

IMPACT BRIEF 2025

Overcome
Overcoming
Overcame
Adversities

About Us

Overcoming Adversities is the only nonprofit in Puerto Rico created, led by and for system-involved youth. 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.

"It takes a village to raise a child."

Let's break the cycle

IMPACT SUMMARY

19

Foster youth that received mentorship

24

Events where foster youth voices were represented

186

Impacted youth across Puerto Rico

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

This year confirmed that program design defines how young people experience our efforts as providers, which is why at OverComing Adversities we act with intention. Centering lived experience doesn't just improve engagement, it creates the conditions for young people to truly thrive.

- Yalanis Vélez González





What We Do

Overcoming Adversities 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.

Vision

The systems and people who serve our youth offer them a fair opportunity to achieve a stable, full, and happy life.

Our Mission

To create spaces of community and learning that empower young adults with experience in foster care, preparing them to face their circumstances by developing their potential to achieve economic mobility.

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.

2025 Impact

“They meet our needs with speed and urgency [...]. OCA finds options to help youth quickly in a way that other systems don’t.”

- Program Participant

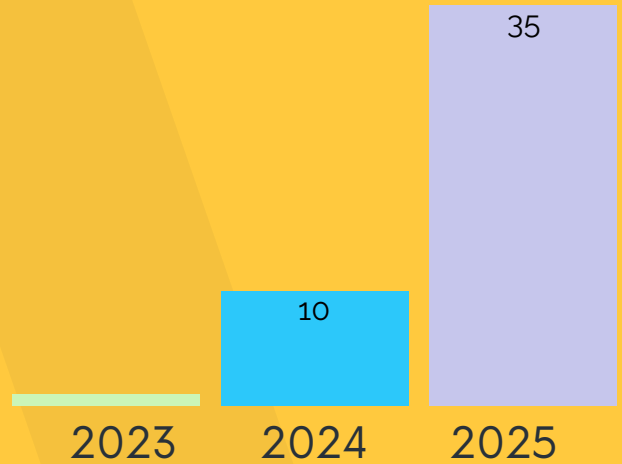
PROGRAMS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Alternative Living Program	Intensive 1-1 mentoring, navigation support, and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 186 impacted youth• 19 received mentorship *• 12 improved housing situation
Meaningful Engagement	Change how programs are designed, lived experience is integrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24 events where youth voice was elevated• 12 of these were capacity building spaces• 4 national events our staff participated
Perspectivas Globales	Startup development program and service drop-in center Mayagüez	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 members supported• 3 networking events

* Participants have received critical supports securing housing, employment, and building stability during their transition to adulthood.

Strategic Partnerships

In 2025, we significantly expanded our collaborations, across public agencies, nonprofit organizations, private organizations, municipalities, foundations, and community leaders to work together to **reduce barriers to access services for system-involved youth.**

This allowed us to integrate lived-experience in different spaces throughout **different parts of Puerto Rico and have national presence.**



Youth & Direct Impact

During 2025, OCA impacted close to **190** young people with experience in the foster care or juvenile justice systems.

