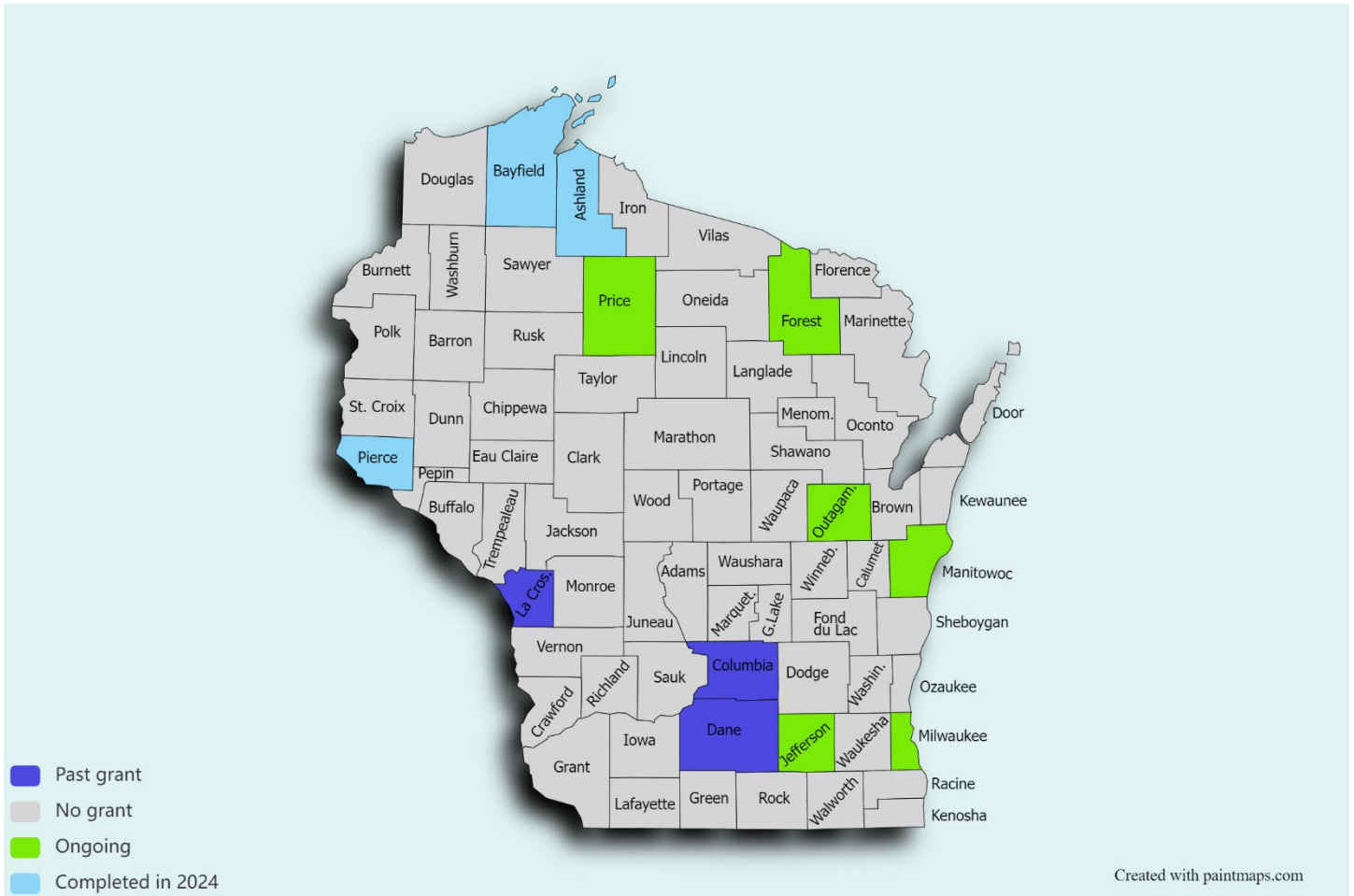




STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Title II Subgrant Summary: August 2024



