



Our Piece of the Pie®

*Helping urban youth become
economically independent adults*

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Nonprofit Our Piece of the Pie Wins Reentry Grant to Educate and Train 163 Hartford Young Adults

OPP will partner with FHI 360 and two other cities for the Compass Rose Collaborative, a new multi-site program that will serve young adults currently involved in the justice system to increase their employment opportunities.

Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.— With a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Our Piece of the Pie®, Inc. (OPP®) will enroll 163 young adults previously or currently involved in the justice system. The program, known as the Compass Rose Collaborative, consists of 1) support services; 2) legal services; 3) work readiness, development, and job placement; and 4) educational services. The program will increase employment rates for these young people, as well as decrease their arrest rates.

Our Piece of the Pie is working with the City of Hartford's Department for Children, Families, Youth, and Recreation and partnering with FHI 360, City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department, and the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment as part of the Compass Rose Collaborative. The group picked the name compass rose after the familiar nautical star found on maps and used by sailors to find their way for generations. The Compass Rose Collaborative will guide young people out of the justice system and into productive employment or higher education. The collaborative will help young people find their full potential.

Hector M. Rivera Jr., Chief Operating Officer of Our Piece of the Pie, sheds praise on the grant by saying, "This program will provide formerly incarcerated young people with the opportunities to develop themselves so they can live productive lives outside of prison. We look forward to working with these young people, providing them everything we have to offer within our practices in youth development, workforce readiness, and academic support as they reintegrate into society."

Lisa Johnson, Associate Director of Workforce Programs at FHI 360, leads the initiative and guides the partners. She states, "We are pleased to be working in Hartford, CT, Los Angeles, and St. Louis, MO to support young adults in these communities. Together,

our partners will be able to support each other, share best practices, and achieve stronger outcomes for the young adults enrolled in the program.”

To learn more about the U.S. Department of Labor’s Reentry Programs visit:

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20170627>

About the Partners

FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in education, health, nutrition, economic development, civil society, environment, gender, youth, research and technology – creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 60 countries and all U.S. states and territories.

Our Piece of the Pie® (OPP®) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping 14 to 24 year-old urban youth become economically independent adults. OPP’s unique model is centered around the personal and consistent relationship developed between each youth and a caring, committed adult staff member. That relationship helps participants overcome barriers, access support services within the best practices of Youth Development, Academics, and Job Readiness, and to achieve the goals of high school graduation, a postsecondary credential and meaningful employment. Founded in 1975, OPP provided community- and high school-based programs to 1,600+ young people in Connecticut last year. For more information, visit www.OPP.org.