

Young Man with a Plan 2022 Impact Report

Young Man with a Plan (YMWAP) is a 4+ year holistic mentoring program that helps Boston's Black and Latino youth "in the middle" make academic and social-emotional gains and create success plans for sustainable futures.

2022 At-A-Glance

YMWAP served a roster of 171 students and recent alumni. Retention remains at over 90%. We were thrilled to return from COVID isolation to a more normal year. As students returned to in-person group meetings, we centered mental wellness and social emotional recovery. Check-ins were critical and discussion of depression, anxiety, and therapy were normalized. We have seen significant improvement in our young men's wellbeing between January and December.

YMWAP expanded our mentoring team, hiring two new program staff from 147 applicants. These excellent, experienced staff members increase our capacity and enable us to pilot an 8th grade program, expand family engagement, increase career exploration programming, and provide more robust support to alumni.

YMWAP was selected by the Social Innovation Forum as a 2022 Social Innovator. We worked for 6 months with a consultant to develop a 2025 vision and three-year strategic goals, which Executive Director Dr. Jaykyri Simpson presented at the May 2022 SIF Showcase. This experience greatly enhanced YMWAP's visibility and access to new funding partners.

100%

100% of students report "I have learned to listen"

96%

96% of students report "I am getting a sense of purpose"

95%

95% of our students think that "If I have a problem an adult here can help me"

93%

93% of our students think that "coming to YMWAP programming has helped me feel good about myself"

88%

88% of our students think that "coming here has helped me find out what I'm good at doing and what I'd like to do."

85%

85% of our students agree "I am better at getting things done"

"It's like a weekly family reunion so when I get there, I'm always excited to see everyone and catch up."

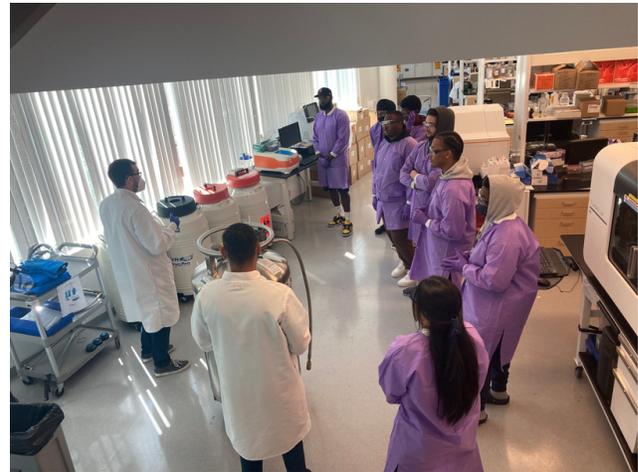
- 10th Grade YMWAP Student



Partnerships

YMWAP maintains valuable relationships with 8 schools and the BPD, Bottom Line, and Year Up. Newly strengthened and launched partnerships include:

- Life Science Cares: YMWAP was selected as a Life Science Cares partner. Through this experience YMWAP received a \$60,000 grant (renewable for 3 years) and multiple career development opportunities for our young men.
- Boston Private Industry Council (PIC): For the second year in a row, YMWAP served as a summer work site. Based on the success of summer employment, the PIC asked YMWAP to be a school-year worksite. We have hired 8 YMWAP upperclassmen to work with 8th and 9th graders as near-peer mentors.



Beyond YMWAP

Our alums are in college at Bates, Ben Franklin, Bryant, BU, Temple, Bunker Hill Community College, Framingham State, Salem State, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, and Lowell. They are employed in IT, retail, fitness, and security fields and carpentry, aviation mechanics and HVAC trades. They are working in schools and hospitals and serving in the military.



2025 Vision

YMWAP is a highly respected, outcomes-driven 501(c)3 nonprofit in Boston serving 350 students (a full grade 8-12 continuum) and alumni with holistic mentoring and success planning. We are a village with welcoming and uplifting space of belonging for group meetings, individual coaching/counseling, workshops, fitness, arts, remote learning, and family and community events. We have an excellent, committed staff, effective systems, authentic partnerships, and a diverse funding base. Graduates of our program are kind, critical thinking, creative, and accountable community members and leaders. We are recognized thought leaders who educate others on the needs of young men of color and on closing gaps.