



Annual Report 2021



Emerging Workforce Initiative, Inc. dba The Book Works Project is a 501(c)3 Tax Exempt Organization, EIN 27-1301274. Our mission is to create programs, partnerships, information, and supports that prepare vulnerable youth and young adults for career pathways.

Our History

In 2009, a committed group of community advocates for youth gathered to focus on the growing and complex needs of Louisville's young people who were disconnected from opportunities due to discrimination or disadvantage. They formed a nonprofit to create programs, partnerships, information and supports for our community's vulnerable, yet extraordinary, youth and young adults.

In 2021, the board of the Emerging Workforce Initiative made a strategic decision to use "The Book Works", a highly successful and innovative project of the organization, as our primary identity. Our purpose and our passion remain the same. Our organizational name now better reflects our work.

Our Work

The Book Works (formerly Emerging Workforce Initiative) advocates with young people who lack equitable access to education and employment due to educational disruptions, childhood trauma, racial or social discrimination, or economic hardship.

We focus on reconnecting Louisville's young people (high school age through early adulthood) with education and employment using four key strategies:

1. Identify the reasons young people disconnect in our community;
2. Create opportunities for young people to learn skills they need in school and work;
3. Expand the capacity of individuals and institutions to advocate for and with young people;
4. Increase the community awareness of and response to young people experiencing disconnection.



Book Sale

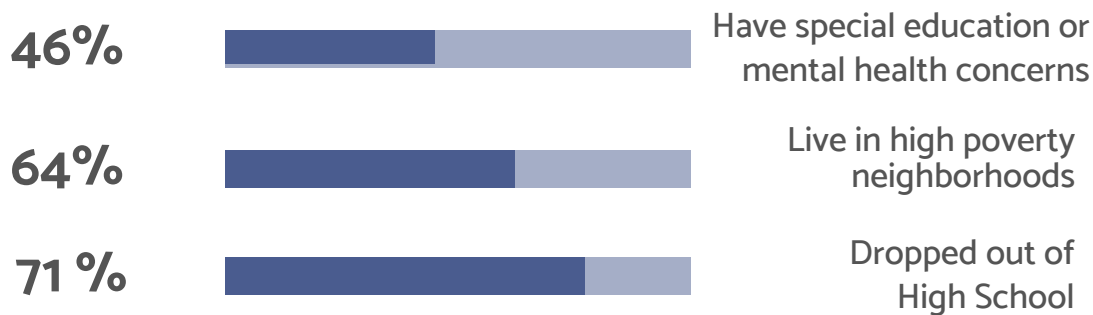
The Need

The Book Works addresses the needs of people who face obstacles as they become adults. Nearly 20,000 of Louisville's youth ages 16 to 24 are seeking paths back to education and employment. These young people are often disconnected from "opportunities" due to poverty, academic struggles, or a lack of reliable adult mentors. Delays getting back on track are costly to young people and to employers who need talent for skilled positions.



For too many young people in Louisville, their goal of graduating high school or living economically independent is difficult, delayed, or diverted altogether. When and how a young person veers off course varies. For many, there are sudden, chronic, or intermittent factors at both the individual and system level.

The young people we serve...



Our Impact

We advocate with and for young people as individuals and at the system level, indicating the true impact of our work can be challenging to measure. For the more than 40 young people we have worked with on reaching their individual goals, approximately three of four leave with housing and services in place, and have made progress toward their education goals. At least 80% leave employed.

