

**URBAN YOUTH INTERNATIONAL:
CAREER TRAINING, CERTIFICATION & PLACEMENT INITIATIVE FOR STUDENTS AND INNER-CITY YOUTH**

Rationale

Urban Youth International (UYI) is a special initiative and clearing house project conducted under the auspices of the Office of HBCU Development & International Cooperation, Inc, (OHBCUD), a non-profit and tax-exempt organization. It is being launched as the result of the highly productive USAID – OHBCUD Chicago Roadshow held 16 – 18 October 2023. This initial 6-month pilot project, running from **December 2023 until May 2024**, will be provided as a pro bono public service.

OHBCUD has maintained and successfully executed a longstanding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Development Programme, Regional Bureau for Africa (UNDP Africa). A complementary MoU (May 2023) has also been established with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), while creative and new areas of collaboration with the Society for International Development (SID-US Chapter) are being explored. Well established and broad ranging partnerships with USA-based HBCUs/PBIs/MSIs, University of Guyana (UOG), National HBCU Business Deans Roundtable, inner-city community economic development initiatives such as the Austin African American Business Networking Association (AAABNA), and Chicago’s Manufacturing Renaissance Program have been created. Therefore, OHBCUD’s unique UYI initiative, remains well positioned to help identify/select/recommend/monitor the placement of urban youth and students in various career training, internships, and domestic/international employment opportunities that are strategically aligned with and supportive of [UN Agenda 2030](#) and [African Agenda 2063](#).

Objectives

Starting **December 2023**, OHBCUD will establish a 6-month pilot project involving an initial cohort of **twenty (20)** youth and students from the City of Chicago. The 20 participants will range from current High School through advanced graduate and terminal degree students attending predominantly **Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)** of higher education. Working in close collaboration with our above noted partners, this service project will do the following:

- Establish a 3–5-member volunteer working group to oversee project operations;
 - Partner with Olive Harvey College (City Colleges of Chicago), serving as a regional hub, in collaboration with Austin African American Business Networking Association (AAABNA) and Manufacturing Renaissance, for the coordination and management of project activities;
 - OHBCUD will provide all participants with a general project orientation and specialized sessions designed to familiarize participants, by areas of interest, with application criteria required for their respective career training, potential internship, and/or employment opportunities;
 - Advisors from the partnering domestic/international agencies listed shall voluntarily provide, in person and/or virtually, supplementary guidance for respective application completion;
 - At all times project students’ interest and desired career paths, resulting in subsequent recommendation for domestic and international internship/career opportunities, will be strategically aligned with UN Agenda 2030 and African Agenda 2063 goals and targets; and
 - Finally, the 20 pilot participants selected and subsequently recommended for consideration, will be distributed as follows, in accordance with each partnering agency’s stated application criteria: (agency reference links and application criteria provided below)
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- [UNDP Africa](#) – 4 participants
 - [USAID](#) – 4 participants

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- [SID–US Chapter](#) – 2 participants
- [HBCU Business Deans Roundtable](#) – 2 participants
- [Manufacturing Renaissance](#) – 8 participants (4, H.S. Program 9-12th grades & 4, YMA Program 18-29 years old)

Outcome and Conclusions

- Pre/Post student and partnering agency surveys will be conducted to assess pilot project effectiveness, participant satisfaction and potential for replication and expansion;
- Audio-visual documentation of pilot project will be maintained and culminating 2-3 minute promotional video to be produced;
- OHBCUD will, for 1 year, voluntarily monitor the socio-academic and career path activity of all successfully placed student interns; and
- If deemed successful by all parties, options for future project funding and expansion will be explored.

UYI Pilot Project Profile

- **Total** = 20 Participants
- **Project Location** = Olive Harvey College (City Colleges of Chicago)
- **Project Duration** = 1 December 2023 through 31 May 2024
- **Initial Project Cost** = Pro Bono (short term volunteer services provided by individuals and partnering agencies)