Urban Alliance

Nearly 7 million young people across America suffer from a lack of college and career readiness. Urban Alliance empowers under-resourced youth to aspire, work, and succeed through paid internships, formal training, and mentorship. Over the next five years, Urban Alliance will serve more than 3,000 youth by bringing the High School Internship Program to scale in its current four regions and expanding to a fifth region. Urban Alliance will also undertake a second randomized control trial, adding to existing evidence of the efficacy of UA’s program model.

Our Model

Work Experience

Interns are placed in professional work sites, where they can work up to 600 hours and earn as much as $6,000 over the course of the 10-month program.

Skills Training

Interns receive training in skills shown to increase education, employability, and earnings prior to work placement. Training is supplemented weekly throughout the program at professional development workshops, to ensure college and career readiness.

Mentoring

All interns are coached by two adult mentors: an on-site supervisor to oversee professional development and a UA program coordinator to facilitate the transition to life after high school.

By the Numbers: 2015-16 Program Overview

1,454 youth served
493 Interns
225 Alumni Served
736 Skills Training Participants
212 job partners
58 high schools

Urban Alliance creates a network of community businesses, schools, and youth designed to provide our interns with the tools necessary for connecting to pathways of self-sufficiency.

Our Results

Since its founding in 1996, Urban Alliance has connected 3,000 youth to internships and provided workshops and training for an additional 15,000. The results are impressive:

- Over 90% of alumni are accepted to college.
- 80% of enrolled alumni persist to a second year.
- 80% of alumni are connected to a pathway - including college, employment, or a career training program - one year post-program.

Impact

Beginning in 2011, Urban Alliance commissioned the Urban Institute to conduct its first randomized control trial of the HSIP. Early findings suggest:

- Young men completing the HSIP are more likely to attend college than their peers.
- Middle-tier students completing the HSIP are more likely to attend four-year colleges than their peers.
- Participation in the HSIP has a positive, significant impact on youth hard and soft skill comfort.