

# Young Adult Outreach

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## Engaging young adults is a priority for The Partnership.

Young people often find themselves either wanting or needing to work, but don't where to begin. Reaching out to them using tools they are familiar with can increase the likelihood of making a true connection that can lead to the start of a lifelong successful career journey. All of us, at one time or another, need to "see what we can be."

### Roadtrip Nation

Roadtrip Nation is a nonprofit organization that tells real career stories and empowers people to connect their interests to fulfilling lives and careers. The Partnership collaborated with Roadtrip Nation, to launch the Chicago Cook Young Adult Workforce Development Portal, an online career exploration resource. As part of the collaboration, Roadtrip Nation developed a customized work-based learning digital program that leverages content from interviews with Chicago leaders to help young adults explore the opportunities right in their own communities. This resource, the Roadtrip Nation Experience, walks participants through online lessons that guide a career exploration experience by identifying career interests, researching opportunities, and conducting an informational interview with a leader in the chosen field, all with self-reflection, and assessment activities.

An alumna of The Partnership's programming at Phalanx Family Services, Yasmine Tolbert from south suburban Harvey, was selected by Roadtrip Nation to join three other young people to travel the Midwest and East Coast and speak to executives about their professional experiences. The series also featured an interview with Partnership then CEO Karin M. Norington-Reaves about her experiences and hopes for the coming generations now entering the workforce.



# Opportunity Works

Working with the Office of Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and private funders, The Partnership created Opportunity Works. Designed as a training program for opportunity youth (young adults who are not in school and not connected to employment) in suburban Cook County that connects them with businesses in high-growth sectors, Opportunity Works offers participants paid internships exposing them to careers they may not have considered in Manufacturing, Information Technology, Healthcare, and Transportation, Distribution and Logistics. The program graduated its 1,000th intern in 2020.



*Isaac F. began the program as a new high school graduate interested in the law enforcement career path. As the week of Foundational Skills progressed, he became more engaged and was placed with manufacturing in Palmer Square. They went on to hire him on the spot at the end of the program and he has now progressed to Assistant Team Leader and is beginning certifications in both Forklift Operator, and potentially welding.*

