR EXPERIENCES AS THE YOUTH BEING SERVED. THE GROUP SUPPORTS CBOS TO BE ALLOWED TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH INCARCERATED YOUTH AND YOUTH UNDER SUPERVISION IN A UNIQUE AND MEANINGFUL WAY. CBOS WORKING AND PROVIDING SERVICES TO YOUTH CAN PROVIDE CREDIBLE MESSENGERS, MENTORS, AND STAFF WHO MAKE THEIR JOURNEYS SUCCESSFUL. THE CREDIBLE MESSENGER MODEL HAS EMERGED BASED ON THE FOUNDATION THAT COMMUNITIES HAVE TRANSFORMATIVE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT JUSTICE-INVOLVED/AT-PROMISE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS CONSTRUCTIVELY.

MOREOVER, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS RECOGNIZE THAT YOUTH COME FROM VARIOUS BACKGROUNDS, AND THEREFORE THERE SHOULD BE AN EMPHASIS ON A TAILORED APPROACH FOCUSED ON STRENGTHS RATHER THAN DEFICIENCIES. THE YJYAAC EXPRESSED THAT WE MUST MEET YOUTH WHERE THEY ARE. A CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH IS CRUCIAL FOR MANY YOUTH. FURTHERMORE, YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS, IMPROVEMENT AND REHABILITATION RATHER THAN JUST INFORMATION ABOUT GETTING OFF PROBATION. THE CURRENT SYSTEM IS NOT CAPABLE NOR HAS THE ABILITY IN PROVIDING THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT CBOS CAN PROVIDE BECAUSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND PROBATION ONLY CREATE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENTS IN WHICH THEY TRAUMATIZE YOUTH THROUGH PUNISHMENT RATHER THAN PROVIDING SUPPORT AND HEALING. CBOS ARE NOT ONLY ABLE TO PROVIDE CREDIBLE MESSENGERS OR MENTORS, THEY ALSO CAN PROVIDE PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, JOB TRAINING, COUNSELING, AND MANY OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND PROBATION OFTEN LEAD YOUTH TO BE VIOLATED AND SPENDING LONGER TIME UNDER SUPERVISION. ON OTHER HAND, CBOS ARE ADEQUATELY EQUIPPED AT WORKING WITH YOUTH.

THE YJYAAC ALSO DISCUSSED PRIORITIZING THE IMPROVEMENTS AND SUPPORT FOR FEMALE/NON-GENDER BINARY YOUTH WHO HAVE CONTACT WITH THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM. TREATMENT FOR THIS POPULATION NEEDS CORRECTION, SUCH AS CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, ESPECIALLY FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL HARM. DIRECTLY IMPACTED SURVIVORS SHOULD NOT BE TREATED AS PERPETRATORS FOR HAVING BEEN EXPLOITED BY ADULTS. THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING THIS POPULATION SHOULD CREATE A REHABILITATIVE, HEALTH-FOCUSED, AND CARE-FIRST SYSTEM. IN ADDITION, YOUTH WHO ENCOUNTER CHALLENGES WITH THEIR MENTAL HEALTH SHOULD RECEIVE THERAPY BY PRIORITIZING SERVICES IN THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE FACILITY TO AVOID FURTHER TRAUMATIZATION.

FINALLY, THE YJYAAC HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR THE PHYSICAL SETTINGS AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS OF JUVENILE HALLS, CAMPS, AND PLACEMENTS. THE CURRENT FOUNDATION OF MANY OF THE INSTITUTIONS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IS OUTDATED, WHERE YOUTH WALK IN LINES, SLEEP ON CONCRETE, SPEND MORE TIME IN THEIR ROOMS ISOLATED, RATHER THAN HAVING OPPORTUNITIES TO GAIN LIFE SKILLS OR SOCIAL SKILLS. YOUTH PLACED INSIDE A SECURE FACILITY HAVE EXPRESSED THAT THE FEW LESSONS LEARNED ARE THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESILIENCE AND HOW TO ENDURE BEING LOCKED UP IN A ROOM FOR LONG PERIODS. FOR THESE REASONS, INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE MORE HOME-LIKE WITH AUTHENTIC PROGRAMS THAT ALLOW YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY. IN ADDITION, YOUTH ARE LOCATED IN FARAWAY LOCATIONS FROM THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY, WHICH IS A PROBLEM FOR FAMILIES THAT LACK RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION. CLOSER TO HOME MODELS SHOULD BE UTILIZED TO = BUILD AND HEAL RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE FAMIL