COMPLETE		
Recipient Agency: Ashland County Health and Human Services		
Project Title: Expansion and Enhancement of SPARK Mentoring		
Purpose Area: Positive Youth Development		
Title II Award Year: FY2020	Award Amount: \$44,052	Project Period: 4/1/22-6/30/24
<p>Project Description: Over the past 3 years, Ashland County has developed and implemented a very successful teen mentoring program called SPARK. SPARK served 196 youth from the Ashland School District and the Bad River Ojibwe Reservation in 2021. The program is open to all youth ages 12-18, but primarily serves at-risk youth from Ashland Middle School and High School. This funding allows SPARK to expand its capacity in several ways: additional staff capacity to partner with the school district to provide in-school mentoring during the school day; additional staff capacity to expand programming days and hours. By leveraging the relationships that SPARK staff have built with the district's students, school behavioral referrals and referrals to law enforcement could be reduced if our mentors were in the schools regularly.</p>		
<p>Project Update: Through this funding, Ashland County expanded their hours for the SPARK drop-in mentoring center. They expanded partnerships with the school district to provide mentors during lunch time for all students and additional hours for targeted mentoring for expelled and suspended youth. The expansion enabled 285 new youth aged 11-16 and approximately to enroll in SPARK programming since April 1, 2022.</p> <p>The project will be continued past the end of the grant period and will be expanded through a referral partnership with local schools facilitated by a grant from another source. The school-based referrals will focus on providing youth of low socio-economic status, low attendance, disciplinary referrals, suspensions or expulsions, and failing grades with intensive mentoring, academic support, social-emotional skill development, and behavioral health services.</p> <p>Through the direct support to youth, multiple youth have experienced positive impacts. Youth-mentor relationships have facilitated positive conflict resolution and problem-solving between youth and their teachers. Additionally, mentors provided opportunities to build social and vocational skills and attend virtual educational activities that help youth avoid unsupervised out of school time and law enforcement contact.</p>		
Recipient Agency: City of Lake Mills Police Department		
Project Title: JJDPA Compliance Assistance		
Purpose Area: Compliance Monitoring		
Title II Award Year: FY2019	Award Amount: \$4,770	Project Period: 4/1/24-6/30/24
<p>Project Description: Funds will be used by the Lake Mills Police Department to add video/audio recording capability to a non-secure space, so juveniles who are in custody for a status offense, or a non-criminal offense, can be interviewed in a non-secure area. Currently, their only installed recording</p>		

devices are in secure spaces. In addition, they planned to install window coverings to windows between the secure space and a hallway to ensure sight separation between juveniles and adults in custody. This project will ensure that they can maintain sight and sound separation between juveniles and adults in custody.

Project Update: A camera system with audio/visual recording capabilities was installed in a conference room. This provides a non-secure space with recording capabilities to use with juveniles who are not in custody for delinquent offenses. Window decals were installed on all windows that separate the secure area (booking room) from the hallway. The decals provide for sight separation when a juvenile is in custody.

Recipient Agency: Phillips School District

Project Title: Capacity Building and Diversion Project

Purpose Area: Compliance Monitoring

Title II Award Year: FY2019

Award Amount: \$71,928

Project Period: 10/1/23-6/30/24

Project Description: Funds will be used by the School District of Phillips to support all youth through the administration of the three tiers of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. A procedure to identify at-risk youth will be developed which will include data collection and analysis and the completion of screening and assessment tools. Through the district's Multiple Level Systems of Support, youth identified as at risk will be assigned to work with a member of the Pupil Services Team with the goal of identifying tier 3 supports to divert the child from becoming involved in the youth justice system. The school liaison officer as well as all district staff who work with youth ages 10-17 will be educated on the diversion programs already available to students in the district and newly created programming to assist them in using diversion tactics in place of referrals to juvenile court.

Project Update: The youth diversion grant was a great success. It provided an opportunity to review current policies and procedures and reassess how youth were referred to law enforcement for infractions completed on school grounds. The onboarding of the behavior interventionist was the biggest accomplishment. Once they were on board, the agency was able to identify target areas and the interventionist was able to be trained in supporting curriculum to address the issues in the school. Tier 3 support services were available for children in at-risk situations. They were able to have one on one support with their parents involved in the process through meetings and education. The Price County CST program and Price County Mental Health and AODA Coalition were grant partners in the project. They worked with the programs to improve communication between the school and families, and the School Resource Officer. The AODA Coalition supported training for district members in Lifelines and Sources of Strength.

