



PERSPECTIVAS GLOBALES

a program by **OCA** OverComing Adversities

# PERSPECTIVAS GLOBALES

*a community-led, safe space to promote entrepreneurship and opportunities to access to social capital*

## About us

Overcoming Adversities (OCA) is the only nonprofit in Puerto Rico created, led by and for foster youth. Rooted in lived experience, we provide peer mentoring, navigation support, and opportunities for youth exiting foster care or the juvenile justice systems to develop their social capital. Our work disrupts social isolation and breaks generational cycles of poverty by generating impact through direct service and providing subject-matter-expert consulting to public agencies. Since 2022 we have impacted 250+ youth in foster care or the juvenile justice systems, and are currently implementing strategies to grow our impact in Puerto Rico and beyond.

### mission

To provide intensive support and improve system-wide programs, practices and policies through innovation, evidence and lived-experience engagement.

### vision

The people and systems serving our youth offer them a real chance at a stable, happy life

## The *Perspectivas Globales* Program

***“For me, PG feels like a second home, I frequently spend more time at the office than in my apartment. I feel part of a family and I think interacting and collaborating with fellow entrepreneurs has been an excellent experience” – PG Member, Christian Rosado, Founder & CEO of Haipriori***

Puerto Rico faces persistent challenges in creating pathways for economic mobility and entrepreneurship that are inclusive, connected, and community-driven. Students, young people and early professionals, often develop their ideas in isolation, without access to professional networks, shared resources, or spaces that foster true collaboration.

Research on economic mobility and poverty reduction, including commentary published in Brookings, shows that heterogeneous communities - where people from different lived experiences, sectors, and socioeconomic backgrounds interact - are critical to breaking cycles of poverty, problem solving and innovation. Yet, in Puerto Rico, opportunities to build this type of social capital remain limited, especially outside the metro area.



## ...as a result

- Entrepreneurs, community leaders, and problem-solvers lack access to opportunities that provide social capital and support innovation and growth.
- System-involved youth are excluded from spaces, services and networks that could transform their socio-economic development.

**Without intentional spaces that bring diverse communities together, economic opportunity remains scarce, and the potential for innovation and inclusive growth in Puerto Rico goes unrealized.**

This is where OCA steps in with Perspectivas Globales. A community-led hub that provides system-involved youth and local entrepreneurs a space to access services and community support, and a place that offers young professionals a unique space to develop their ideas.

Located in the engineering capital of Puerto Rico, the municipality of Mayagüez, Perspectivas Globales is a co-working space that serves as a social capital and service hub for participants. By leveraging its network of high-impact individuals, sharing access to resources, and fostering a learning community,

Perspectivas Globales provides:

- Referrals to mentors, partner programs, and services
- Free, open 24/7 coworking space and drop-in center for youth
- Access to entrepreneurial events

**Perspectivas Globales creates impact in two critical ways:**

- 1** by reducing social isolation among youth
- 2** by connecting them to professional networks that enable economic participation and long-term stability

**Since taking leadership of Perspectivas Globales in 2025, we have:**

- 30** businesses supported
- 3** entrepreneurial events hosted that connected systems-involved youth, young entrepreneurs, mentors, and investors

## Join Us

Invest in Overcoming Adversities to **help system-impacted youth access safe professional spaces, explore career opportunities, and get the social capital required to build livelihoods**, ensuring they have the tools to pave career paths that align with their goals and interests.



**Yalanis Vélez González, Founding Executive Director**



**939.606.5673**



**yalanis@ocapr.org**