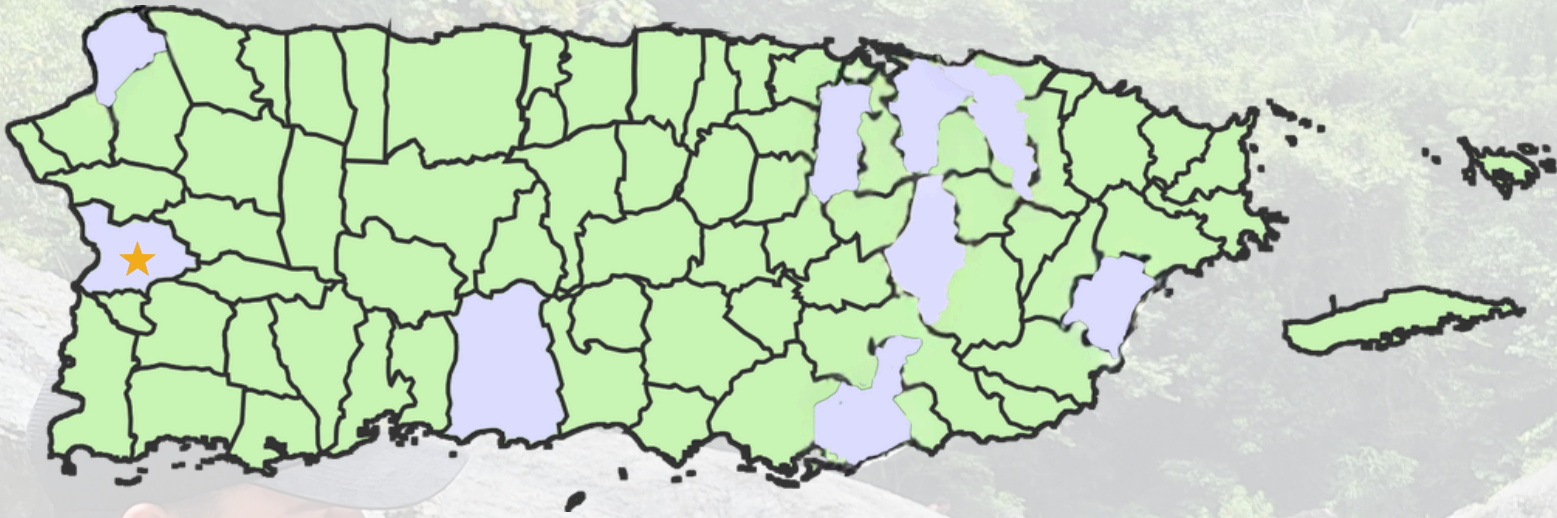
We assigned a mentor to **19** youth and provided financial, employment, legal, relational, and housing supports to empower participants to take meaningful steps toward their development.

Key outcomes for youth include:

- **186** impacted youth of which **19** received mentoring
 - **14** youth with stable employment
 - **6** court visits were our mentors supported youth
 - **12** youth received housing navigation support
 - **\$6,088** given in stipends and supports directly to participants
 - **\$8,742** spent hosting activities and events by and for youth
 - **\$19,400** in federal benefits accessed

Participants have received critical supports securing housing, employment, and building stability during their transition to adulthood.

