



Pyramid CDC

2025 IMPACT REPORT

www.pyramidcdc.org



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Presented by:
Linda Nelson
Executive Director



Pyramid CDC is an Ohio approved Pre-Apprenticeship and Employer – Sponsored Program

Pyramid CDC's Journey Into Pre-Apprenticeship

Pyramid Community Development Corporation became an **Ohio Approved Pre-Apprenticeship and Employer-Sponsored Program** under ApprenticeOhio with one mission: **to support students who were falling behind on Ohio's high-stakes graduation tests**. Each year, thousands of Ohio high school students do not earn the required proficiency scores on the **Algebra I** and **English Language Arts II** exams—two assessments that determine their path to graduation. Columbus schools reflect this statewide challenge, leaving many students in need of an **alternative graduation pathway** to stay on track. Pyramid CDC stepped forward to ensure these students receive the academic and career support they deserve.

Through our Pre-Apprenticeship program, students gain hands-on training, mentorship, industry-valued credentials, and access to Employer Apprenticeship opportunities after graduation. By aligning our work with **CTE credits** and the **ApprenticeOhio framework**, we help students build proficiency points while preparing for real, in-demand jobs. This effort reflects ApprenticeOhio's commitment to a diverse, well-trained workforce and ensures young people can enter stable, high-growth careers. Pyramid CDC took on this challenge because students deserve more than a backup plan—they deserve a pathway to their future.

2025 Student Achievement Snapshot

- **NCCER Certification (Construction):** 6 students passed
- **Rise Up Customer Service Certification:** 28 students passed
- **Northstar Digital Literacy (9+ Assessments):** 31 students completed

2024 Data:

- **Rise Up Retail Fundamentals Certification:** 32 students passed
- **Northstar Digital Literacy (9+ Assessments):** 27 students completed

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACT

STEM Learning in Action

The **SMARTNet Program** delivered a **4-week STEM exploration** series at North Columbus Preparatory Academy, introducing students to African American inventors who shaped early technology. With support from Ohio Dominican University STEM Club volunteers, and Pyramid CDC staff, students engaged in hands-on projects connecting creativity and science.



Photo (above): Student volunteers from the Ohio Dominican University STEM Club.



Photo (left): Ohio State University student Ahilla Sghir assisting a SMARTNet student.

Expanding Impact Across Columbus

SMARTNet returned to **North Columbus Preparatory Academy** to deliver robotics training. Students received over **30 hours of training in an after-school program**.

This Fall, Pyramid CDC launched a **Career Technical Education Credit Cohort** at KIPP Columbus High School, enabling students to earn credits toward graduation.

Pyramid CDC also participated in six **KidsLinked community events**, offering live STEM demonstrations and reselling refurbished computers to promote digital access and environmental responsibility.



OVER 15,000 HOURS OF ADULT & YOUTH TRAINING!



STEM & Workforce Development for Youth

SMARTNet expanded its 7-week STEM/IT Career Exploration and Teen Workforce Development Programs, employing college students and staff to deliver a 7-week summer experience for youth ages 11–18.

Students explored coding, robotics, esports, and computer technology, while Teen interns (ages 15–18) worked as **SMARTNet Ambassadors**, earning **CTE credits and more than \$1,800 in income to support their families**. Several Ambassadors completed work-based learning projects to earn their SMARTNet Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate, preparing them for In-demand careers.

Photo (left): SMARTNet Middle School Student

City of Columbus - AJRP Worksite Host

Photo (right): Pyramid CDC also became a City of **Columbus AJRP Worksite Host**, providing 20 additional youth with hands-on experience in STEM and IT careers, aligning local workforce opportunities with future career pathways.