**"WE NEED IMPROVEMENTS TO CONSIDER ISSUES THAT ARE MORE  
SPECIFIC TO GIRLS & WOMEN"  
- KELLY ORTEGA, TIA CHUCHA'S CENTRO CULTURAL**



## COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

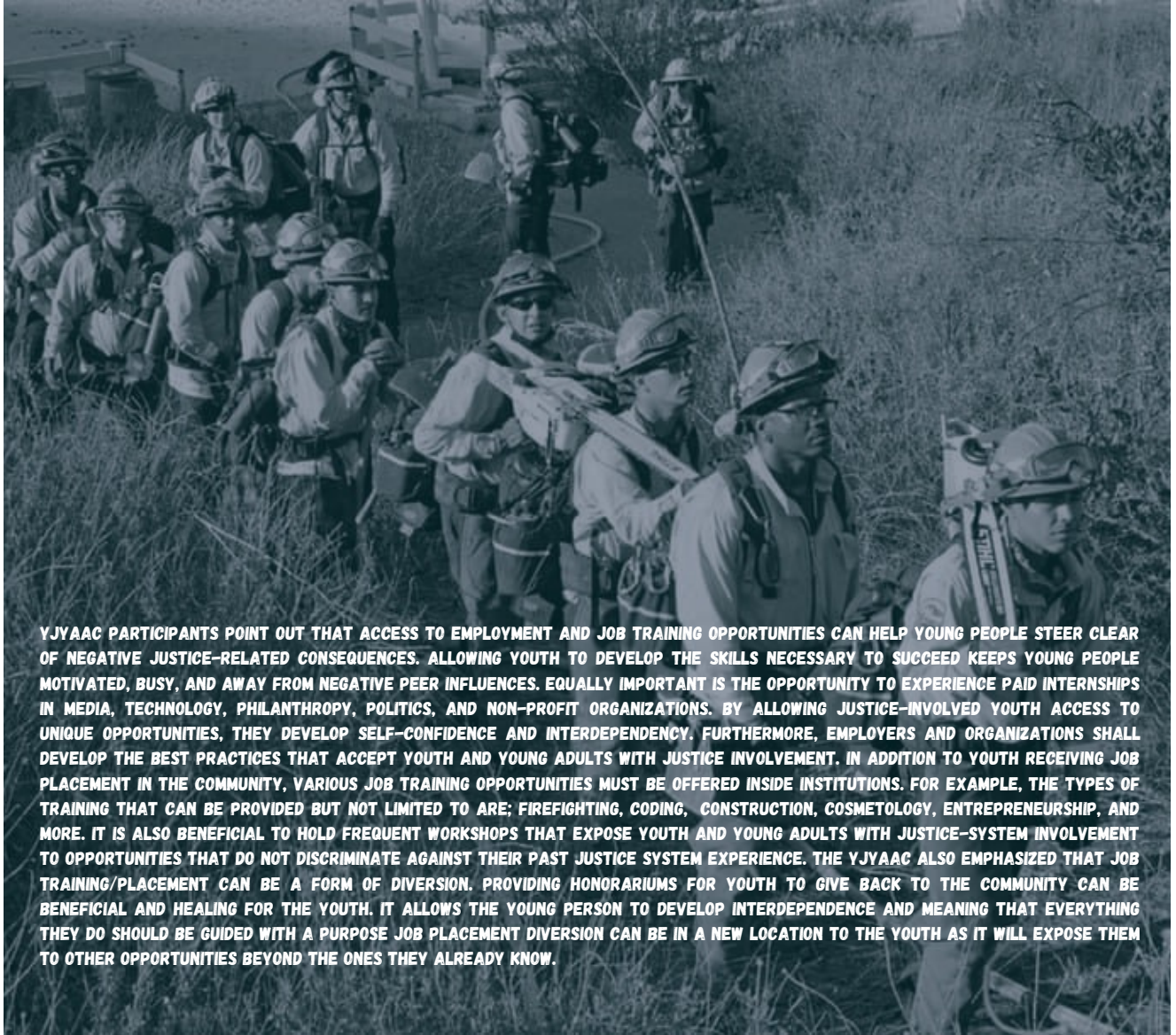


"THE PEOPLE AT TIA CHUCHA ARE MORE NICE AND HELPFUL AS THEY PROVIDE UNIQUE CULTURAL EDUCATION THAT OTHER PLACES AND PROBATION CANNOT PROVIDE"  
- MIKEY ESTRADA, TIA CHUCHA'S CENTRO CULTURAL

