



## American YouthWorks' 2021 Community Impact Report

HOUSTON, TEXAS  
5906 Canal Street  
Houston, TX 77011

AUSTIN, TEXAS  
1901 Ben White Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78741

★ HOME OFFICE

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA  
6032 Fieldstone Dr, Ste B  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

**AYW.org | 512.744.1900**

Founded in 1975, American YouthWorks connects young adults with equitable access to education, paid career training, and supportive services through two primary programs, Texas Conservation Corps and YouthBuild Austin. Participants learn new job skills, attain certifications and build a personal and professional network while serving the community.

### Service projects address critical issues in the community



*Stats from 2021 American YouthWorks' Corps Profile*

### Antiracism & Racial Equity

American YouthWorks (AYW) was founded on creating equitable opportunities in underinvested communities and is committed to integrating Antiracism and Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging throughout the organization. AYW strives to provide a welcoming learning environment where diverse perspectives are supported and valued. Recent initiatives include:

- A 5-Year Strategic Plan, intentionally integrating Antiracism, Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging principles into all goals and objectives to ensure they guide agency decision-making and programming initiatives.
- A staff-led Anti-racism/Racial Equity Committee, formerly known as the “DEIB Committee,” composed of members who volunteer to serve on the Committee and represent all areas of the organization.



- Reviewing and revising internal processes to be more racially equitable and inclusive.
- Offering staff Beyond Diversity and Undoing Racism workshops to expand cultural awareness.
- Working with an independent consultant teaching Anti-racist principles to the Committee members, and
- Facilitating monthly challenging conversations for all AYW staff around systemic racism, how it shows up in the workplace, how power structures can negatively affect staff members, and the overall impact of our work.

## AYW Highlights

- The agency wide database system that staff designed and implemented has created greater efficiencies in the application and enrollment process.
- New partnerships and funding opportunities in the Houston area are leading to sustainable growth and more community recognition for the operating site.
- Clean & Green, our partnership with Harris County District Attorney's Office, was scheduled to resume in 2022.
- Austin Civilian Conservation Corps partnership with the City of Austin continues to offer career training to residents economically impacted by the pandemic.
- The Development & Communications Team is rethinking how to create inclusive processes based on the Antiracism Principles. The Antiracist Strategy Chart is used to guide the group, comprised of all staff and participants who want to be involved, through the process of deciding what content to share out and how to share it out.
- YouthBuild Austin has a new manufacturing career training track with an on-site print shop microbusiness.
- In YouthBuild Austin, 26 families and 32 children were served through the “2-Gen” initiative.
- Creativity in conservation corps recruitment approaches is strengthening partner relationships and the corps identity.



American YouthWorks has continued to deliver program services throughout the pandemic, implementing new safety protocols on campus and all job sites.