While they encountered communication obstacles between the local police departments and the school, they have plans to meet with the Chief of Police at the beginning of the school year to discuss the barrier and how to better organize their collaboration.

The Phillips School District has worked together with two other local school districts to plan for social emotional learning initiatives in all of three districts. They have also connected with the AODA/Mental Health Coalition to offer trainings and gain knowledge about helpful topics. They coordinate with local law enforcement and the county department of health and human services to provide services for their youth that help them to avoid contact with the court system. The Behavioral Interventionist has worked

with the District Attorney to discuss programming options and diversion tactics being used and has full support of the Price County District Attorney's office.

Recipient Agency: Pierce County Department Human Services

Project Title: Family Centered Treatment for Youth Justice

Purpose Area: Community-Based Programs and Services

Title II Award Year: FY2019

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Period: 10/1/22-6/30/24

Project Description: Funds will be used by Pierce County Department of Human Services to expand the use of Family Centered Treatment for Pierce County youth and their families that are involved in the Youth Justice system. The goal is to keep families intact by improving family functioning and eliminating the need for an out-of-home placement.

Project Update: The project continued to flourish and serve the families in the county's Human Service program areas. The therapists have been able to work intensively with families to develop skills. Families working with Family-Centered Treatment report improving their communication and relationships with their children as a result. The project will be continued beyond the end of the grant as Pierce County was able to implement two permanent fulltime FCT therapist positions within the County. They identified sustainable funding through their Comprehensive Community Service program. By utilizing DOJ funds to offer intensive in-home therapeutic services and employ tools like the YASI risk and needs assessment, they effectively identified and supported youth with moderate to high needs through the program. Maintaining program fidelity and conducting frequent meetings with families produced clear positive outcomes such as enhanced family functioning, improved communication, increased accountability, and a decrease in crisis incidents. These efforts not only benefit the families directly involve by also contribute to a safer and more stable community.

Recipient Agency: Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Project Title: Boys & Girls Club of Gitchigami Mentoring Program

Purpose Area: Indian Tribes

Title II Award Year: FY2019

Award Amount: \$28,597

Project Period: 10/1/22-6/30/24

Project Description: Funds will be used by the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians to implement a youth mentoring program at the Boys and Girls Club of Gitchigami. The youth mentoring project will improve self-esteem, confidence, life skills and social skills of tribal youth mentees; enhance youth connection and commitment to school, family and community; and maintain the Ojibwe language, tradition, customs, community and tribal youth activities.

Project Update: Program staff have conducted several mentoring recruiting efforts including job fairs and other events. They have also attended and hosted events for families and youth to get to know the program and encourage participation. Despite these efforts, the program has been unable to hire mentors for this program and make matches with youth. Technical assistance was provided but ultimately staff were unable to resolve the barriers.

Recipient Agency: WestCare		
Project Title: Youth Program Evaluation Study		
Purpose Area: Racial and Ethnic Disparities Reduction		
Title II Award Year: FY2020	Award Amount: \$55,463	Project Period: 5/1/23-4/30/24
<p>Project Description: Funds will be used by WestCare Wisconsin, Inc. (WC-WI) to conduct a program evaluation study on the programs that serve at-risk and justice involved youth. Group, individual and family mentoring activities, restorative justice healing peace circles, Forward Thinking, Transformational Change along with Social Capitol and Botvin Life Skills Training curriculum is provided weekly. The program goal is to improve outcomes (such as improved academic performance and reduced school dropout rates) for at-risk and system-involved youth, and reduce negative outcomes (including juvenile delinquency, substance use and gang participation) through face-to-face, teleconference and mobile mentoring platforms in the Milwaukee County community. The objective is to sustain and serve as many at-risk youth as possible while tracking the types of support they may need in the future, reflecting on accomplishments, success stories, challenges and progress.</p>		
<p>Project Update: The program completed all post-surveys of the youth in the program and collected the pre- and post- service survey results into the report. While the program staff faced obstacles with tracking down some participating youth to complete their surveys, they were able to contact them to receive their feedback.</p>		
Recipient Agency: Your Move MKE Inc.		
Project Title: Restorative Justice Rap Album		
Purpose Area: Racial and Ethnic Disparities Reduction		
Title II Award Year: FY2019	Award Amount: \$50,000	Project Period: 4/1/23-3/31/24
<p>Project Description: Funds will be used by Your Move MKE Inc to facilitate restorative justice circles with youth and families weekly. These circles will be based on specific topics such as: sexual molestation, homicides, racial & ethnic disparities, and more. After discussing these topics for one hour, the second hour will be used to create a 4-6 song self-titled project. This project will provide a space for families with victims of gun violence, sex trafficking or risk of recidivism, a space to express their feelings and use music to heal from trauma while promoting accountability, reflection, and family interaction through intergenerational encounters. This project is split into two sessions with 32 weeks focusing on circles, songwriting and recording and 16 weeks focused on video production, performances, and promotions. We plan to recruit youth from group homes, including LGBTQ homes, the community, and alternative schools. The area this project will benefit is Milwaukee County.</p>		
<p>Project Update: In the past quarter, the youth engaged in restorative justice cyphers every Thursday from 6-8pm. These sessions served as a regular space for open discussions, creative expression, and problem-solving, focusing on constructive ways to address and resolve conflicts. A key milestone was the completion of a 6-song album, which they celebrated with a listening party attended by three circuit court judges, a sergeant, and four police officers. This event not only showcased their musical</p>		