THE YJYAAC HAD THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL CONSENSUS THAT CBO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE BETTER AND MOST EFFECTIVE AT HELPING TO ADDRESS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUTH WHO ARE GETTING INTO TROUBLE OR ARE ALREADY IN THE SYSTEM BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTAND THEM. OFTEN, WHETHER THEY ARE GETTING INTO TROUBLE FOR THE FIRST TIME OR ARE UNDER PROBATION SUPERVISION, THERE IS NEVER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUTH TO ASK FOR HOW THEY BELIEVE THEY SHOULD BE SUPPORTED OR WHAT IS NEEDED. THIS RESULTS IN THEM BEING PUT INTO PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND SUPERVISION THAT DON'T ALIGN WITH THEIR NEEDS. CBO'S UNDERSTAND YOUTH MORE AS THEY ARE ROOTED FROM THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH MANY OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE COME FROM AND CAN BE BETTER AT ENGAGING WITH THEM THAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROBATION AGENCIES. CBO'S SHOULD BE THE FIRST POINT OF CONTACT FOR YOUTH INSTEAD OF THE CURRENT SUPPRESSION MODEL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO DETER THEM FROM FURTHER INVOLVEMENT WITH THE SYSTEM. FOR INSTANCE, PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY THAT OFFER CULTURALLY SPECIFIC PROGRAMS VALUE DIVERSITY, CONDUCT SELF-ASSESSMENTS, ADDRESS ISSUES THAT ARISE WHEN DIFFERENT CULTURES INTERACT, ACQUIRE AND UTILIZE CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE, AND ACCOMMODATE TO SATISFY THE YOUTH PARTICIPANTS' CULTURES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES. ALSO, CBO'S ARE MORE READILY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY, AS WELL.

CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCE INCARCERATION AT A YOUNG AGE REQUIRE OPPORTUNITIES WHEN DISCHARGED FROM INSTITUTIONS, AND BUILDING A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH SIMILAR BACKGROUNDS IS BENEFICIAL FOR THEIR TRANSITION HOME. THE YJYAAC MENTIONED THAT IF IT WERE NOT FOR CBO'S THAT STEP IN AND PROVIDE SERVICE, THE LIKELIHOOD OF THEM REOFFENDING WOULD BE HIGH. YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT LEADERS CLAIM THAT CBO'S ARE MORE TRUSTWORTHY AS COMPARED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. UNFORTUNATELY, IN RURAL LOS ANGELES AND THE COUNTIES SURROUNDS SUCH AS SAN BERNARDINO AND RIVERSIDE LACK COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED. GRASSROOT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS WITH CULTURALLY ROOTED STAFF PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN PREVENTING YOUTH INVOLVEMENT WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM. WITH FEDERAL AND STATE LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT, CBO'S CAN SUCCESSFULLY CHANGE LOCAL CONDITIONS TO HELP YOUTH BECOME LAW-ABIDING, PRODUCTIVE LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY.

# JOB TRAINING



YJYAAC PARTICIPANTS POINT OUT THAT ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT AND JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES CAN HELP YOUNG PEOPLE STEER CLEAR OF NEGATIVE JUSTICE-RELATED CONSEQUENCES. ALLOWING YOUTH TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO SUCCEED KEEPS YOUNG PEOPLE MOTIVATED, BUSY, AND AWAY FROM NEGATIVE PEER INFLUENCES. EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE PAID INTERNSHIPS IN MEDIA, TECHNOLOGY, PHILANTHROPY, POLITICS, AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. BY ALLOWING JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH ACCESS TO UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES, THEY DEVELOP SELF-CONFIDENCE AND INTERDEPENDENCY. FURTHERMORE, EMPLOYERS AND ORGANIZATIONS SHALL DEVELOP THE BEST PRACTICES THAT ACCEPT YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT. IN ADDITION TO YOUTH RECEIVING JOB PLACEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY, VARIOUS JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES MUST BE OFFERED INSIDE INSTITUTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE TYPES OF TRAINING THAT CAN BE PROVIDED BUT NOT LIMITED TO ARE; FIREFIGHTING, CODING, CONSTRUCTION, COSMETOLOGY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND MORE. IT IS ALSO BENEFICIAL TO HOLD FREQUENT WORKSHOPS THAT EXPOSE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH JUSTICE-SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT TO OPPORTUNITIES THAT DO NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THEIR PAST JUSTICE SYSTEM EXPERIENCE. THE YJYAAC ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT JOB TRAINING/PLACEMENT CAN BE A FORM OF DIVERSION. PROVIDING HONORARIUMS FOR YOUTH TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY CAN BE BENEFICIAL AND HEALING FOR THE YOUTH. IT ALLOWS THE YOUNG PERSON TO DEVELOP INTERDEPENDENCE AND MEANING THAT EVERYTHING THEY DO SHOULD BE GUIDED WITH A PURPOSE JOB PLACEMENT DIVERSION CAN BE IN A NEW LOCATION TO THE YOUTH AS IT WILL EXPOSE THEM TO OTHER OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND THE ONES THEY ALREADY KNOW.

