



# LONE STAR

JUSTICE ALLIANCE

Yulise Reaves Waters, Chief Innovations Officer

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Dallas City Attorney



COX WATERS, PLLC

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## What is adolescence?



Period of human growth and development during which children become adults— intellectually, hormonally, and socially.  
(ages 10-25)

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## Characteristics of Adolescence

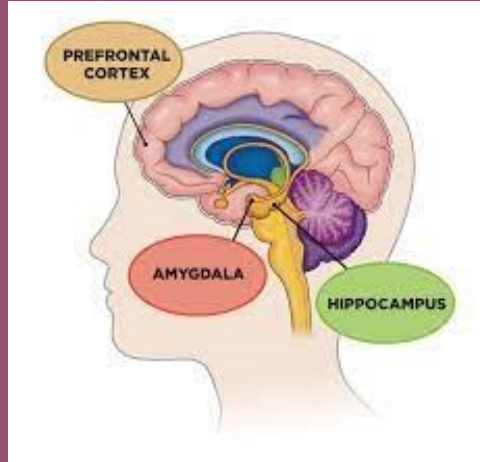
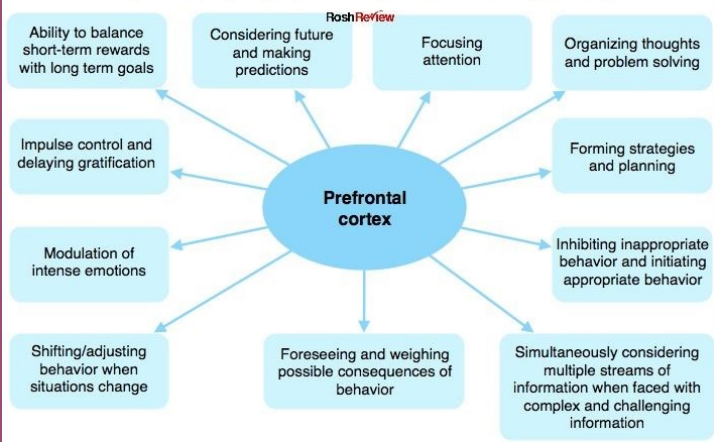
- Limited Self-Regulation
- Sensitivity to Immediate Rewards
- Susceptible to Peer Influence

- Limited ability to make decisions requiring “future thinking”
- Risk-taking
- Highly motivated



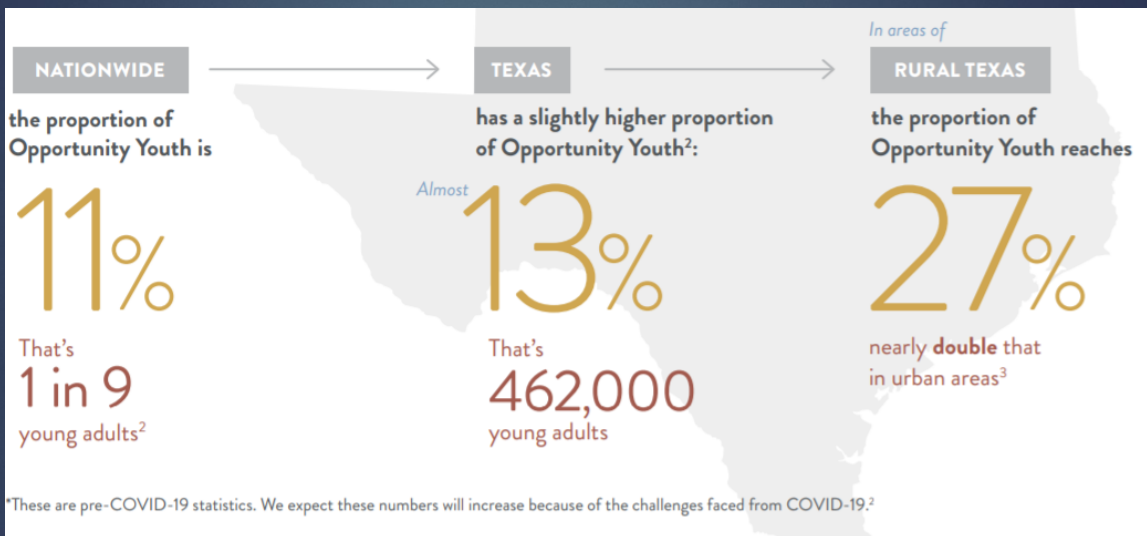
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## Functions of Prefrontal Cortex



# PREFRONTAL CORTEX

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# Making Opportunity Youth A Priority is Critical

## WHEN WE DON'T ACT

### Money Lost

The lost earning potential over the lifetimes of Opportunity Youth in the Houston area alone is estimated at

**\$27** BILLION<sup>1,2</sup>

## WHEN WE DO

### Money Made. Money Saved.

For every person we reconnect to work or school, the federal government receives nearly **\$12,000** in annual tax revenue and

**SAVES OVER  
\$35,000  
A YEAR**  
in foregone incarceration<sup>3</sup>

### Health and Security

Connected youth are<sup>3</sup>:

**9x** MORE LIKELY  
to have medical coverage

**45%** MORE LIKELY  
to own a home

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# What about Justice-Involved Emerging Adults?

