

“I learned that I was valued somewhere.”



YMWAP's Campaign for Growth building capacity & expanding our space to serve more young men

Young Man with a Plan (YMWAP), founded in 2015, helps young Black and Latino men “in the middle” find a place to belong, make academic and social emotional gains, and access sustainable futures. We achieve this through research-informed strategies of connecting youth to caring adults; strengthening youth academic, social emotional, and financial literacy skills; individualized success planning; quality partnerships; and creating a protective community. YMWAP achieved 501c3 status in 2023.

YMWAP is led by Executive Director Jaykyri Simpson, Ed.D., whose doctoral research on Black male college persistence affirmed the value of mentoring and the degree to which **young Black men crave explicit guidance respectfully delivered by trusted people**. Dr. Simpson speaks about YMWAP at the 2022 Social Innovation Forum here: [YMWAP SIF Showcase 2022](#)

YMWAP serves young men in grades 8-12, with a 90% retention rate, and continued active engagement with alumni who stay a part of the YMWAP family. Students receive over two hours of weekly in- and out-of-school mentoring from YMWAP staff along with a team of school-based and near-peer mentors.

Need: Boston's wealth and health gaps are well documented, and it is harder than ever for low-income families to progress economically. We serve young men “in the middle” who benefit greatly from sustained guidance of successful adults. 78% of our students are Black; 20% Latino; 68% are from immigrant families. The majority of young men served live in Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan.

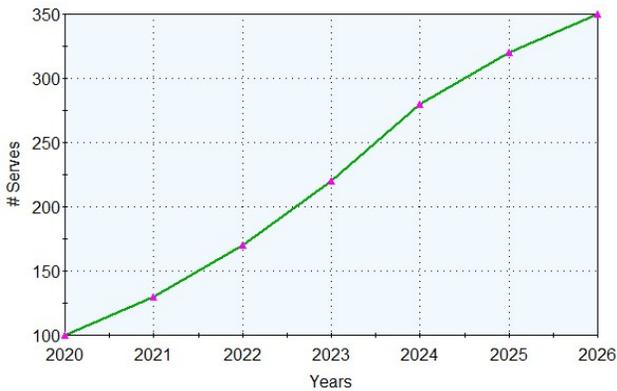


“The best part of the program is gaining a sense of direction in life and being surrounded by people who will drive me to succeed.”

Outcomes: YMWAP measures academic and social emotional progress, graduation rates, avoidance of the criminal justice system and teen parenthood, and development and fulfillment of college and career success plans. Our graduates attend BU, Bates, Carnegie Mellon, Northeastern, Wentworth, UMass, Framingham State, Bunker Hill Community College, and Year Up. They study engineering, business, computer science, cybersecurity, marketing, design, marine biology, and education. They are employed as airplane mechanics, carpenters, and IT specialists, artists, engineers, and by the City of Boston.

YMWAP's Three Year Growth Plan

YMWAP Growth



Enrollment: Serve 350 students and alumni in 2026
Partners: New college, career, wellness partnerships
Programming: Expand 8th grade, family engagement, wellness, arts, alumni, & career initiatives
Thought leadership: Share our expertise and learning; convene the community
Level the Field Fund: Build a fund to help students and alums meet basic and emergency needs

Capacity Building: Holistic mentoring requires excellent committed staff. YMWAP plans to add five staff members over the next three years. Program staff will support growing enrollment of young men served and expanded programs and partnerships. Development and Operations staff ensure our sustainability.