# Participants' Accomplishments

## Conservation Corps



**163** members received industry certifications

**8,547** people were assisted at Covid vaccination sites during a disaster response

**76,755** acres of habitat restored & **125** acres treated for invasive species


**15,222** trees planted

**109.82** miles of trails constructed and maintained

**4.31** miles of waterway improved

**13** historic structures rehabilitated

## YouthBuild Austin



**31** participants earned a High School Diploma or GED

**55** participants received industry certifications

**4** homes constructed and **2** repaired

Within 30 days of exiting the program,

**3** participants were enrolled in a 2 year college

**2** participants enrolled in a 4 year college

**2** participants were enrolled in a vocational or technical program

**35** participants were employed full-time

Health Corps participants gained experience through

**4** pop up clinics with EMS

**3** blood drives with American Red Cross

**2** food distribution events with Austin Voices

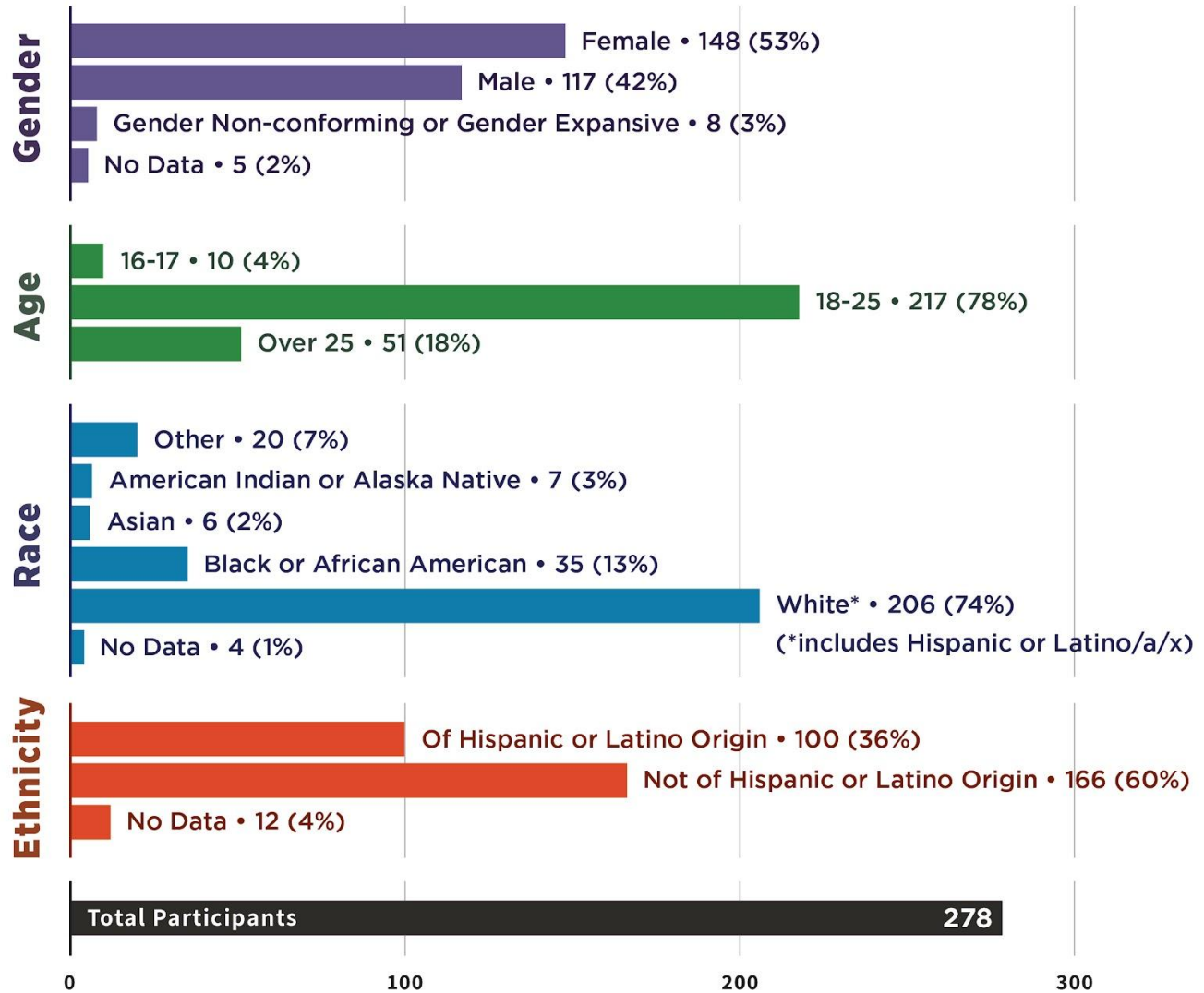
**3** community education phone banking events for Austin Voices

**1** community education event at Huston Tillotson

Health Corps participants also

- developed a health information newsletter for AYW
- gathered items to be given to unhoused individuals during the holidays

