

# Public/Private Ventures

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PUBLIC/PRIVATE VENTURES TO EVALUATE LAYC PROMOTORES PATHWAY PROGRAM FOR DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

PHILADELPHIA, PA, July 13, 2009 - Public/Private Ventures (P/PV) and the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) have announced the launch of a rigorous evaluation of LAYC's Promotores Pathway program. LAYC, a leader in youth development for more than thirty-five years, created the Promotores Pathway to improve the quality and quantity of services provided to disconnected youth in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties in Maryland.

Disconnected young people—those not working and not in school—currently number in the millions across the country. Using paid staff called “Promotores,” LAYC aims to change the lives of disconnected youth—or those at high risk for becoming disconnected—by enabling them to succeed academically, obtain long-term employment, and live healthy and productive lives.

Promotores are not part of any single program; rather they have the training and time to work with youth to meet all of their potential needs, cultivating trusting relationships over a number of years (four to six, on average) and working alongside youth through every program or service they receive. Promotores continually assess the needs of each youth to ensure that those needs are being met by one of LAYC's service offerings or through referrals to other agencies. In short, a Promotor's goal is to eliminate as many barriers in a youth's life as possible, enabling them to succeed regardless of the challenges they may face.

To determine the effectiveness of the Promotores Pathway, LAYC selected P/PV, a well-known research and program development organization, to complete a formal evaluation of the program. This will entail comparing participants with nonparticipants (youth will be randomly assigned to one group or the other) in terms of academic and employment outcomes, and other areas of life central to the successful transition to adulthood.

Ultimately, the evaluation will answer the following questions:

- Is the Promotores Pathway leading to improved outcomes for participants in the areas of academics, employment and healthy behaviors?
- Are there differences in the outcomes achieved among subgroups of Promotores participants? For example, are Latino participants performing differently than African American participants, or are males performing differently than females?

“The unrealized potential embodied in our nation’s disconnected youth is tremendous,” says Wendy McClanahan, P/PV’s Vice President for Research. “But we don’t know enough about how to connect these young people with the networks and services that can help them become engaged city residents and taxpayers and independent, responsible adults who can support themselves and their families. This evaluation will generate important insights about just what is needed to put these youth on a healthy, productive path.”

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For 30 years, P/PV has been a national leader in creating, testing and strengthening programs that improve lives in low-income communities. We do this in three ways:

- Innovation: We work with leaders in the field to identify promising existing programs or develop new ones;
- Research: We rigorously evaluate these programs to determine what is effective and what is not; and
- Action: We reproduce proven programs in new locations, provide technical assistance where needed and inform policymakers and practitioners about what works.

P/PV is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with offices in Philadelphia, New York City and Oakland. For more information, please visit [www.ppv.org](http://www.ppv.org).

The LAYC Family of Organizations is a network of youth centers, charter schools, and social enterprises with a shared commitment to helping youth become successful and happy young adults, with the skills they need to succeed educationally, professionally, and personally. LAYC organizations include the anchor Latin American Youth Center, a nationally recognized youth development organization in the District of Columbia; satellite and residential sites in the District of Columbia; the Next Step Public Charter School; the YouthBuild Public Charter School; the Art + Media House; and the Maryland Multicultural Youth Centers in Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties. For more information, please go to [www.layc-dc.org](http://www.layc-dc.org).