**"JOB TRAINING IS ESSENTIAL IF YOU EXPECT THE YOUNG PERSON TO CHANGE"-**

**JARED O'BRIEN, YOUTH JUSTICE COALITION (YJC)**



## MENTORING, COUNSELING, & TRAINING PROGRAMS

YOUTH WHO UNFORTUNATELY GO DOWN THE WRONG PATH OFTEN WANT TO CHANGE, AND YJYAAC UNDERSTANDS YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS REQUIRE CONSISTENT GUIDANCE IN DOING SO. CREDIBLE MESSENGERS ARE OFTEN FLEXIBLE WITH SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN ACADEMIC TUTORING, JOB TRAINING, GANG PREVENTION/INTERVENTION, COUNSELING, AND MORE. AS A RESULT OF POWER DYNAMICS, YJYAAC STATED THAT A YOUNG PERSON IS WILLING TO REQUEST COUNSELING SERVICES FROM A CREDIBLE MESSENGER RATHER THAN A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. PARTICIPANTS ALSO ADVISE THAT IT WOULD BEST SERVE THE YOUNG PERSON IF THEY COULD CHOOSE WHO THEIR MENTOR WOULD BE RATHER THAN HAVE ONE CHOSEN FOR THEM, WHICH DEVELOPS TRUST BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OFFERING MENTORSHIP SERVICE. IN THE CONTEXT OF WHAT SORT OF MENTORSHIP SERVICES AN ORGANIZATION MAY PROVIDE, IT IS WISE TO DISTINGUISH THE "ADVICE, SUPPORT, AND GUIDANCE" A MENTOR MAY PROVIDE THEIR MENTEE. IN CONCLUSION, THE YJYAAC CONSIDERED THAT NOT EVERY YOUTH WILL BE FOCUSED ON SUCCEEDING RIGHT AWAY; AND THAT MENTOR SHOULD NOT GIVE UP ON THEM BECAUSE EACH INDIVIDUAL HAS THEIR JOURNEY.

**"WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE WANT TO DO WHEN WE COME HOME. ARC HELPS FIND AND CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH...WE ALSO SHOULD HAVE MORE THAN ONE MENTOR"**

