



Graduating Students, One Community at a Time

Program Description:

The Louisiana State Youth Opportunities Unlimited (LSYOU) program is a case-managed dropout prevention program for at-risk students that provides them with long-term, relationship-based strategies designed to foster academic achievement and workforce readiness.



Students:
75



Funding:
\$300,000

The program consists of an initial five-week summer-in residence component before the students enter 9th grade, followed by support throughout each high-school year.

All students who enter the program are identified as potential dropouts based on poverty-level family income plus at least two of the following criteria: offender; pregnant or parenting; over-age for grade level; failing two or more classes; member of a single-parent family; and reading or math scores at least two years below grade level.

The Aspire funding will expand the New Orleans program to Baton Rouge and eight surrounding parishes.

- The mission of LSYOU is to provide a long-term, case-managed, relationship and data driven intervention into the lives of high-need students to enable them to successfully graduate from High School and enter post-secondary education.
- Additionally, the program serves as an outreach to the community, a service learning site to the Louisiana State University faculty and students and a place where students from the College of Human Sciences & Education can learn effective teaching, counseling and data collection techniques.

"[Being in the LSYOU program] allowed a young person to explore and deal with new settings, meet new people, and face new challenges; skills which I continue to use. As I look back and consider my past, I am where I am today is partly due to LSYOU and its positive reinforcements. It's amazing what six weeks of learning can do for a person who is looking for direction and purpose."

Tuan Bui, LSYOU Alumni