***Emerging adults make up only 11% of Texans, yet they account for nearly 30% of arrests.***

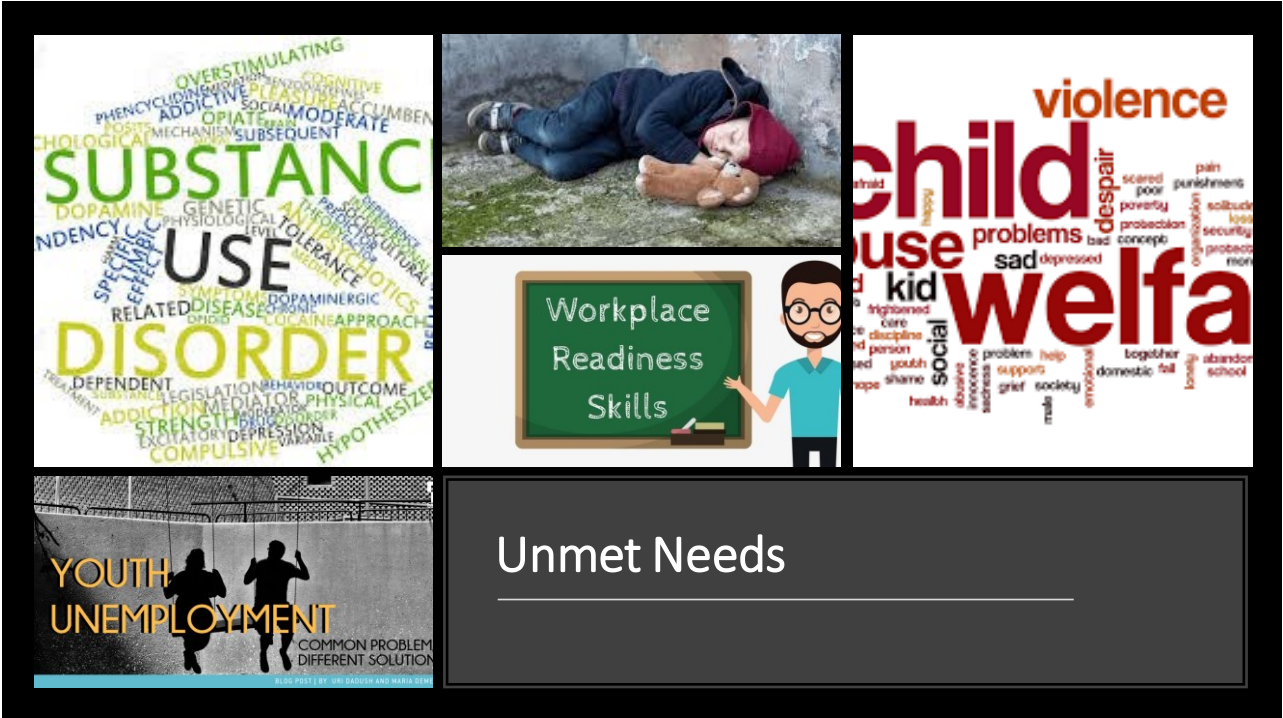
U.S. Department of Justice,  
Bureau of Justice Statistics (2014)

***Over 75% of justice-involved emerging adults recidivate, the highest short-term recidivism rate of any age group.***

U.S. Department of Justice,  
Bureau of Justice Statistics (2014)

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## What makes us unique?

- We combine **evidence-based best practices** in health, law and criminology to impact those impacted by the juvenile and criminal legal system.
- We catalyze **community-centered solutions** to remedy systemic injustices and inequities in the juvenile and criminal legal system
- We **disrupt** the very systems that impede opportunity, increase poverty, and produce unhealthy outcomes for Texas youth and emerging adults.



