

# Introduction to One Step A La Vez

- Non-profit in Fillmore Drop in center serving teens 13-19 years old
- Founded in 2007, First ERC contract was in 2017
- Programs
  - Evening Reporting Center (→ Youth Advisory Council)
  - Bienestar
  - Conocimiento
  - Adelante
- Services include:
  - Daily hot meals, transportation, leadership opportunities, homework assistance, field trips, development workshops, safe space



VENTURA COUNTY  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



# Overall Population Data on Who We Serve

## Demographics

- **Ages**
  - 13-15 58%
  - 16-19 42%
- **Race**
  - 99% Latino/Hispanic
  - 1% White/Caucasian
- **Gender**
  - 51% Male
  - 49% Females

## Specific Demographics

- **Low-income**
  - 100%
- **Live in a Rural Communities**
  - 100%
- **Primary Language Spoken at home**
  - 51% Spanish
  - 31% English
  - 17% Bi-Lingual
- **Basic Needs**
  - 100%
- **Academic Needs**
  - 100%

# Data Quantitative (Current Success)

June 2023-July 2024

- 100 New youth entered the ERC Program
  - 26 (26%) VCPA Referred Youth
  - 74 (74%) Community Referred Youth
- 99 Intakes were completed
  - 25 VCPA Referred Youth
    - 15 (60%) were referred to completed Community Service Hours
    - 10 (40%) were referred to complete Days at the ERC
  - 74 Community Referred Youth
- 22 Graduations held during July 2023- June 2024
- 85% Annual Retention Percentage

# Data Qualitative (Current Success)

- No sense of community → Providing a connection to their community
  - *Before YAC (Youth Advisory Council), I hated Police. Even when Gabe told us we were going to do an event with them, I didn't know how it was going to go. But I went, and I'm glad I did. It was a fun event and I got to talk to some of the officers and realized I have a lot in common with them. They were pretty chill. (Anonymous YAC Member)*
- Shy → Confidence
  - *Joining YAC helped me with making friends and talking to new people. It also forced me to conquer my fear of public speaking. I would have never thought in a million years that I would actually sign up to talk at a youth summit (Anonymous YAC Member)*
- Old Habits → New Experiences
  - *Being a part of YAC has allowed me to do things I have never would have even thought about doing. I went to a pumpkin patch with my brother and it was a cool experience. I had never been to one before and had only seen them in videos (Anonymous YAC Member)*
  - *I got to go to Universal Studios Hollywood for the first time. It was so much fun talking to and getting to know the other kids from the other program (Anonymous YAC Member)*
- Trauma → Healing
  - *One of the ways YAC has helped me is that it has allowed me to surround myself with others that have gone through similar experiences and together we can support each other in our healing journey (Anonymous YAC Member)*

# Our desired budget increase-YAC

<b>YAC Budget</b>	<u>Current</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>	<u>Reasoning</u>
Services	\$23,000	\$35,000	Addition of staff assistant; larger, more frequent meetings
Incentives	\$10,000	\$17,000	Expand number of youth participants
Transportation	\$3,000	\$4,000	Rising costs of transportation expenses (e.g. gas, mileage)
Events *		\$12,500	Aimed to build community and connection
Supplies *		\$5,000	Ensure materials to foster youth success are available
Total:	\$36,000	\$73,500	

\* Indicates new proposed line item

# Events

Cones with Cops (3 Events in 3 Locations): \$7,500

- Aimed to break down barriers between youth (especially those on probation) and law enforcement professionals
- Provide informal, but supportive interactions for youth and law enforcement
- Youth could start to view law enforcement as human beings, while officers gain insight into the challenges youth face
- These events involved families and the broader community, promoting dialogue and mutual understanding.
- Goal was to build long-term relationships, reduce stigma, and foster trust to create a safer, more inclusive community

BBQ with Badges: \$2,500

- Mirror objectives and goals of Cones with Cops
- Youth and Law Enforcement could come together to metaphorically and literally break bread and share a meal together
- Potential for Sporting activities between Youth and Law Enforcement

Backpack Drive for System-Impacted Youth: \$2,500

- Provide quality school supplies to system impacted youth to foster educational success

*These events are designed to reach and support system-impacted youth, foster community-building, and alleviate financial burdens on families, while promoting meaningful connections between teens, law enforcement, and the broader community.*

# Desired Outcomes

## Measurable Objectives

- Increase number of YAC Youth participants from 10 → 14
- Increase number of meeting and collaboration opportunities throughout Ventura County
- Increase participation at youth-focused resource fairs / summits
- Increase guest speaker opportunities for participants
- Reduce youth recidivism
- Increase our field trip opportunities
- To help address the gaps of youth-focused services
  - Focus groups
- To obtain staff satisfaction through competitive wages