talents but also helped bridge the gap between the youth and law enforcement, fostering a sense of understanding and mutual respect. The album release party, held at Radio Milwaukee, provided the youth with a broader platform to share their music with friends and families. This public performance was an empowering experience, boosting their self-confidence and giving them a sense of pride in their work. Additionally, the youth reported positive interactions with the police, indicating that these activities played a role in building better relationships within the community. Overall, this quarter's events contributed to a more harmonious and cohesive environment, where creativity and restorative justice could thrive.

ON-GOING

Recipient Agency: Forest County Potawatomi Community

Project Title: Providing Protection Project

Purpose Area: Indian Tribes

Title II Award Year: FY2020

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Period: 4/1/23-3/31/25

Project Description: The Forest County Potawatomi Community (FCPC) Community Center will use funds to expand at-risk youth cultural protective factors. This will be accomplished through the delivery of regalia and drum making classes, traditional dancing and drumming classes, and opportunities to experience other Tribal cultures. The Providing Protection Project will meet the WI DOJ JJ goal of strengthening protective factors by expanding and exposing youth to new cultural opportunities, while instilling a strong sense of identity in the youth through Potawatomi culture and traditions, ultimately decreasing juvenile delinquency. The program will interactively connect youth with traditional knowledge holders and provide immersive hands-on experiences. The goal is to increase cultural protective opportunities and encourage active participation in these events. It will also stimulate youth to push past their self-imposed imitations. Youth benefits include a sense of belonging, strong identity, healthy purpose, and regular exposure to healthy role models in a safe environment.

Project Update: The program underwent some changes as the community needs and resources changed. Instead of regalia and drum making classes, the recipient hosted a bison processing workshop using traditional methods. The event provided a unique opportunity for youth and the community to participate in the revitalization of their bison culture. The event activities began at the tribal farm with a traditional ceremony that taught the youth about the importance of bison and the cultural protocols on harvesting bison. Youth and the community learned techniques for processing the meat, tanning the hide, and making tools from each part of the animal. Community elders and youth worked together to do this work and ended each day with a celebration.

Program staff saw youth take pride in their projects and parents sharing their pride in their children's work. The biggest takeaway from the event is the respect that our community gained for the bison. There wasn't any waste from any of the dinners, and our participants proudly ate their bison dishes. They realized the work that went into brain tanning and the true value of the bison hide. This bison brought our community together for 17 days where many cultural teachings were shared that boosted our community self-esteem in being native American and their self confidence in participating in their cultural events.

With funding left over after the bison event, the recipient will provide youth with an opportunity to apprentice to a master birchbark canoe builder to learn the skills and then mentor and teach youth in their community what they learned.