Photo (right): City of Columbus, AJRP Summer Program Students





Photo (Center): SMARTNet AARP Trainee instructing SMARTNet High School Students



Pyramid CDC - 2025 Program Impact

Category	Description	Total
Employment Outcomes	New IT/STEM Instructors (Adults)	8
	Workforce STEM Ambassadors (Teens 15–18)	15
	IT/STEM Instructor Assistants (18–25 College Interns)	6
	Teen & Adult Students in Work-Based Projects	31
Training & Hours	SMARTNet Program Training Hours	15,104
	Workforce Summer Program Hours	3,040
Youth Stipends & Incentives	Teen Workforce Stipend Amount (15–18)	\$54,323
	Youth Gift Card Amount (11–14)	\$2,840
Technology & Supplies	Laptops Distributed to Students	95
	School Supply Bookbags Distributed	95
	Total Laptops Refurbished	305

Empowering Columbus Students for Success in Ohio State Algebra Math Testing

Pyramid Community Development Corporation proudly donated 1,000 Texas Instruments calculators to learners at **Linden-McKinley STEM Academy, West High School, The Charles School, KIPP Columbus High School, Beecroft High School, Northland High School, and the See Brilliance after-school program**. This donation ensures that young people who often face financial barriers now have the tools needed for success in math coursework and state testing.

From December 1, 2025, through January 16, 2026, high schoolers across Columbus will take the Ohio State Test in Algebra I, an end-of-course exam measuring mastery of Ohio's Learning Standards. By providing essential technology before the testing window, Pyramid CDC helped boost confidence, classroom readiness, and equitable access—ensuring every learner has a fair chance to perform at their highest level.



Photo (above): Business Education Teacher of West High School accepting calculators



Photo (above): Dr. Shirley Brown and Kipp Columbus High School Students accepting calculators

1000
CALCULATORS

Women in the Trades: She Builds Construction

Pyramid CDC proudly hosted the She Builds Construction training, a 12-week program led by National Skilled Trade Network instructors Melva Williams-Argaw, Michelle Watts, and Lauren Benton. Participants developed essential construction skills and earned the NCCER Core Construction Certification. To support participants, Pyramid CDC provided each with a \$600 stipend to help offset transportation and time away from work.

Photo (above): She Builds Construction students completing their woodworking tool boxes.



Congratulations to our first graduates – Brittany, Teauna, and Latisha – who have launched new careers with Connect Housing Blocks.



12
Total Students
Enrolled



9
Total Students
Attend Class



6
Total Students
Graduate
All African American
women ages 19-55

Photo (right): She Builds Construction students receiving their NCCER Core Construction Certifications.





2025 SMARTNet Program Data



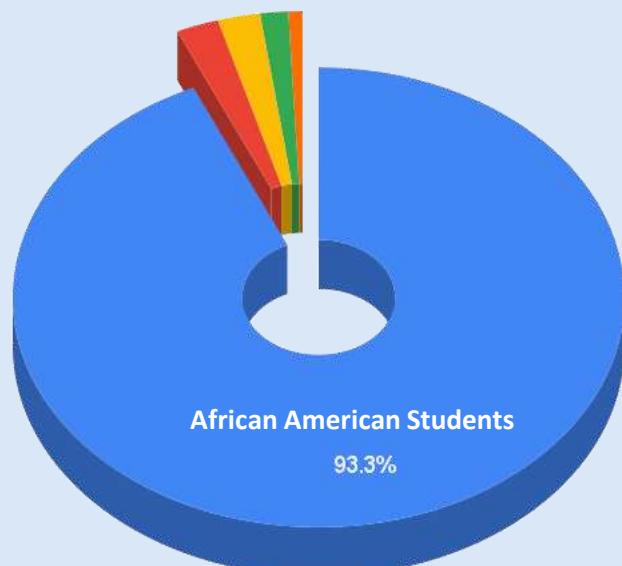
SMARTNET Summer Program Highlights:

Students completed a high-impact 7-week Career Exploration and Teen Workforce Program combining future-focused technology with hands-on learning. Through partnerships with DriveOhio and The Coder School of Westerville, students explored electric and autonomous vehicles, drones, and real-world coding—from Scratch to Python, JavaScript, and AI. They also learned how emerging technologies shape today's workforce and were introduced to DriveOhio's Youth Ambassador Program to earn community service hours.