**- EZEKIEL NISHIYAMA, ANTI-RECIDIVISM COALITION**

## RE-ENTRY & AFTERCARE



RE-ENTRY IS A SIGNIFICANT SUBJECT. WITHOUT A STABILIZED FOUNDATION, YOUTH COMING HOME FACE AN EXCESS AMOUNT OF CHALLENGES. IF THE YOUNG PERSON WAS TO GO HOME WITHOUT PROPER SUPPORT IN HOUSING, JOB TRAINING/PLACEMENT, MENTORSHIP, AND EDUCATION, THE LIKELIHOOD OF THEM RECIDIVATING IS HIGH. YJYAAC EMPHASIZED THAT COMING HOME IS ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL STEPS AFTER BEING DISCHARGED FROM INCARCERATION. HOWEVER, UNFORTUNATELY DURING THIS PROCESS, SEVERAL YOUTHS FIND THEMSELVES IN A HOLE THAT CAUSES NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR. FURTHERMORE, IT WAS NOTED THAT BEING PLACED ON SOME SORT OF CUSTODIAL SUPERVISION SHOULD NOT BE A PREREQUISITE TO RECEIVING RE-ENTRY SERVICES ONCE DISCHARGED FROM AN INSTITUTION. YJYAAC RECOMMENDS ESTABLISHING REENTRY HUBS WITH SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES IN AREAS SUCH AS HOUSING, JOB TRAINING/PLACEMENT, MENTORSHIP, EDUCATION, AND A 24-HOUR EMERGENCY SHELTER. REENTRY PROGRAMS OFFERED BY CBO'S THAT ARE CULTURALLY AWARE, STAFFED WITH CREDIBLE MESSENGERS HELP EASE THE CULTURAL SHOCK THAT YOUTH ENCOUNTER AFTER SPENDING A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME INCARCERATED. PROVIDING THE RESOURCES AND LEADING THE YOUTH TO A POSITIVE LIFESTYLE ESTABLISHES A STABLE FOUNDATION, ALLOWING THE YOUNG PERSON TO REMAIN FOCUSED AND MOTIVATED TO SUCCEED IN LIFE. IMPLEMENTING THE PROPER REENTRY COMMUNITIES CAN BUILD A PATHWAY FOR YOUTH TO THRIVE AS SOME MAY STRUGGLE WITH LIFE. IT IS CRITICAL TO MEET THE CHILD WHERE THEY ARE AND NOT HAVE UNREASONABLE EXPECTATIONS.

"REENTRY PROGRAMS OFFER ALTERNATIVES TO GETTING MONEY THE RIGHT WAY VS NOT HAVING OPPORTUNITIES AND MAKING MONEY THE WRONG WAY"

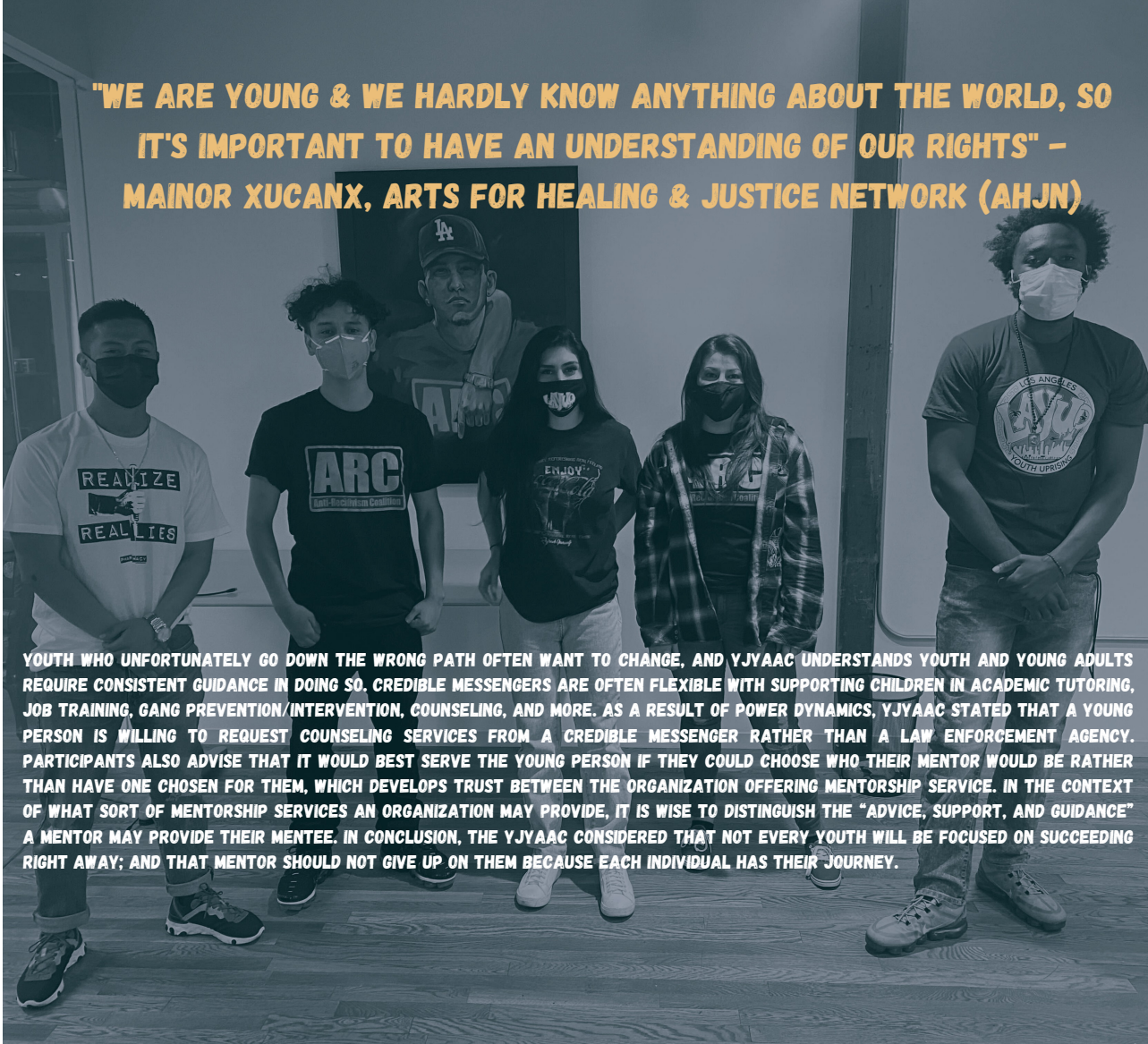
-OSWALDO LIRA, ARTS FOR HEALING & JUSTICE NETWORK(AHJN)





