Collaborative Impact Agreement Between Fort Bend County, on behalf of Fort Bend County Libraries and Greater Houston Opportunity Youth Collaborative

This Collaborative Impact Agreement (the "Agreement") sets forth the terms of partnership between the Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries, Inc. (ACAM), operating as the Greater Houston Opportunity Youth Collaborative (GHOYC), and Fort Bend County, on behalf of Fort Bend County Libraries (FBCL) (herein the "Partner"), collectively referred to as "the parties."

I. Purpose

This document outlines the benefits and expectations of the Partner in support of the GHOYC's mission to bolster regional efforts that aid in the reengagement and elevation of Opportunity Youth (OY).

II. Duration of Collaboration

This Agreement is effective on the date of the last signature and will remain in full force and effect until terminated by either party in accordance with the terms set forth herein. Annual Review of the parties' adherence to the expectations of partnership will occur. Should either party fail to uphold their commitments, partnership can be withdrawn. The parties reserve the right to modify the scope, direction, structure, and content of this Agreement based on legislative changes, directives, availability of funding, or other circumstances as warranted and agreed upon by the parties.

III. Background

Young adult disconnection is at a crisis level in Texas and the Greater Houston region. Nearly 5 million youth/young adults are disconnected in the US, and Texas accounts for 510,900 of them, second only to California. One in four of the opportunity youth in Texas come from the Greater Houston region, and that number is growing. A Measure of America report commissioned by the GHOYC estimates there are 124,500 disconnected young adults in the Greater Houston region, an increase of more than 16,000 since 2019. Disconnection from work and education at this age has both short- and long-term effects on an individual. Young adults who experience disconnection have a dramatically different path after 15 years. Those who remain in education or employment earn $38,400 more annually, are 45% more likely to own a home, are 42% more likely to be employed, and are 52% more likely to report excellent or good health (Measure of America, "Two Futures: The Case for Keeping Youth on Track," 2018). Without targeted intervention and support, achieving a prosperous life will be a difficult challenge to overcome for these young adults.

ACAM is the lead coordinating agency for the Greater Houston Opportunity Youth Collaborative (GHOYC), a cross-sector regional collaborative with the mission to create and scale postsecondary pathways for young adults 16-24 that are neither working nor in school, referred to as Opportunity Youth (OY). GHOYC's approach is to bring together organizations, employers, and young adults to create education and career pathways for the next generation of workers to bridge the employment gap facing the Texas Gulf Coast region. In doing this, GHOYC aims to raise awareness of youth disconnection and potential solutions, engage and elevate youth voice and experience to inform change, foster collaboration among service providers, and create and scale reconnection strategies with and for young adults.

In support of this mission, the GHOYC developed a Young Adult Action Advisory Council (YAAAC) comprising current or former opportunity youth who convene monthly to enhance their professional skills, initiate projects that amplify the voices of opportunity youth, and provide strategic guidance to the GHOYC. Additionally, the YAAAC serves as a valuable resource for GHOYC's committed stakeholders, offering insightful youth feedback when desired.

As an OY ecosystem builder, the GHOYC supports the whole young adult-serving community. To ensure the collective action work of GHOYC is successful the goals and approach have always been driven by data, both quantitative and qualitative. While there is strong collaboration among organizations to move the work forward the data is often siloed making it difficult to track larger impact and reconnection rates. To address this concern, GHOYC is working to develop and implement a comprehensive shared data collection solution that will support more seamless delivery of services and track collective progress towards reengaging the region's opportunity youth.

GHOYC also engages with several regional, state, and national partners to elevate learnings, advocate for change, and keep informed on up-to-date strategies and best practices for supporting opportunity youth. GHOYC is an active member of the Texas Opportunity Youth Network (TOYN) and the nationwide Opportunity Youth Forum both organized by the Aspen Institute's Forum for Community Solutions. In 2024 GHOYC was recognized as a regional thought leader through awards from Children at Risk and the Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) and was selected by the Aspen Institute as one of four cities to engage in the Scaling Youth Outcomes Cohort (SYOC) – a three-year project focused on scaling OY programs and data collection.