Students engaged in digital career pathways through Esports and the Geek Squad Academy. With EliteGamingLIVE, they competed in weekly tournaments and explored careers in gaming, broadcasting, and digital design—three SMARTNet students earned **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in a Rocket League competition**. During the 2-day Geek Squad Academy, students became Junior Agents while learning coding, game design, photography, 3D design, and digital music.

PHOTO TOP: SMARTNet Youth pretending to work as News Broadcasters at COSI.

● African American ● Spanish ● Mixed Race ● White ● Other



2025 Youth Participants by Race and Gender (Total: 135 Students)

RACE

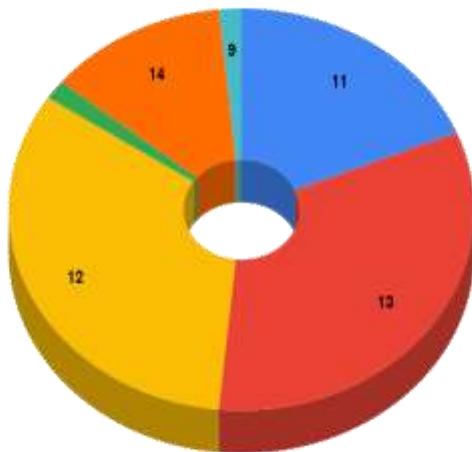
- African American: 93.3%
- White: 1.5%
- Mixed Race: 2.2%
- Spanish: 2.2%

GENDER

- Females: 44.4%
- Male: 55.6%

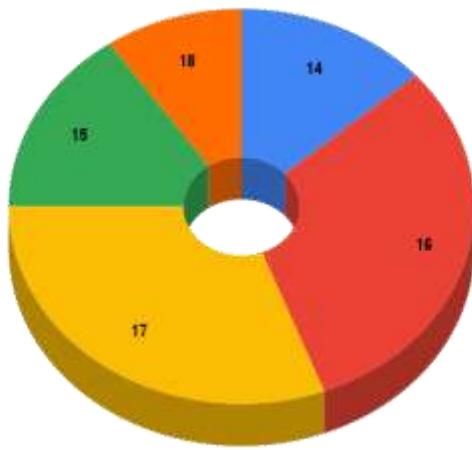
2025 SMARTNet Program Data

SMARTNet students' AGE range from 11-14 (Youth) and 14-18 (Teens)



SMARTNet YOUTH PARTICIPANTS (11-14)

- 9 yrs. old: 1.6%
- 11 yrs. old: 18.8%
- 12 yrs. old: 32.8%
- 13 yrs. old: 32.8%
- 14 yrs. old: 12.5%



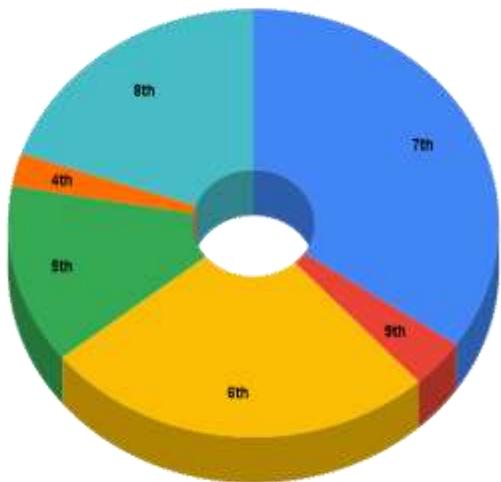
TEEN WORKFORCE PARTICIPANTS (14-18)

- 14 yrs. old: 13.5%
- 15 yrs. old: 15.4%
- 16 yrs. old: 30.8%
- 17 yrs. old: 30.8%
- 18 yrs. old: 9.6%