Where have we served in Puerto Rico



West:
★ Mayagüez
Aguadilla

South:
Ponce
Guayama

East:
Caguas
Humacao
Carolina

North:
San Juan
Guaynabo

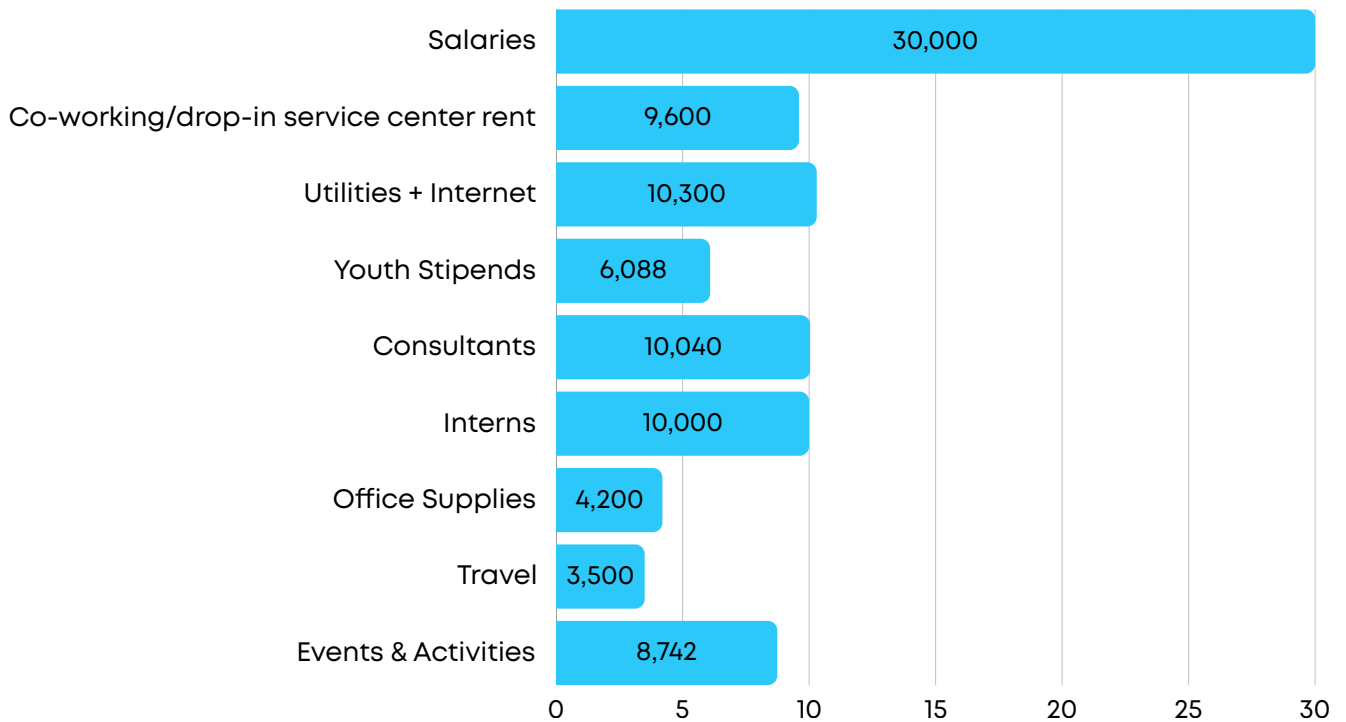
While our drop-in center and headquarters are located in Mayagüez, **our work extends well beyond a single location, across Puerto Rico.**

We travel throughout the island to conduct home visits, facilitate workshops with partner agencies, convene meetings with collaborators, and support and amplify youth participation in events and activities.

This mobility allows us to remain accessible, responsive, and deeply connected to the communities and young people we serve.

2025 Expenses...

OCA Budget 2025



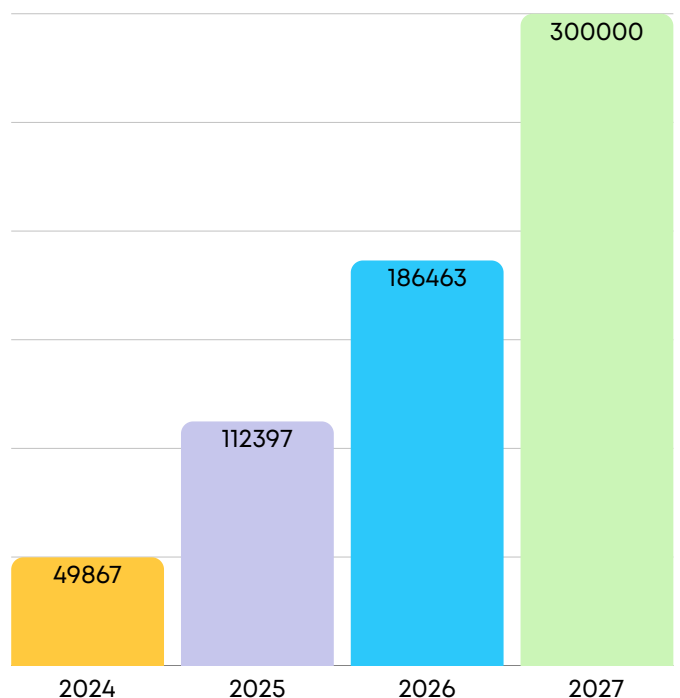
Where We're Headed...

Our annual budget trend shows a clear rise in our overall capacity and investment in youth.

We have been able to do this thanks to national partnerships with organizations like Casey Family Programs and local philanthropic groups.

Our goal by 2027 is \$300,000. We aim to do this by leveraging our national presence.

OCA Annual Budget 2024-2027



Our Allies



We
couldn't
have
done it
without
your
support.



Together, we are creating
meaningful opportunities
and lasting change for
young people and
communities across Puerto
Rico.

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THANK YOU

to all of our donors, partners, and volunteers.

