



RECONNECTING OPPORTUNITY YOUTH IN NORTH TEXAS

Opportunity Youth are young adults who are neither enrolled in school nor employed. They represent significant untapped potential for the economy, regional workforce and, most importantly, their families and communities.

THE *Issue*

~110,000 Young adults disconnected from school and work in the **Dallas-Fort Worth** region (fourth highest in the nation).

~500,000 Young adults facing education and employment disconnection across **Texas**

1 IN 10 Young adults **nationwide** who are disconnected from school and work live in Texas.



Despite the scale of need, DFW does not yet have a coordinated regional approach to align education, workforce, and community efforts.

WHY IT *Matters*

Disconnection during early adulthood has long-term economic consequences.

- ▶ A 28-year-old Texan who has experienced disconnection earns approximately **\$17,000 less per year** than peers.
- ▶ Across Texas, annual earnings gaps of **\$12,000 to \$21,000** limit individual economic mobility and weaken the regional talent pipeline.



CURRENT TARGET POPULATION

The DFW Opportunity Youth Collaborative focuses on young adults in Dallas and Tarrant Counties who:



Have earned **some college credits** but lack a credential or degree



Are **underemployed, unemployed, or working jobs that do not pay a living wage**

This population is close to postsecondary completion and workforce advancement with targeted, coordinated support.

THE *Vision*

A coordinated collaborative that supports young adults in completing education, accessing quality employment, and achieving long-term economic mobility.

EDUCATE TEXAS serves as the backbone organization for the DFW Opportunity Youth Collaborative, convening nonprofit and community-based partners. This work is supported by investments from Communities Foundation of Texas and the Aspen Institute.

SHARED MEASURES of PROGRESS

Reduce the number of young adults who are disengaged from education and work.

- ▶ Reconnect **5 percent** to educational opportunities
- ▶ Support **2.5 percent** in earning higher wages

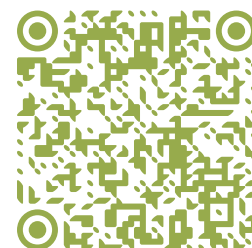


EDUCATE TEXAS

at COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

Educate Texas addresses the biggest challenges in public education.

Educate Texas, an initiative of Communities Foundation of Texas, partners with schools, colleges, employers, and policymakers to ensure all Texans have the education they need to earn a good living, find a purposeful career, and realize their bold dreams. By piloting and scaling evidence-based learning models, connecting public and private resources, and shaping education policy, Educate Texas helps students gain the skills and experiences required for success in today's economy.



GET INVOLVED