Recipient Agency: Jefferson County Human Services Department

Project Title: Deflecting Court Involvement Due to School Refusal

Purpose Area: Community-Based Programs and Services

Title II Award Year: FY2021

Award Amount: \$63,243

Project Period: 12/1/23-12/31/24

Project Description: The program is designed to deflect youth referred to the Youth Justice system for school refusal behaviors/chronic truancy. The program will be piloted in Jefferson School District at the high school, with additional early intervention programming for students at risk of truancy referrals at Jefferson Middle and High Schools. The program will include a school refusal intervention specialist who will provide family-based case management based on the Functional Family Case Management model. School check in mentor(s) will meet with the student at school as well as with their families in the home both during the school year and during the summer months. Transportation services if/when the barrier exists, tutoring, parent coaching, incentives for students and family members, and other evidence services will be provided to address the core issues leading to school refusal. Additional programming will be offered to middle and high school students that are at risk of chronic truancy due to trauma. Crisis intervention training using the Life Space Crisis Intervention model will be provided for select teachers and teacher aids to address crisis behaviors in the classroom that can lead to school suspension and add to school refusal behaviors.

Project Update: The program launched and is serving families. Though they have had slow referrals their workers and Check and Connect Mentor continue to meet with students and their families. The workers build rapport and develop plans and solutions for improved school attendance in the fall. The program administered an assessment to five students with the majority referred to services. The youth receiving services have already started to improve their attendance and seen improvements in their class passing rates.

Recipient Agency: Manitowoc County Human Services Department

Project Title: Youth Justice Deflection and Diversion Planning

Purpose Area: Compliance Monitoring

Title II Award Year: FY2019

Award Amount: \$68,338

Project Period: 10/1/23-7/31/24

Project Description: Manitowoc County will assemble a collaborative group to design a program that deflects youth away from arrest/youth justice referral and refers them to community-based services that address underlying needs and reduces youth exposure to the justice system.

Project Update: Ongoing stakeholder meetings related to deflection and diversion, along with discussions and work on local policy have been the main tasks during the most recent reporting period. The stakeholder group is made up of law enforcement, school staff, court officials, human services staff, service providers, and community members. The group has received technical assistance from

the RFK National Resource center and visited Fairfax County, VA to learn about their deflection and diversion program. The site visit provided valuable information about diversion systems and focus on restorative practices. The recipient has requested a modification to extend the grant one month to receive restorative justice training to complement their current diversion program plan.

Recipient Agency: Manitowoc County Human Services Department

Project Title: Youth Justice Deflection/Diversion Implementation

Purpose Area: Delinquency Prevention

Title II Award Year: FY2021

Award Amount: \$87,500

Project Period: 7/1/24-6/30/25

Project Description: Manitowoc County will hire a part-time staff member (.75) as a Community Navigator to assist in deflecting and diverting youth from the youth justice system. In addition, Manitowoc County will continue to work with the RFK National Resource Center on policy development and data collection related to youth justice.

Project Update: The project began July 1, 2024. No update is available.

Recipient Agency: Phillips School District

Project Title: SDP Capacity Building and Youth Diversion Program

Purpose Area: Delinquency Prevention

Title II Award Year: FY2021

Award Amount: \$87,500

Project Period: 7/1/24-6/30/25

Project Description: Funds will be used by the School District of Phillips to support all youth through the administration of the three tiers of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Youth identified as "at risk" will work with a member of the Pupil Services Team to identify tier 3 supports to divert the child from becoming involved in the youth justice system. The school liaison officer, building principal, and members of the pupil services team will ensure youth are offered diversion programs that have been established over the last year in place of referrals to juvenile court. Examples of diversion programs that have been developed and will be facilitated by the Behavior Interventionist include two small group sessions--one for violent behaviors (Aggression Replacement Training (ART)) and one for nicotine and other substance abuse cessation (In-Depth). Youth and parents will also be given the option of Teen Court and trainings will be made available to parents and youth about this program. Bullying prevention will also be a focus of this grant as physical aggression and bullying continue to be a school issue. This project will also provide educational training to teachers to assist them in dealing with challenging behaviors. Trainings to support youth with emotional needs will be provided. Bullying has been identified as a major concern in middle school youth. An anti-bullying assembly will be conducted for all students with follow up conducted by teaching staff during homeroom time. A Wellness Room will be created as a safe space for students in the school where students struggling emotionally will be able to go to take a break and calm down with the assistance of an individual trained in emotional regulation before returning to class.