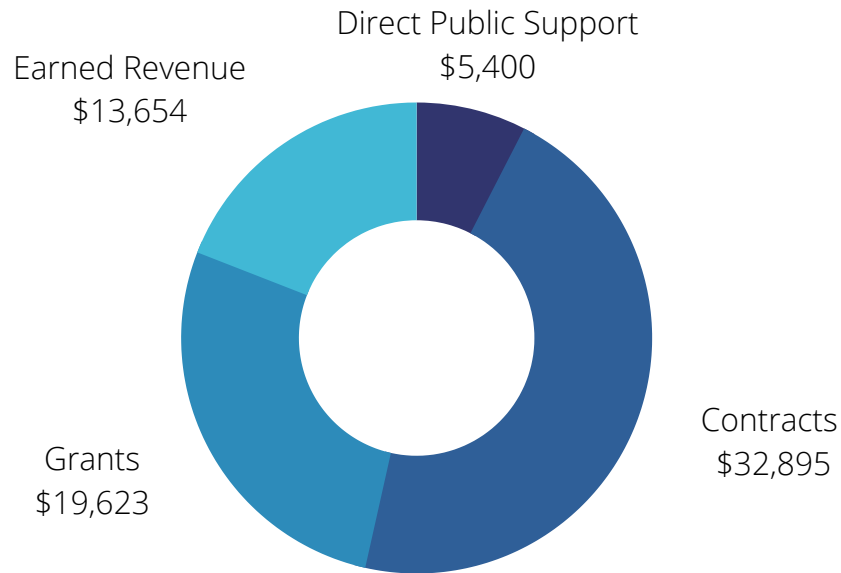


2021 Revenue

Total Cash: \$ 71,575

Total In-Kind Facilities, Professional Services, and Donated Items: \$51,000

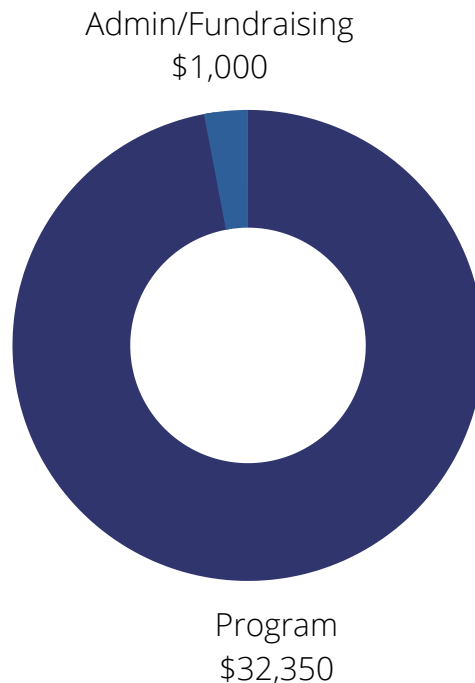
Total Ending Net Assets: \$38,195



2021 Expenses

Reconnect to Education: Approximately 35% of program expenses

Reconnect to Employment: Approximately 65% of program expenses



Strategic Goals

In Louisville and throughout the U.S., the struggles of youth and young adults intensified in 2021. The public health, economic, and social justice crises of the last two years disproportionately impacted young people, particularly those already marginalized by racial discrimination, childhood traumas, and histories of educational disruptions.

The Book Works is committed to finding innovative partnerships and programs to meet the increase in needs. In the coming months, we will:

1. **Expand our Education Advocacy Training.** The Book Works delivers Education Advocacy training on the education rights of learners, how to navigate systems, and how to connect learners with school and community-based services. Through their collective efforts, Education Advocates shift the systems toward equitable access to high-quality education pathways and support for each young person in the community.
2. **Train and deploy Education Advocates.** By the end of this year, The Book Works will have at least six college students assisting high school age learners experiencing educational disruption to reconnect with school and academic supports.
3. **Develop a Network of Reengagement Hubs.** The Book Works coordinates with the Coalition Supporting Young Adults and JCPS Adult Education to create neighborhood sites offering educational reengagement services.
4. **Improve the pathways to employment for young people working in our social enterprise:** We are committed to ensuring each team member completes their 250-hours working and learning at The Book Works well prepared for the next step on their career pathway.



Thank You

Our work would not be possible without the partners providing in-kind support, including YouthBuild Louisville, YMCA Safe Place, Coalition Supporting Young Adults, and South Louisville Community Center.

We thank the many donors and sponsors who support The Book Works including Bluegrass Book Hunters, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, and many generous individuals.

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