GHOYC works to connect, empower, and collaborate to create positive outcomes for OY. Our aim is to create career pathways and scale them to the point that all OY in the Texas Gulf Coast region can access the education, training, and support needed to reach their goals and thrive. GHOYC envisions a rich and connected ecosystem resulting in targeted opportunities and family-sustaining career paths for young adults.

Fort Bend County Libraries (FBCL)

Mission Statement:
The mission of Fort Bend County Libraries is to bring people, information, and ideas together to enrich lives, expand minds, and strengthen our diverse community.

Brief description of involvement with Opportunity Youth and Young Adults (OYYA):
Fort Bend County Libraries supports Opportunity Youth and Young Adults by serving as a community learning and resource hub that promotes education, workforce readiness, and access to information. Through partnerships with education providers and community organizations, the library connects young people to essential resources, including job readiness tools, digital access, and community services. As an independent learning center, the library provides high-demand educational materials, technology access, and programming that supports skill-building and lifelong learning. By offering targeted services for populations with additional needs such as literacy support, tutoring, and inclusive programming, Fort Bend County Libraries helps ensure that youth and young adults have equitable opportunities to learn, grow, and connect with their community.

IV. Partner Expectations and Benefits
Expectations:

1. The Partner confirms alignment with, and commitment to, the GHOYC's aforementioned mission and vision through the execution of this agreement.
2. The Partner will attend a minimum of three meetings hosted by the GHOYC per year. Meetings can include attendance at GHOYC hosted Stakeholder Meetings or 1-1 planning sessions.
3. The Partner will provide an annual update of organizational contact information to be featured on the GHOYC website/asset map.
4. The Partner commits to building stronger relationships with other GHOYC stakeholders to reinforce a collaborative culture.
5. The Partner hosts the GHOYC/Young Adult Action Advisory Council (YAAAC) for a general site visit during their first year of certified partnership.

Benefits:

1. Inclusion on GHOYC website, www.ghoyc.org
    a. The Partner will receive official recognition as part of the GHOYC Network on the Partners & Supporters Page.
    b. The Partner and their services will be included on the GHOYC asset map.
2. The Partner gains access to network in and promote programs at GHOYC Stakeholder Meetings.
3. The Partner has the ability to promote programs in GHOYC Newsletters by submitting a request form.
4. The Partner obtains a connection to the GHOYC's Young Adult Action Advisory Council (YAAAC) where they can receive youth feedback and engagement.
5. The Partner may highlight their GHOYC affiliation to align with a reputable and influential brand committed to empowering opportunity youth.

V. Use of the parties names and logos

ACAM may use the Partner's name and/or associated logos in promotional literature, presentations, or other communications with the approval of the Partner. The partner may use ACAM or GHOYC name and/or associated logos in promotional literature, presentations, or other communications with the prior written approval of ACAM.

VI. General Provisions

Both parties agree to fulfill their responsibilities under this Agreement in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. If either party is unable to perform its functions under this Agreement consistent with its statutory and regulatory mandates, the affected party will provide written notice to the other party to establish a date for mutual resolution of the conflict.

VII. Confidentiality

The parties agree to comply with all provisions regarding confidentiality to ensure that all applications and individual records related to services provided under this Agreement are confidential and not open to examination for any purpose not directly connected to the delivery of such services.

VIII. Non-Discrimination

The parties agree not to unlawfully discriminate against any employee or applicant based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, veteran status, or any other classification protected under state or federal law.

IX. Contact Information

The following persons will be primarily responsible for communication between the parties:

GHOYC

- Adriana Wilson
- GHOYC Managing Director
- awilson@acamweb.org
- Phone: 346-438-6824

Fort Bend County Libraries (FBCL)

- Celeste Bleu
- Manager of Outreach, Partnerships & Programming
- celeste.bleu@fortbendcountytx.gov

X. Amendment or Cancellation of Agreement

This Agreement may be amended at any time in writing by mutual consent of the parties. It may be canceled by either party by providing written notice. If the cancellation is for cause, the Agreement may be canceled immediately upon delivery of written notice. Otherwise, either party may terminate the Agreement without cause by giving thirty (30) days' written notice.

APPROVED and SIGNED BY:

Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries, Inc. (ACAM)



8/27/2026

Sharon Zachary, CEO **Date**

Fort Bend County

County Judge **Date**

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk **Date**