# PROTECTING JUVENILE RIGHTS

**"WE ARE YOUNG & WE HARDLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE WORLD, SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RIGHTS" – MAINOR XUCANX, ARTS FOR HEALING & JUSTICE NETWORK (AHJN)**



YOUTH WHO UNFORTUNATELY GO DOWN THE WRONG PATH OFTEN WANT TO CHANGE, AND YJYAAC UNDERSTANDS YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS REQUIRE CONSISTENT GUIDANCE IN DOING SO. CREDIBLE MESSENGERS ARE OFTEN FLEXIBLE WITH SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN ACADEMIC TUTORING, JOB TRAINING, GANG PREVENTION/INTERVENTION, COUNSELING, AND MORE. AS A RESULT OF POWER DYNAMICS, YJYAAC STATED THAT A YOUNG PERSON IS WILLING TO REQUEST COUNSELING SERVICES FROM A CREDIBLE MESSENGER RATHER THAN A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. PARTICIPANTS ALSO ADVISE THAT IT WOULD BEST SERVE THE YOUNG PERSON IF THEY COULD CHOOSE WHO THEIR MENTOR WOULD BE RATHER THAN HAVE ONE CHOSEN FOR THEM, WHICH DEVELOPS TRUST BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OFFERING MENTORSHIP SERVICE. IN THE CONTEXT OF WHAT SORT OF MENTORSHIP SERVICES AN ORGANIZATION MAY PROVIDE, IT IS WISE TO DISTINGUISH THE "ADVICE, SUPPORT, AND GUIDANCE" A MENTOR MAY PROVIDE THEIR MENTEE. IN CONCLUSION, THE YJYAAC CONSIDERED THAT NOT EVERY YOUTH WILL BE FOCUSED ON SUCCEEDING RIGHT AWAY; AND THAT MENTOR SHOULD NOT GIVE UP ON THEM BECAUSE EACH INDIVIDUAL HAS THEIR JOURNEY.

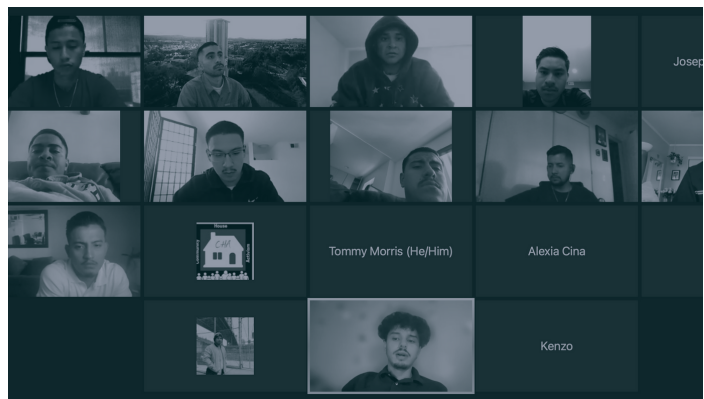
## OTHER IMPORTANT AREAS OF FOCUS TO CONSIDER

