



The Latin American Youth Center Program Summary

The Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) -- a Washington, DC youth development leader for over thirty-five years -- is now one of the nation's most respected youth development agencies. From our anchor site in DC's Ward 1, a satellite site in Ward 4, and three Maryland sites in Silver Spring, Langley Park, and Riverdale, LAYC provides services annually to approximately 4,000 low-income immigrant and minority children, youth, young adults, and their families.

LAYC's mission is to "support youth and families in their determination to live, work, and study with dignity, hope, and joy." LAYC achieves its mission by adhering to a youth development model, which offers low-income and minority youth a continuum of services, programs, and opportunities. Youth facing the most significant life challenges work with *promotores* ("guides" in Spanish) who form a long-term relationship to guide the young person through all necessary programs and services in order to complete an Individual Success Plan developed on the basis of an intake assessment.

LAYC's services are clustered in five areas: *Educational Enhancement* provides academic enrichment, college preparation, and mentored recreation; *Social Services* provides prevention education and outreach, treatment, housing, and case management; *WISE* provides work and life skills training, GED preparation, and leadership development; *Art + Media* encourages youth to discover the power of their art as a means of self-expression and as a tool for exploring community issues; and *Advocacy/Public Policy* educates and involves youth in relevant public policies and civic activities. In cases where LAYC does not offer a needed service, long-standing collaborations with other community-based organizations, public (including government) agencies, clinics, and a range of private service providers allow us to meet each youth's needs without duplication, thereby increasing program impact.

All LAYC's programs and services are designed to help youth meet three goals essential to a successful transition to young adulthood: 1) increased academic success, 2) employment with long-term career potential, 3) healthy behaviors necessary to lead a healthy and happy life. In addition, LAYC seeks to promote positive change in conditions, policies, and laws affecting youth.

LAYC's Board and senior management recently completed a multi-year strategic plan to move the organization from "good to great" programmatically and to create a "built to last" financial model. Each quarter, staff present to the Board a four-part dashboard quantifying accomplishments in operations (HR), Board of Directors, youth served (program), and finances. Financial information on the dashboard includes expenses to date for current FY, revenue to date, percentage of revenue from various sources (government, foundation sources, individuals), and funds raised by strategic plan area.

LAYC is pioneering among youth development organizations in particular and nonprofits in general in quantifying program outcomes and providing funders and other stakeholders with relevant demographic, output, and outcome data. LAYC is considered one of the two most effective users of Efforts-to-Outcomes (ETO), an Internet-based performance management software used by approximately 6,000 organizations.

For more information visit our website: www.layc-dc.org or contact us at (202) 319-2225