# AYW Participant Demographics



Participants' demographics from The Corps Network's Corps Profile

## Counties Served

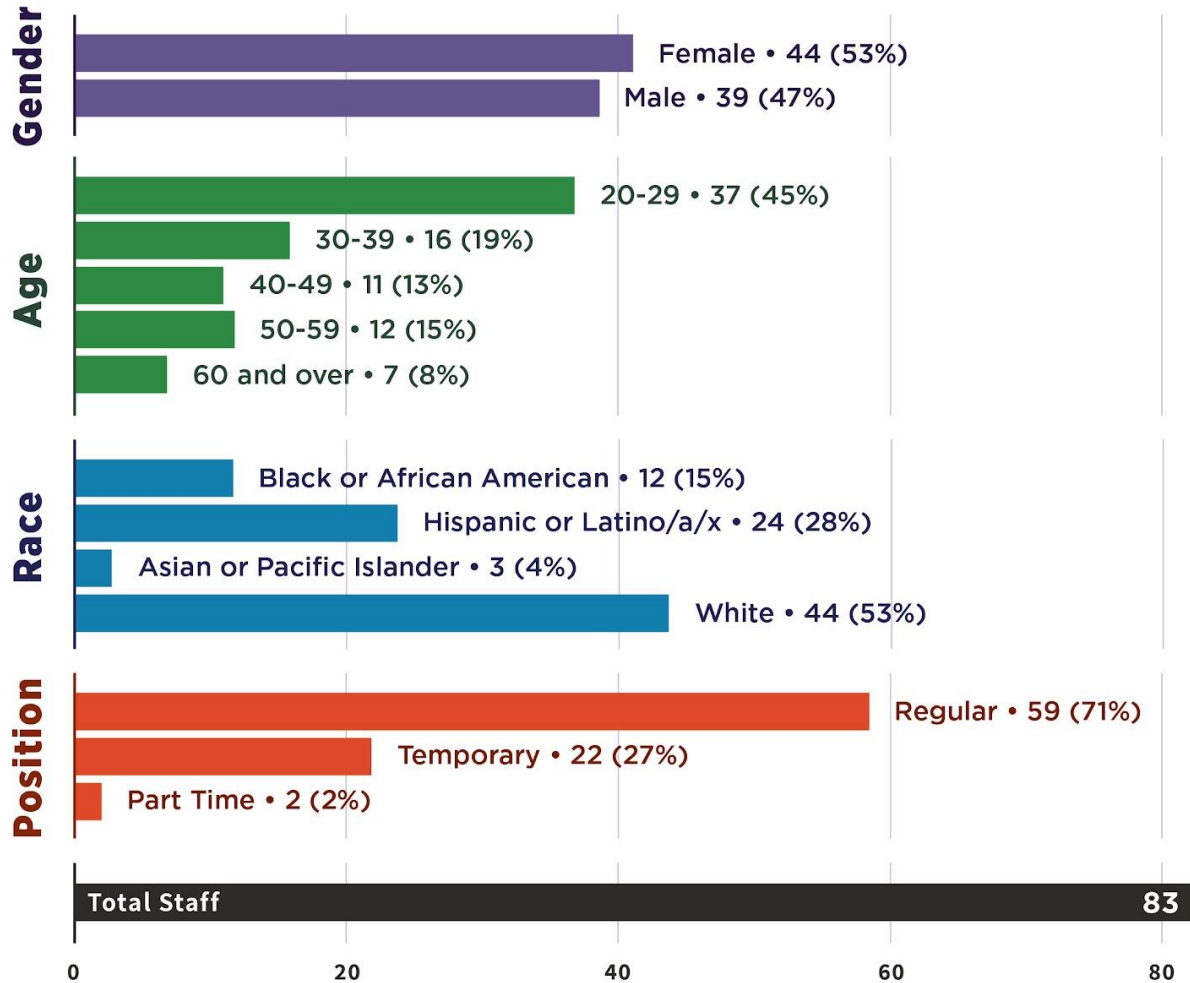
**Texas** | Travis, Harris, Bexar, Walker, Sabine, Angelina, Hay, Caldwell, Bastrop & Williamson

**Louisiana** | East Baton Rouge Parish, Natchitoches Parish

AYW acknowledges that demographics surveys based on race or ethnicity do not fully capture the diversity of our community and therefore can misrepresent and leave out important identities.



# AYW Staff Demographics



## Staff Highlight | Vanessa

“Why I work at AYW? Simply said, because of the culture here. We value inclusivity and kindness above all else, which allows for people to be seen as more than just employees. I also love working with the youth in the community. There is no bigger investment in our future than our youth. If we want our society to progress, we must invest in our people.”

Picture: Something Cool Studios held a mosaic art workshop for various students and staff led by J Muzacz (left). During the workshop, Vanessa (middle-left) spoke to our youth about “socially conscious art”.



# Program | Conservation Corps

Texas Conservation Corps is a nationally accredited AmeriCorps program where participants build lasting connections while improving local green spaces and learn about environmental careers.

Through projects on public lands and trails, coastal regions, and national parks, corps-members develop leadership, teamwork skills, and build professional networks.

Participants are also trained in disaster response and deployed on federal and state assignments to help people in communities impacted by environmental-related disasters.



“Ever since I joined TxCC in 2019, I have found a community of people that are accepting of who I truly am and of my disability. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve 4 seasons that have been full of growth and development. I am so thankful for my terms of service and the amazing staff that have guided me through this experience.”

**Sidney, TXCC member**

## Austin Civilian Conservation Corps Highlight

The Austin Civilian Conservation Corps (ACCC) was awarded The Corps Network 2022 Project of the Year Award.

*The Project of the Year Award honors Corps that have undertaken especially noteworthy endeavors within the past year. Projects of the Year are innovative and show a Corps' ability to work with partner organizations, give Corpsmembers a positive experience, and provide the community with meaningful improvements.*

*- from The Corps Network website*

Read about ACCC on the “Partner Highlights” page!



Throughout the pandemic, AYW Conservation Corps has been adapting safety protocols according to health recommendations in the cities where we operate.