Project Update: The project began July 1, 2024. No update is available.

Recipient Agency: Pointters Community Initiatives		
Project Title: PCI Mental Health Empowerment Program		
Purpose Area: Community-Based Programs and Services		
Title II Award Year: FY2020	Award Amount: \$125,000	Project Period: 4/1/24-6/30/25
<p>Project Description: Funds will be used to implement the Mental Health Empowerment Program. The program aims to provide comprehensive mental health support to juveniles and their parents in Wisconsin. The project integrates mental health counseling, therapeutic workshops, and psychoeducational resources. The specific goals include enhancing mental health resilience, facilitating therapeutic engagement, and promoting community awareness. The program targets improved safety, juvenile accountability, and competence. The program strives to divert youth from out-of-home placement, reduce recidivism, and support successful reentry into families and communities. Pointters Community Initiatives is committed to fostering mental health empowerment and creating lasting positive impacts on Wisconsin's youth and families.</p>		
<p>Project Update: During the first quarter of the program they completed intake assessments for new clients. The clients went through a first therapeutic session and met with family therapists. In addition to the private and family sessions, the program conducted workshops using art to provide a creative outlet for clients the complements the traditional approaches.</p>		
Recipient Agency: Wauwatosa School District		
Project Title: Restorative Practices		
Purpose Area: Delinquency Prevention		
Title II Award Year: FY2019	Award Amount: \$49,980	Project Period: 7/1/22-6/30/25
<p>Project Description: Funds will be used by Madison Elementary School in Wauwatosa, and additional collaborating staff in the district, to strengthen, expand, and level up their fledgling restorative justice/practices action plan established in the 2020-2021 school year. They will use the funding for training, coaching, consulting, and supplies to help move from the stage of reading and theory to the stage of application and implementation. Their core focus will be on 4th and 5th grade, though the work will impact the entire school. They plan to invite peer staff from the associated middle school to expand the restorative justice program to older youth as well.</p>		
<p>Project Update: Madison Elementary School has trained the majority of their full-time staff including all new staff and regular education and special education paraprofessionals. They continued to partner with Whitman Middle School which will begin receiving restorative practices training and consultation in future quarters. Consistent and effective restorative practices help students feel a sense of belonging and safety at school, and staff are better equipped to manage and support student behavioral and social emotional needs. The program aims to continue reductions in Office Discipline Referrals and Out of School Suspensions as a result of restorative practice work.</p>		

Whitman Middle School has begun training their staff in restorative practices and implement this system change into their school.		
Recipient Agency: Your Move MKE Inc		
Project Title: YMRJ Academy		
Purpose Area: Delinquency Prevention		
Title II Award Year: FY2021	Award Amount: \$58,070	Project Period: 4/1/2024-6/30/25
<p>Project Description: Your Move MKE Inc. is dedicated to strengthening their commitment to establishing a secure refuge for youth and families. Functioning as a central hub for intergenerational and innovative programming, their community center is steadfast in providing a nurturing environment where marginalized youth can explore their interests and passions. With the aid of this funding, they plan to extend their programming. Your Move Restorative Justice Academy will feature two additional weekly program options. The initiative aims to provide alternative avenues for youth expression and strives to persist as a space of support, healing, understanding, and empowerment for young, underrepresented and vulnerable individuals, thereby fostering enduring positive change in the community. YMRJ Academy actively promotes youth accountability, while their outreach initiatives instill a prosocial dimension. Their intergenerational and creative program events cultivate a safe community for youth and families. Their key partners are deeply committed to social impact, collectively contributing to the growth of the socioeconomically challenged area the agency serves.</p>		
<p>Project Update: In the first quarter, the program was in a crucial planning phase, focusing on the development of lessons for music administration and organizing weekly production classes. During this period, the program dedicated significant effort to recruitment, reaching out to potential participants and ensuring a robust and diverse group of youth benefit from the initiative. The groundwork was essential for creating a structured and supportive environment for the participants to thrive and gain valuable skills. Later in the quarter they successfully launched sessions in music administration. Though the sessions and showcases, youth are learning to collaborate on group sets while also developing individual songs allowing them to express their unique voices. The combination of group and solo projects fosters a sense of teamwork and individual creativity providing them with training in both performance and self-expression.</p>		