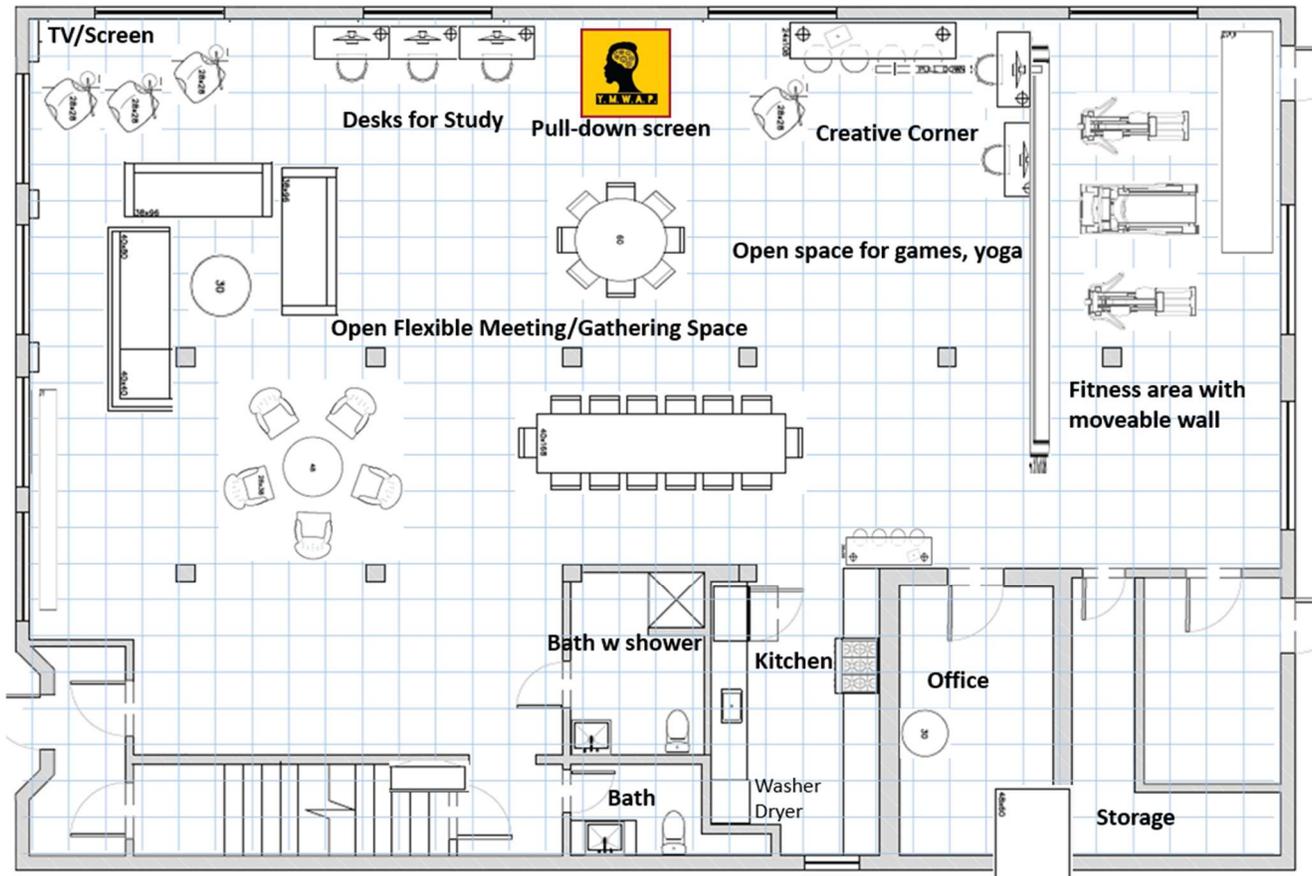
New Space: “A place to belong” is central to YMWAP. We currently rent 1,063 s.f. of second floor space at 1174 River Street in Hyde Park. Students love the safety of the neighborhood and ease of transportation access. The space, however, does not accommodate multiple groups and is not ADA accessible. In fall 2023 we are expanding YMWAP's facility to include the ground floor in addition to keeping our current upstairs rooms. This will result in 3,000 s.f. of additional accessible open space that includes a kitchen, shower, fitness area, washer-dryer, study space, and a creative corner. YMWAP's larger space supports family and community convenings, trainings, and events; remote learning; wellness and creative activities; and flexible areas for large, small, and one: one meetings.



YMWAP Program Staff in the New Space “Pre-Buildout”

Holistic Mentoring at the EXPANDED YMWAP

New Downstairs Space: learn-gather-meet-create-break bread-get fit



Upstairs Meeting Space; College & Career Center



Existing Upstairs Space, Career Goals Writing Class

Growth Campaign Gifts Support the Following

Capacity Building: \$500,000

Adds Program, Operations, and Development staff to fulfill our mission and support our growth

New first floor @1174 River: \$600,000

Adds 3,000 square feet of space for holistic mentoring

Facility costs: rent, utilities, insurance, IT, cleaning, and a building maintenance reserve

Meeting and gathering space: \$50,000

Furnishings including couches, tables, rugs, beanbag and comfy chairs

Projector and screen for films, games, and training

Funds for: Water and snacks

Study Corner: \$25,000

Desks/tables and chairs, privacy screens, bookshelf

Computers, Chromebooks

Funds for: Tutors and school supplies

Kitchen, Nutrition, and Cooking: \$75,000

Appliances -- fridge, stove, microwave, dishwasher, stackable washer and dryer

Cooktops for cooking instruction; pots, pans, utensils, dishes, tables with benches for dining

Funds for: Food for cooking classes and family meals

Fitness and Wellness Program: \$50,000

Stationary bike, treadmill

Bench, dumbbell set, weight plate set, barbell, trap bar, resistance bands, foam rollers

Floor mats, yoga mats, towels

Funds for: Menino Y gym and pool use; guest educators; shower products

Creative Corner: \$50,000

Desks, computer, printer, printing supplies, art making supplies

Podcast Center

Music making – keyboard, headphones, microphone set

Funds for: Arts guest educators, arts field trips

College, Career & Writing Center (upstairs): \$50,000

Desks, Chromebooks, bookshelves

Funds for: College and career field trips

Level the Field Fund: \$100,000

To support emergency and basic needs that help our kids succeed and persist in college and life

Funds for: Technology, books and supplies, fees, transportation, food, professional clothes

Can you help? YMWAP seeks new partners and investors to help us as we expand and deepen our impact. Please reach out to Executive Director Dr. Jaykyri Simpson at jaykyriymwap@gmail.com or 817 526 - 4974 for more information. Donate here: <https://www.youngmanwithaplan.org/give-to-ymwap>

Thank you!