

CA EDGE Coalition's

2024 Opportunity Youth Policy Agenda

EDGE's 2024 Opportunity Youth Policy Agenda seeks to advance policies and investments that will support opportunity youth (OY) in accessing and completing education and training programs that lead them to good jobs, while also supporting the workforce needs of industry. OY are individuals between the ages of 16 and 24 that are not in school or working, including youth and young adults involved with the foster care, juvenile justice, and homelessness systems of care. They face unique employment, education, and training barriers that often do not align with efforts that center adults. OY facing socio-economic and systemic barriers are oftentimes disconnected from education and workforce training opportunities, particularly preventing young people of color from accessing our state's prosperity. Prioritizing OY will not only expand education and workforce opportunities for them but also expand the pool of talent that employers can access to meet their workforce needs.



Protect funding for education and workforce training programs that benefit OY and create pathways to good jobs.

Expand innovative “earn and learn” opportunities, including apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships, and other work-based training opportunities that center young adults.

Protect and expand social safety net investments for OY that support basic needs such as food, housing, internet access, transportation, childcare, and healthcare - enabling them to complete their education/training goals and thrive in today's labor market.

Engage in the development and implementation of California's Cradle to Career Data System to ensure the system considers the unique challenges and reflects the needs of OY.

Remove barriers OY face when accessing financial aid for education and training programs.

Advance the implementation of adult dual enrollment, which will allow OY to earn college credit while earning their high school equivalency.