



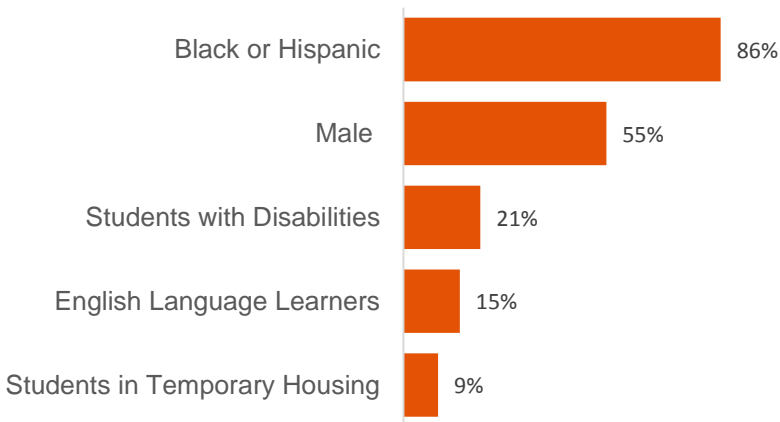
Good Shepherd Young Adult Borough Centers

A supportive, school-based program to promote student success

MARCH 2018 – Good Shepherd Services, a youth and family development organization with more than 80 programs in New York City, first partnered with the Department of Education to operate Young Adult Borough Centers (YABCs) in 1999, expanding the number of programs in 2005 with the city’s commitment to invest in the success of overage, under-credited youth. YABCs serve students ages 17.5 to 21 years old, who have attended high school for at least four years, earned 17 or more credits, and have not succeeded in the traditional high school setting. The Learning to Work (LTW) component provides paid internships and workplace readiness training.

Our Students

In 2016-17, we served nearly **3,000** students, many facing challenges such as language barriers, histories of academic failure, and homelessness. These obstacles are often the driving factors behind their struggles in a traditional high school setting, leading them to a second chance at a YABC.



Our Programs

Good Shepherd is a partner in 12 programs throughout low-resourced neighborhoods in Brooklyn and the Bronx.



Our Results

Since 2005, we have supported



12,000+
High school graduates



6,800
LTW interns, of which 80%
successfully completed placement

Achievements in 2016-17:

- **1,162 graduates.** Our average program graduation rate was 67%. Nine out of our 12 schools outperformed their comparison group in supporting students to graduation.
- **750 interns. 84% successfully completed** their internships - our highest rate ever. Employers rated 89% of our interns in the summer of 2017 as competent on a new evaluation, which included measures related to professionalism, teamwork, communication, and time management.
- **94%** of YABC students agreed on an end-of-year survey that they feel **more hopeful about their future** since entering the YABC.
- GSS’ YABCs are partners in the citywide Student Success Network, a collaboration of providers committed to measuring and engaging in continuous improvement related to social-emotional skill development and student success. Our 2016-17 SSN survey results showed that students in GSS YABCs had **statistically significant growth in their sense of belonging** over the course of the school year, a key metric tied in the research to academic performance. Students also showed gains in academic behaviors, academic self-efficacy, and self-advocacy.

Our Model: Components of Good Shepherd's YABCs

- **Youth and Family Development (YFD) Approach:** Good Shepherd's YFD approach incorporates seven research-based strategies that have been shown to positively impact academic outcomes. At its foundation is a belief in the strengths and resiliencies inherent in youth and the ability of individuals and families to transform themselves. All GSS staff are trained in the strategies, which include setting high expectations, nurturing caring and trusting relationships, fostering safe and welcoming spaces, and promoting opportunities for leadership.
- **Primary Person:** Throughout the program, the student is supported by an advocate counselor - a primary person on staff with whom the student develops an engaging and enduring relationship. The advocate counselor helps students to develop goals and plans to meet them, offering continual support so students can confront barriers to success. A social worker is also available to address student needs.
- **Student and Family Engagement:** Many YABC students and their families faces barriers that cause them to disengage from school and planning for their future. We organize trips, fairs, information workshops, and engaging activities to build relationships and expose students to opportunities and relevant supports.
- **Learning to Work:** Internship and career coordinators offer students paid internships where they can gain exposure to the workplace, develop skills and discover their strengths. Seminars prepare students to meet workplace expectations by emphasizing core job readiness skills, such as time management and professionalism. Interns graduate having built these core competencies and gained a deeper understanding of how to access future work opportunities.
- **Post-program Support:** After students graduate, staff continue to reach out to offer support, including helping with financial aid, resumes, and addressing the many challenges of life after high school.

"[My advocate counselor] is not judgmental. You can talk to him about anything. He's the only one, if I were to miss a day of school, who I would pick up my phone for and want to show up for."

—YABC participant

Leveraging Our Network to Connect YABC Students to College and Career

As a multi-service organization, Good Shepherd has the ability to connect students in our YABCs to wide variety of supports throughout our internal network, which includes programs related to family strengthening, access to benefits, youth homelessness, and youth justice. Many participate in our college and career-focused programs.

➤ Rebound Assist

Rebound Assist is a sector-based employment program embedded within two of our Brooklyn YABCs. The program launched in 2016-17 to provide a path forward for YABC students who want to enter the workforce before, or instead of, college. The program offers training, certification opportunities, sector-based apprenticeships, and follow-up employment support, with a goal to support participants in breaking into and thriving in a career-track industry. As of the end of 2017, the program had served 39 students. In addition to Rebound Assist, Good Shepherd also runs Rebound, which is a job readiness program with sites in Red Hook and East New York that connects participants to internships, jobs, college, and vocational training.

➤ Work Progress Program

To re-engage former YABC students who have been out of school and have no plans for future education or employment, we offer a 12-week paid internship and job training funded through the Work Progress Program (WPP), which is administered by the New York City Center of Economic Opportunity. In FY17, we provided internships for 129 students, including 66 from the YABCs. Many of our WPP interns from YABC end up enrolling in LifeLink.

➤ LifeLink

Launched in 2006, LifeLink is a college access and success program that helps young adults matriculate to community colleges with a higher level of motivation and capacity to test out of the lowest levels of remediation to best set them up for success. Our Brooklyn and Bronx LifeLink programs have enrolled 812 students from our YABCs. Our data shows that graduates who attend LifeLink enroll sooner after high school and show more persistence in college than YABC graduates who enroll in college without LifeLink. Long-term, we know our program has an impact. Internal data from Bronx Community College showed that the graduation rate for our fall 2011 LifeLink cohort was almost double that of the comparison group after eight semesters (27% vs 14%). Drawing on employment data from the NYS Department of Labor, we were able to determine that among our fall 2012 – fall 2015 cohorts, 87% were either still in school or working following their first year in LifeLink.