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# OUR WORK

- Advocacy
- Policy
- Transformative Justice



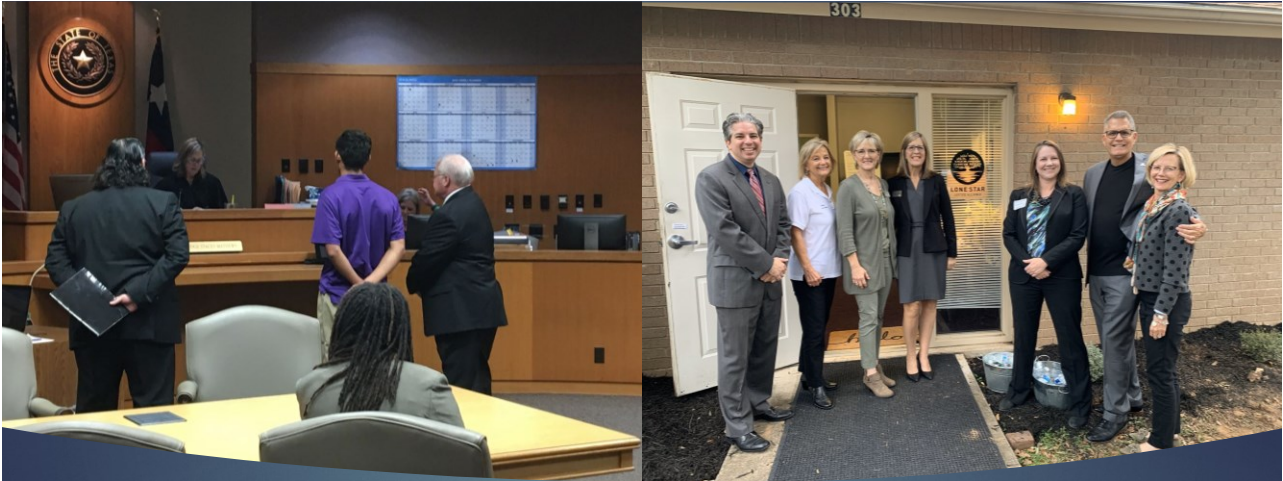
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# Transformative Justice: Williamson County RISE Program



# Transformative Justice: Dallas County Second Chance Community Improvement Program (SCCIP)





## SCCIP and RISE Impact

17% Transformative Justice

76.8% Traditional

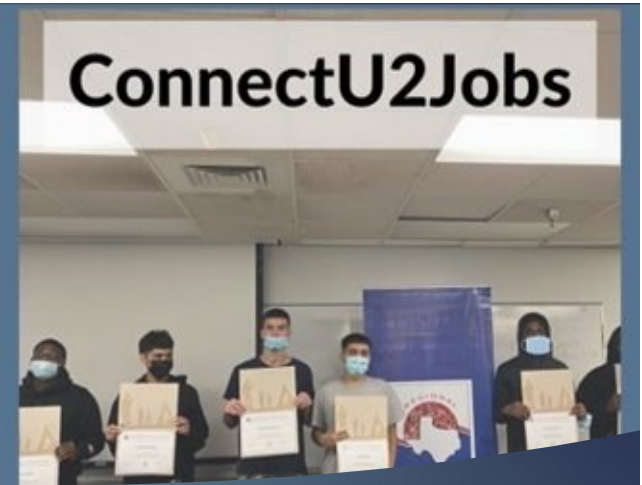
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## ConnectU2Jobs

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## What is ConnectU2Jobs?

- Collaborative Initiative
- Paid on-the-job training for justice-involved emerging adults 18-24
- Trainees will earn \$12-15 an hour
- 3 days in Heavy Equipment Operator Continued Education class
- 2 days with employer



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# ConnectU2Jobs Partners

- Lone Star Justice Alliance
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Dallas College
- Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas
- Regional Black Contractors Association
- Regional Hispanic Contractors Association
- 4 Employer partners



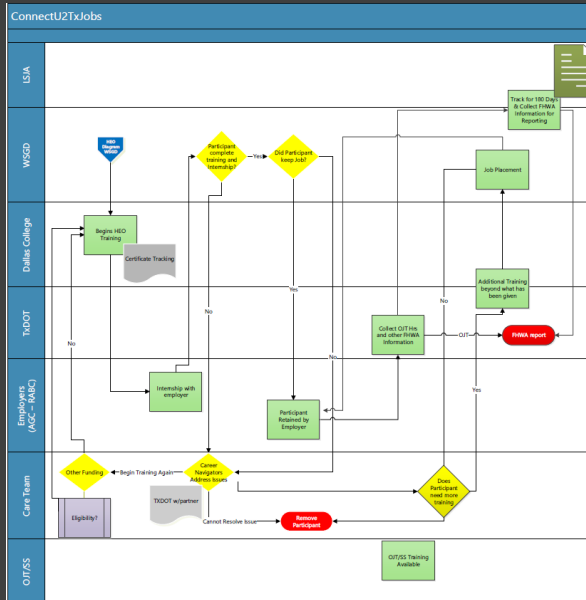
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## Where?

- Bill J Priest Institute for Economic Development  
&  
• Dallas College Cedar Valley Campus



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## Workflow

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## When?

Launched:  
September 13<sup>th</sup>

Graduation:  
November 23<sup>rd</sup>



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## What Makes Us Unique?

### Employer Training

- Adolescent Brain Development
- Trauma Informed Care
- Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports

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## What Makes Us Unique?

**Multidisciplinary  
Care Team**

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## Goals

- Increase training opportunities for women, minorities, and disadvantaged individuals.
- Reduce income disparities for justice-involved emerging adults by providing livable wage jobs.
- Reduce recidivism rates through the creation of workforce opportunities.
- Create a more diverse workforce that mirrors the state of Texas.
- Increase employer competencies for employing emerging adults generally and justice-involved emerging adults specifically

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# Thank you!

For More Information

Visit

<https://www.lonestarjusticealliance.org>

Or

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