# Program | YouthBuild Austin

YouthBuild Austin is an education and career training program that annually serves 100+ young adults ages 16-24, who have been disconnected from school and work. Participants complete their education by earning a high school diploma at our on-site charter school or instructor-led GED program. No experience is required and participants receive paid career training and industry certifications in:



**Healthcare**



**Computer Technology**



**Green Construction**



**Manufacturing**

The program offers individualized learning plans and supportive services such as:

- Counseling and case management
- Basic needs assistance
- Job readiness skills
- Guided career and college connections
- New Start initiative for court-involved youth
- High-quality early childhood education

“AYW gives you more freedom to figure out your interests, way more than other schools. They teach you how to be independent. I was struggling before I came to AYW and now I feel like I’m on a good path. AYW has helped guide and educate me on many levels.”

- **Jonathan, YBA Graduate**

## Print Shop Micro Business

YouthBuild Austin launched a print shop micro business as on-site training for the new manufacturing career training track. The print shop is managed by participants and supervised by MediaCorps instructors. Participants design and create marketing materials for clients using silkscreen, heat transfer and laser engraving techniques while learning all aspects of running a business and marketable job skills.

**For more info or to place an order, contact [mstawicki@ayw.org](mailto:mstawicki@ayw.org).**



YouthBuild Austin immediately shifted to remote learning in March 2020, and in Fall 2021 resumed in person classes, training and service activities.





# AYW Expenses & Revenues

AYW benefits from a blended-funding model, with a diverse mix of private foundation and government grants, individual and corporate donations, and earned revenue through Fee-for-Service (FFS) project work.

During the Fiscal Year 2021, COVID-19 continued to impact the agency, most notably in a decline in the Conservation Corps' FFS revenue and expenses. AYW had also received contributions in 2020 relating to 2021 expenses causing a slight loss for the year.

## Revenue in Millions



## Expenses in Millions



# Partner Highlights



Through the partnership with **City of Austin's Office of Digital Inclusion**, YouthBuild Austin's Media Corps participants help recycle and reuse technology equipment that is distributed out to public computer labs and donated out to low-income communities. During this past year, participants have helped refurbish 1,164 devices.



**The Austin Civilian Conservation Corps (ACCC)**, an initiative of the City of Austin and American YouthWorks, is one of the partner organizations offering job opportunities and career paths for individuals impacted by COVID-19, while contributing to environmental resiliency.



YouthBuild Austin's Casa Verde Builders partners with **Community First! Village**, a development of **Mobile Loaves & Fishes**, where program participants just completed the 40th micro home for formerly shelterless residents who now live in this community.

In working with the **Clarksville Community Development Corporation**, YouthBuild Austin's Casa Verde Builders broke ground on a new affordable single-family housing in central Austin on a "land-trust" lot (the city retains ownership of the land). The 10 properties, which include single-family homes and duplexes, are located throughout Clarksville and provide low-cost housing to 16 families.

**Go Austin/Vamos Austin (GAVA)** supports recruitment outreach efforts by providing consulting workshops that cover 1) basic definitions and applied analysis of diversity, equity, and inclusion and 2) community context, history, and guiding principles for outreach and engagement in Austin's Eastern Crescent.

Texas and Louisiana Conservation Corps are proud to host specialized **GulfCorps** crews, now with 4 years of funding through the RESTORE Act. These crews help public lands and preserves in the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast regions.



We are always looking for volunteers, tutors, mentors and sponsors to support student experience and program initiatives. Contact us for more information!



# Because of your support...



We are so grateful for our community of supporters who helped American YouthWorks serve the community through program activities and service initiatives. Without the generosity and continued support of our donors, volunteers, sponsors, tutors and mentors, we could not have celebrated our accomplishments in 2021!

**61**

community volunteers served

**685**

hours

**4** events were held that provided volunteer opportunities for the community

## Sabrina, YouthBuild Austin graduate

Before coming to American YouthWorks, I had just moved out on my own and found out I was pregnant. I was attending GED classes at another organization but I did not feel like I was advancing or learning very much. American YouthWorks was different, I feel like they actually want to help you and they do. I am so excited that I graduated finally. Now, I am working on enrolling into Austin Community College for Spring 2022. My goal is to go to school to become a nurse!

Together  
we  
Support  
OPPORTUNITIES  
to GROW &  
SERVE





# Thank you!

For more information, please contact

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Parc Smith

PSmith@

AmericanYouthWorks.org

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Élizá Anzaldúa Montaña

EMontana@

AmericanYouthWorks.org

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Tammy El-Tawil

TEltawil@

AmericanYouthWorks.org

