

ORGANIZATION: LUCY (Lifting Up Camden's Youth) Outreach ("LUCY")

PROJECT: LUCY's Expansion of Trauma-Informed Care Services

POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY PROJECT: LUCY's target population is low-income Camden County youth, ages 7-25. Participants live at or below the poverty line, attend underperforming schools, and have limited access to higher education and employment opportunities outside of minimum wage jobs. Camden's youth are affected by drugs, gangs, and neighborhood violence, and have been profoundly impacted by childhood trauma. LUCY came to be because we wanted our city and county youth to have the same opportunities and access all youth deserve.

LUCY's participants' demographics statistics:

- 69% Hispanic, 28% African-American, 2% Asian, and 1% White/Caucasian
- 62% are of high school age
- 59% female; 41% male (2019)
- 97% of LUCY participants live at or below the poverty line, attend underperforming schools, and have limited access to higher education and fair wage employment opportunities
- 74% are from immigrant families representing 17 native countries
- LUCY serves an estimated 65 LGBTQIA+ youth/year and is a LGBTQIA+ safe space, hosting "Haven", a support program with leadership from Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

All of our youth described above will benefit from this project, which will be approximately 1,000 individuals in a 24-month period. However, we anticipate 150 of our highest needs youth participants, and their families, will be in need of more intensive specialized services.

ORGANIZATION'S TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET (CURRENT YEAR): \$779,600

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: LUCY's youth are impacted by severe childhood trauma, and LUCY is currently unable to meet and address the rapidly growing need due to a lack of staff, training, and therapeutic on-site support. Trauma manifests itself in different ways for different youth. It is urgent that staff are comfortable addressing their needs, and that supports are in place both for youth and for program staff, who can become frustrated and burnt out. LUCY will respond to this need by becoming a trauma-informed agency that integrates trauma-informed principles and practices into our organizational culture. LUCY

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will also meet the needs of the highest risk youth by providing access to greater therapeutic support services and more intensive one-on-one support on-site.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION: LUCY offers multilingual, culturally sensitive services to low-income Camden County teens and young adults ages 7-25 and their families. LUCY accepts and welcomes all youth to take part in educational, social, and service-oriented programming, and also provides support and resources within homes and schools. LUCY empowers youth to form healthy relationships, make good choices, and develop into compassionate and socially responsible adults who make a positive difference in their community.