Pathways to Potential (P2P)
Focus Area Descriptions

The Pathways to Potential grant support programs and services across four funding priorities: Education, Employment (Career Pathways), Basic Needs, and Mental Well-Being.

Mental Well-Being

This focus area supports programs and services that **strengthen young people's mental, social, and emotional well-being**. Funded efforts should help youth build resilience, develop a healthy sense of identity and belonging, form positive connections with themselves and others, and gain effective strategies for navigating challenges and stress. Programs may also increase awareness of and access to appropriate mental health and wellness resources.

Priority will be given to approaches that foster supportive relationships, reduce barriers to care, respond to the cultural and lived experiences of young people, and create safe, affirming environments in which youth can thrive.

Employment & Career Pathways

This focus area supports programs and services that help young people **explore career possibilities, develop marketable skills, gain meaningful work experience, and successfully enter and advance in employment**. Funded efforts should strengthen pathways to long-term career success and economic mobility by connecting youth to education, training, industry-recognized credentials, supportive resources, and employment opportunities.

Priority will be given to approaches that provide career-connected experiences, build occupational and employability skills, and reduce barriers to securing, retaining, and advancing in quality employment.

Education

This category refers to programs that help young people succeed academically, continue their education, and access opportunities that expand their future options.

This focus area supports programs and services that help young people **build the knowledge, skills, confidence, and opportunities needed to succeed academically and pursue their educational and personal goals**. Funded efforts should promote academic achievement, educational persistence, leadership development, and successful transitions to college, career training, and other postsecondary pathways.

Priority will be given to approaches that expand access to high-quality learning opportunities, provide individualized support, and help young people navigate educational transitions and persist through completion.

Basic Needs

This category refers to programs that help young people build a foundation of stability that allows them to pursue other goals and opportunities.

This focus area supports programs and services that **help young people achieve and maintain the stability and security needed to thrive and pursue their educational, career, and life goals**. Funded efforts should address immediate and ongoing needs, including safe and stable housing, nutritious food, reliable transportation, financial stability, essential resources, and connections to supportive services.

Priority will be given to approaches that reduce barriers, prevent crises, strengthen long-term stability, and connect young people to coordinated community resources and supports.