About JEVS Human Services

JEVS Human Services (JEVS) is a multifaceted organization that has built a reputation in Philadelphia as the “go-to” agency for effectively working with individuals who have barriers. The JEVS mission is to enhance the employability, independence, and quality of life of individuals through a broad range of programs and create innovative, sustainable solutions to address current and future community needs. Guided by this mission, JEVS promotes an asset-based approach to working with clients so that individuals achieve the most self-sufficient lifestyle possible. To maximize the potential of our clients, JEVS connects them to high quality education, training, or employment opportunities. We serve more than 23,000 individuals annually, most of whom are Philadelphia residents living below the poverty line.

JEVS Youth Programs

JEVS serves diverse youth populations, including out-of-school youth, high-risk in-school students, youth with disabilities, youth transitioning out of foster care, and youth in the criminal justice system. Our programs include academic and interest assessments; postsecondary counseling for college, trade and vocational programs; standardized test prep; academic skill building; job readiness training; service learning; and internship opportunities. To respond effectively to the challenges faced by the populations we serve, JEVS also provides intensive wrap around supports for youth so that they can engage academically and develop essential skills to be successful.

Each year, JEVS serves over 2,000 young people throughout Philadelphia. Recent outcomes have been outstanding:

- gains of up to 200 points in SAT scores for students receiving SAT coaching
- 95% high school completion and 70% postsecondary enrollment in our Project PASS for at-risk students
- 8% recidivism rate and 71% job placement success for The Choice Is Yours, our vocational and service learning program for first-time non-violent offenders
- 91% retention rate of GED-track students at our E3 Center for out-of-school youth

Because of our history of success, our programs have been profiled as effective models for engaging out-of-school youth in the Philadelphia Social Innovations Journal.

Questions about JEVS Youth Services can be directed to:

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## JEVS Youth Services

### Services to In-School Youth
JEVS has served hundreds of students in more than 50 Philadelphia public and charter schools through the following programs.

**21st Century PASS Program (Preparing, Attaining and Sustaining Success):** PASS increases high-risk students’ rate of high school graduation and prepares them for work and/or higher education using JEVS’ 21st century skills curriculum. In collaboration with George Washington High School, PASS provides juniors and seniors with tutoring, academic skill building, SAT preparation, service learning, 21st century skills job readiness training, and summer and school-year internships while helping them reduce barriers to success.

**PREP4Success:** Funded by the Five Together Family Foundation, PREP4Success provides high school transitional services to at-risk 11th graders in Philadelphia. JEVS provides participants with one year of educational/vocational services such as interest and educational assessments, SAT tutoring, 21st Century job readiness skills, and financial aid consulting.

**Lasko College Prep Program:** This year-round program provides at-risk, low-income youth with a college student mentor, stipends, tutoring, SAT preparation, and assistance with financial aid and college applications.

**Gr8 Strategies Compensatory Education:** Gr8 Strategies serves youth ages 15 and up who are eligible for compensatory education agreements which allow students to receive extra benefits from school districts. JEVS receives referrals from compensatory education attorneys to ensure satisfactory Individualized Education Assessments and provide services in accordance with each student’s individual needs. JEVS compensatory education services include: educational testing and/or referrals, vocational and interest assessments, life skills assessment and/or training, educational tutoring, internships, and job coaching.

### Services to Out-of-School Youth
JEVS delivers an array of high-impact programs to help out-of-school youth achieve their academic, personal, and employment goals.

**E3 Center:** Out-of-school youth come to JEVS’ E3 Center for education, employment, empowerment and life skills training designed to help them re-engage academically and develop the skills necessary to be successful in the global economy. Participants in JEVS’ E3 program receive literacy and GED instruction, job training, work experience, job placement assistance, postsecondary counseling, individual case management, and more.

**Project WoW (World of Work):** Project WoW takes place at JEVS’ state-of-the-art trade school, Orleans Technical Institute. Project WoW engages out-of-school youth by providing them with contextualized academic skills training (reading and math), GED preparation, and training in the trade of property maintenance leading to a diploma. Youth receive case management and referrals to job support services, job readiness training, and job placement.

**The Choice is Yours:** The Choice is Yours is a collaboration between JEVS, Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams, The Pennsylvania Prison Society, and the Center for Literacy to provide a local alternative to incarceration for nonviolent first-time drug offenders. JEVS provides individual and group educational and
skills training, job readiness preparation, job placement assistance, community service experience, and mentoring. If participants complete the program, the criminal charges against them are dropped. If participants do not have any additional violations within a year of the program, their criminal records are expunged.

**Independent Living Services**

JEVS provides numerous programs for youth with physical, intellectual, and emotional disabilities, ranging from programs that provide skills training, job placement, and on-the-job support to programs providing community living and home supports.

**Culinary Connections:** Culinary Connections provides 12 weeks of hands-on training for foster youth and youth with disabilities. The program teaches knife and cutting skills, safe food handling, soups and sauces, menu management, and job readiness skills resulting in a ServSafe certificate. After a five-week internship in a Philadelphia restaurant with on-one support from JEVS staff, youth learn the “ins and outs” of a real kitchen and become valuable staff members earning a Culinary Arts Skills Certificate. Graduates work with JEVS community employment specialists to secure paid restaurant employment.

**Project Success:** Project Success serves youth with Asperger’s Syndrome or Pervasive Developmental Disorder (Not Otherwise Specified). The program supports these young adults to transition to the world of work through interest and employment assessment, job readiness training, job placement, and job coaching. JEVS staff help program participants find and maintain a job where they can achieve success and build on long-term vocational goals.

**Kitchen Table:** Kitchen Table is run out of the Department of Human Services’ Achieving Independence Center. The program provides valuable life skills to youth transitioning out of foster care. The program includes a series of workshops with training on nutrition, kitchen safety, cooking skills, and basic household financial management. The workshops infuse project-based learning to enhance participant confidence and independence.

**Life Sharing:** Life Sharing provides residential support to youth ageing out of foster care and youth with disabilities. Life Sharing participants become members of a caring family, live in a secure environment, and participate in the larger community around them. JEVS works closely with Life Sharing participants and host families to ensure the goals of each individual are met and that youth successful transition to adulthood.

**Philadelphia Independence Network:** The Philadelphia Independence Network (PIN) empowers young adults with disabilities so they can live independent and full lives. PIN has created a co-ed community of young adults in their 20s with disabilities. Individuals in the program lead independent lives with supports provided by JEVS Human Services. Supports include life-skills training, community socialization activities, and group employment training.

**Career Exploration/ Career and Technical Education**

**JEVS Vocational Training:** Young adults come to JEVS’ nationally accredited and licensed career school, Orleans Technical Institute, to receive training in human services, the building trades, and court reporting in the region’s only court reporting program. To help students achieve success, the school offers a complete set of support services, including job readiness, remedial instruction, career counseling, financial aid assistance, job clubs, and placement services, as well as referrals to support services including childcare, transportation, and health-related providers. We also provide hands-on training and vocational assessment services for young adults in the Philadelphia Prison System in order to increase their employability when they return to society.