THROUGHOUT EVERY CONVERSATION ON ALL THE FOCUS AREAS LISTED ABOVE, THE YJYAAC AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A STRONG EMPHASIS ON FUNDING POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES. FURTHERMORE, WE MUST BEGIN TO APPROACH THESE ISSUES FROM A YOUTH DEVELOPMENT UNDERSTANDING RATHER THAN SIMPLY FROM MEASURING HOW BAD A CRIME IS OR USING PAST CRIMINAL BACKGROUNDS AND MISTAKES FROM YOUTH TO JUSTIFY USING PUNITIVE SOLUTIONS AND APPROACHES. THE YJYAAC BELIEVES THAT WE MUSTN'T FORGET THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HELPING AND SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES OF ALL YOUTH AND NOT SIMPLY ABOUT CORRECTION OR SUPERVISION. THESE INVESTMENTS ARE BEYOND JUST HELPING TO PREVENT DELINQUENCY IN OUR COMMUNITIES; ENSURING PROPER ACCOUNTABILITY IS HEALING AND CREATES REAL PUBLIC SAFETY IN OUR COMMUNITIES FOR VICTIMS AND YOUTH IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

THE YJYAAC ALSO EXPRESSED A NEED FOR MORE INVESTMENT AND SUPPORT IN GANG INTERVENTION WORK, JAIL REMOVAL EFFORTS, AND THE DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION OF STATUS OFFENDERS. THE GROUP AGREED THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR MORE GANG INTERVENTION WORKERS IN COMMUNITIES. LIKE MENTORS AND CREDIBLE MESSENGERS, THEY SHOULD ALSO BE INDIVIDUALS WHO UNDERSTAND GANG POLITICS AND DYNAMICS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE TO BUILD TRUST AND ENGAGE WITH THE YOUTH AND DO EFFECTIVE GANG INTERVENTION WORK. IT WAS ALSO CRUCIAL TO THE GROUP THAT GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES OPERATING JAILS AND JUVENILE HALLS BEGIN ACCEPTING THAT JAILS ARE NOT THE ONLY NECESSARY OPTION TO SOLVE THE ISSUES THAT WE FACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES. TO BEGIN THE TRANSFORMATION, WE HAVE TO LOOK AT JAILS AND INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE FAILING OR EVEN SHUTTING THEM DOWN BY CREATING MORE HEALING CENTERS AND PLACES THAT CBOS CAN OPERATE RATHER THAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT RELY ONLY ON CONFINEMENT AND INCARCERATION. THE YJYAAC ALSO STRONGLY AGREES THAT WE SHOULD ALWAYS CONSIDER THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS THAT YOUTH COME FROM AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE LIMITED RESOURCES AND SUPPORT IN PLACES LIKE THE ANTELOPE VALLEY, RIVERSIDE, SAN BERNARDINO, AND THE OTHER REGIONS FAR FROM METROPOLITAN LOCATIONS.

