

Out-of-School Time Stories

BOOST Grantee Spotlight: At-Promise Youth Center

“In general, At-Promise, it’s really to help the youth in the community to have a positive place to go because it’s just a lot of things going on outside. It provides a place of safety, a place of helping young people establish who they are individually, which I think is really, really great.”

— APF At-Promise Parent

The Atlanta Police Foundation (APF) founded and manages the At-Promise Youth Centers to transform young people through comprehensive youth development. The centers provide education, recreation, well-being, therapeutic services, and workforce development programs. Through these offerings, the At-Promise Initiative aims to divert susceptible youth from criminal activity and toward a promising future. **With BOOST funding, APF At-Promise expanded academic support, reduced transportation barriers, and extended the program’s reach and accessibility.** The funding supported essential needs, including staffing, materials, field trips, food for youth, security, and wraparound services. At-Promise serves approximately 350 youth aged 12-18 from underserved

Youth Served:
350 Annually




Ages Served:
Middle and High School

Counties Served:
Fulton County

Counties Served:
At-Risk Youth

Programming Offered:
Afterschool & Spring Break

BOOST Grant Purpose:

 Reduce barriers

 Increase quality

OST Government Funding Sources:
BOOST Grant and Out-of-School Services Program



and low-income communities annually, a majority of which are African American. Each participant, whether referred or walking in, receives a behavioral health assessment to determine their individual and family needs.

Wraparound Supports

“At-Promise has numerous resources, and there’s never any shortage or unavailability. You can pretty much tell them what you need. And if they can’t tell you off the back of their heads, they surely can point you in the right direction to good resources to secure the help you need for your children, whether it’s housing, food, counseling, or health. As far as healthcare for the parents, they do a tremendous amount.”

— APF At-Promise Parent



At-Promise’s success stems from its comprehensive wraparound support for youth and their families. Through case management services, staff create a welcoming environment where families feel comfortable seeking assistance without judgment. As one parent shared, “Me knowing that I can go to somebody and not be judged or looked at any kind of way... It’s a blessing to me because I never met people like that for real. People that say they’re going to help, and they help, and it means something.”



Food security is a cornerstone of their family support strategy which includes weekly food boxes. One parent described the impact: “On Thursdays, when my son comes in with his box, he’s proud because he has something to share with the whole family...They send organic foods, fruits, vegetables, and they give a kid some kind of sweets...it helps when you’re buying food from paycheck to paycheck.”

The program’s support extends beyond food assistance. Staff work to remove barriers to stability, as one explained, “We can provide them with food for however long they need it... We’ve been able to house some of our unhoused participants...paying rent to where parents can stay in their homes and kids can stay in school zones.” Transportation assistance further demonstrates their commitment, with staff providing rides from schools and other transportation support based on individual needs. This comprehensive approach ensures youth can focus on their development while their families receive crucial support for long-term stability.

Academic and Personal Growth

“I’ve seen a hundred percent growth in all our youth academically. We haven’t had a youth behind because of the grades, and I think a lot of that is due to the academic support. We’ve seen actual growth in our youth, from all of them have showed grade progression. We measure their assessment levels usually at the beginning of the year and the end of the year, so we’re seeing a significant growth in that.”

— APF At-Promise Parent

At-Promise takes a holistic approach to youth development that nurtures both academic achievement and personal growth. Academic advisors and tutors provide support across subjects, with an emphasis on STEAM education. Progress is tracked through pre-tests and quarterly report cards, with additional backing for completing assignments and improving grades. The impact is evident, as one parent noted, “I can see where his grades are picking up, and even when I speak with his teachers, they’re saying that he’s not always the first one, but they’re noticing that he’s more involved in the class, he’s more boisterous. And for somebody coming out of their shell, that’s a phenomenal improvement.”

Youth also gain valuable life skills through diverse opportunities. One participant shared, “When I came into the program, I learned how to do coding with Tick Bridge here at the Promise Center. And we had mini lessons on money financial wise about credit and how to save and stuff like that.” Another parent observed their child’s growth: “She really loves to cook now, and I trust her to do that... she’s been able to be a part of different clubs and activities. It’s been an excellent experience for her to grow and to learn about herself.”

Supporting these opportunities, staff implemented specialized programming for individual and family needs, including conflict resolution, critical thinking, and life skills workshops that often include entire families. Staff work to identify root causes of behavioral issues and create individualized plans, ensuring each young person and their family receives the support they need to thrive.



SPOTLIGHT DATA SOURCES

- Case study focus groups with At Promise Youth Center program participants, parents, staff, and administrators



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Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) is a competitive grant program administered by the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) and operated in partnership with the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). BOOST offers \$85 million via three-year grants, renewed annually, with funding made available through the American Rescue Plan. The grants program is aimed at promoting evidence-based practices and whole child supports in afterschool and summer learning programs. BOOST is designed to expand access, reduce barriers to enrollment, and increase programmatic quality to improve outcomes for students and families throughout the state. GSAN provides recommendations for grant awards based on rigorous application criteria and offers technical assistance and training to grantees to ensure successful implementation. All grants are approved by GaDOE, ensuring alignment with statewide priorities and goals.