



**CradletoCareer**  
Anchored at United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona

**Successful children**  
**Engaged community**  
**Thriving economy**

# Youth on the Rise

## Opportunity Youth Change Network

For many young people, systemic inequities make it difficult to remain engaged in education and career training pathways. Opportunity Youth are young people ages 16-24 who are not in school and not working.

### Current Work and Impact

Based on the most recent data available from 2021, there are 18,137 (12.3%) youth aged 16 to 24 years in Pima County who are not in school and not working, also referred to as Opportunity Youth. **Through the Goodwill METRO Re-Engagement Centers (REC), there are 1,905 youth actively enrolled in re-engagement services** as of September 30, 2022.

**“Our youth are our community’s future in economic development. The pandemic highlighted the dire need to provide access, equity, and innovation to them.”**

*Dr. Dolores Durán-Cerda  
Chancellor (Interim) for  
Pima Community College*

# Every Youth is Connected

Youth on the Rise (YOTR), the Change Network for Re-Engagement of Opportunity Youth, takes collective action to reduce Opportunity Youth disconnection in Pima County. One of the main strategies of YOTR is the implementation of re-engagement centers. These centers are youth-centered, safe spaces where youth can receive individualized support from trusted adults and have access to other community resources and peer support.

When this strategy was implemented about nine years ago, there was one location that served between 20 and 40 youths. In 2018, with funding and data support from C2C, Goodwill Industries of Southern Arizona (Goodwill) launched their flagship re-engagement center near downtown Tucson and quickly opened a second location near South Tucson. This year, Goodwill opened up their third re-engagement center on the East side of Tucson, targeting African American youth who are justice-involved or at risk of justice-system involvement. Goodwill, with the opening of this third re-engagement center, will now be able to serve over 2,000 Opportunity Youth each year. A fourth re-engagement center will be opening at the end of 2023.

The re-engagement centers and many community partners that collaborate with Goodwill are meeting the immediate needs of youth to ensure they have access to resources, but even on a larger scale, this strategy is strengthening connections among providers that serve youth. This year, C2C piloted a workshop series geared towards preparing Opportunity Youth for employment. In collaboration with Goodwill and the Pima County School Superintendent's office, 22 Opportunity Youth were able to complete this workshop series focused on mental health and wellness at work, professionalism, and leadership, unlocking pathways to high-demand employers.

Youth on the Rise and C2C's work with Opportunity Youth addresses four of our current outcome areas: High School Graduation, Post-Secondary Enrollment, Post-Secondary Achievement, and Career Attainment. By re-engaging Opportunity Youth, we are creating pathways for educational and career attainment that will help ensure the economic vitality of Tucson and Southern Arizona.



## Youth Resource Platform: Open Doors, Just a Click Away

As part of Youth on the Rise's re-engagement efforts, they launched the Youth Resource Platform in the fall of 2022.

The digital platform serves as a guide to key services, resources, and information, in areas including housing, education, employment, health services, and more, to ease navigation of the complex systems in Pima County. The platform also streamlines access to service providers in Southern Arizona that can help address these needs. It was developed in conjunction with members of the United Youth Leadership Council and other young adults across the community who provided crucial feedback on the usability of the platform and the types of resources available. You can visit the Youth Resource Platform at [yotr.org](https://yotr.org).

**YOUTH ON THE RISE**  
RESOURCE PLATFORM

CONNECTING YOUTH  
TO THE SERVICES  
THEY NEED MOST

Check it out:  
[yotr.org](https://yotr.org)

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## Learn More

To learn more about the Youth on the Rise, contact at [info@c2cpima.org](mailto:info@c2cpima.org).

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