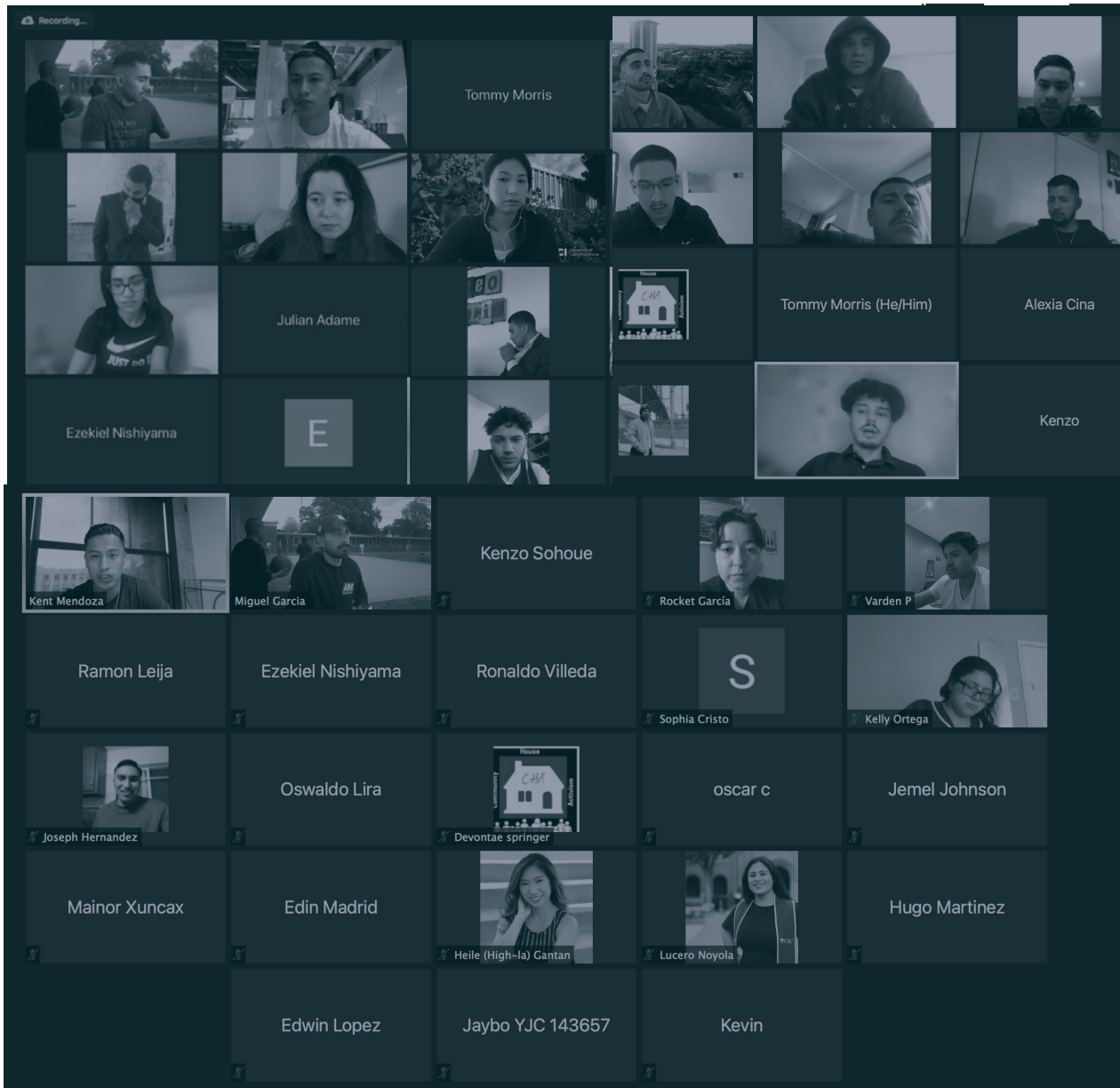
LASTLY, THE YJYAAC WANTS THE SACJJD AND BSCC TO NOT FORGET ABOUT THE LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER QUEER (LGBTQ) AND UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH POPULATIONS THAT FACE MULTIPLE LEGAL CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS. YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS WHO ARE FREQUENTLY CRIMINALIZED AND FORGOTTEN, ALONG WITH FOSTER YOUTH WHO REACH 18 YEARS OF AGE. THESE GROUPS REQUIRE MORE ATTENTION AND UNDERSTANDING BY FEDERAL AND STATE LEADERS THAT REQUIRES MORE TO BE DONE. THEY EXCLUDED FROM OPPORTUNITIES BASED ON WHERE THEY COME FROM, HOW THEY WANT TO LIVE, AND WHETHER THE YOUTH HAS PARENTS OR NOT. ALL YOUTH DESERVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES DESPITE HOW THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES.

"UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH ARE OFTEN FORGOTTEN, WE CANNOT LEAVE THEM OUT OF THE TOPICS AND CONVERSATIONS, THEY MATTER TOO"  
- RAMON CAMPOS,  
UNDERGROUND GRIT (UG)





# CONCLUSION



**ALTHOUGH THIS REPORT WAS A CONTRACTED TASK FROM THE SACJJDP SEEKING AUTHENTIC INFORMATION TO LEARN FROM COMMUNITIES ON HOW TO DEVELOP THEIR THREE-YEAR TITLE II GRANTS PLAN, THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE YJYAAC FOUND THIS PROJECT TO BE IMPORTANT TO THEM SINCE IT IS OFTEN IMPACTED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS ARE NOT GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY OR PLATFORMS TO PUT THEIR EXPERTISE INTO REPORTS LIKE THEY PARTICIPATED IN. DESPITE THE CONTRACT IS OVER, THE YJYAAC WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD THIS SPACE TO HAVE AN ACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE NEEDS AND SUPPORTS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE WITH JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT REQUIRE TO SUCCEED PRIOR, DURING, AND AFTER INCARCERATION.**