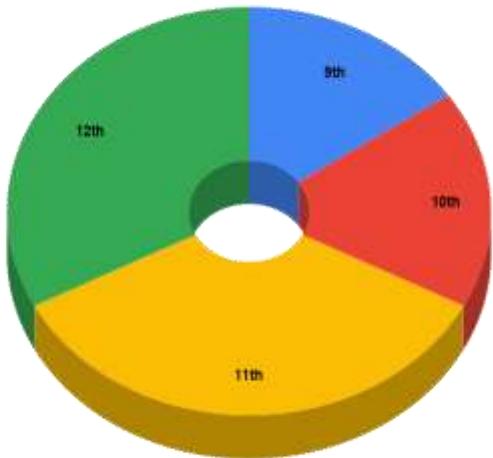
2025 SMARTNet Program Data

SMARTNet students' GRADE range from 11-14 (Youth) and 14-18 (Teens)



SMARTNet YOUTH PARTICIPANTS (11-14)

- 4th Grade: 2.5%
- 5th Grade: 13.6%
- 6th Grade: 25.9%
- 7th Grade: 34.6%
- 8th Grade: 19.8%



TEEN WORKFORCE PARTICIPANTS (14-18)

- 9th Grade: 15.4%
- 10th Grade: 17.3%
- 11th Grade: 34.6%
- 12th Grade: 32.7%



2025 SMARTNet Program Data

SMARTNet student's student represents schools and zip codes all over Columbus, Ohio and its surrounding communities.

SMARTNet students represent schools (Schools represented the most are in bold)

- Arts Impact Middle School
- Baldwin Middle School
- Columbus Adventist Academy
- **Columbus North Preparatory Academy**
- Columbus Afrocentric Early College Middle & High School
- Columbus Collegiate Academy
- Columbus Prep for Girls
- East High School
- Hamilton STEM Academy
- **Kipp Columbus Middle & High School**
- Linden McKinley STEM High & Middle School
- Mifflin Middle School
- New Albany High School
- Northland Preparatory Academy

- Patriot Preparatory Academy
- Reynoldsburg-Baldwin High School
- Rosehill Elementary School
- South Columbus Preparatory Academy
- Tree of Life Clintonville
- Weinland Park Elementary School
- Whitehall Middle School
- Whitehall Prep & Fitness Academy
- Whitehall-Aetna
- Windsor Elementary School
- Woodward Park Middle School
- World Language Middle School
- Worthington Christian School

Zip Codes Listing

- 43211 – 45%
- 43219 – 13%
- 43224 – 10%
- 43068 – 6%
- 43230 – 6%
- 43227 – 4%
- 43205 – 2%
- 43214 – 2%
- 43232 – 2%
- 43085 – 1%
- 43123 – 1%
- 43201 – 1%
- 43206 – 1%
- 43209 – 1%
- 43231 – 1%

2025 Pyramid CDC DATA Recap

Total new adults obtaining jobs:	8
Total Teens obtaining jobs:	15
Total College Internship Jobs:	6
Total Students participating in Work-based Projects:	31
Total SMARTNet Program Training Hours:	15,104
Total Workforce Program Hours:	3,040
Total Teen Workforce Stipend Amount:	\$54,323
Total Youth Gift Card Amount:	\$2,840
Total Laptops distributed to Students:	95
Total School Supplies Bookbags:	95
Total Laptops refurbished to students and sold to community:	305
Total student passing the Rise Up Customer Service Certification:	28
Total number of student passing 9 or more Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment training:	31
Financial Literacy Workshop participants:	27
Number of Teens completing SMARTNet Internship:	35
OhioMeansJobs Big Interview Certificates:	30
Ohio Pre-Apprenticeship Certificates:	3
Number of students earning six (6) CTE credits:	28

BIG THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



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