

Y.E.S. Program & Partnership Overview

Grades 5-12 + Youth Opportunity Program, ages 18-24

Our purpose

Youth Empowering Society helps Cleveland-area young people build the personal, financial and practical skills to succeed in school, prepare for work and move toward self-sufficiency. Our approach combines structured lessons, guided practice, mentoring and connections to established education, training and employment partners.

Two pathways, one foundation

- **School and community pathway, grades 5-12:** age-appropriate life skills, emotional self-management, communication, safety, money decisions and future planning. Content is organized by grades 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12.
- **Youth Opportunity Program, ages 18-24:** the immediate operational priority, with a Cleveland cohort planned for January 2027. Life skills and employment readiness connect participants to technical training, apprenticeships and employment pathways through partners.

What Y.E.S. brings

- A structured curriculum framework with practical scenarios, guided discussion, skill rehearsal and participant work products.
- Age-banded learning goals, facilitator and student resources, and a consistent emphasis on responsibility, follow-through and community contribution.
- An approach to documenting attendance, participation, skill development and agreed next steps so partners can review progress.

Contact: El Simpson, Executive Director
elsimpson@youthempoweringsociety.org

Grades 5-12

Developmentally adapted life skills for school and community settings

Grades 5-6 | Build a foundation

Strengths, feelings, safe choices, respectful communication, boundaries, asking for help, simple money choices and future exploration. The existing model uses 36 sessions within 90 days, typically 35-45 minutes each.

Examples: one-week goal plan, help-seeking script, trusted-adult map and a safe-choice activity.

Grades 7-8 | Prepare for the next transition

Identity, belonging, emotional awareness, habits, peer relationships, communication and safety. Concrete examples and guided practice support stronger self-management and the transition to high school.

Examples: strengths profile, habit plan, conflict-response practice and reflection on choices.

Grades 9-10 | Strengthen responsibility

Academic engagement, priorities, peer influence, conflict management, money basics and career exposure. Activities connect decisions and routines to attendance, course completion and emerging interests.

Examples: goal-and-milestone plan, weekly schedule, money decision exercise and career-interest exploration.

Grades 11-12 | Prepare for adult pathways

Financial capability, workplace behavior, leadership, career/training choices and transition planning. Learners practice increasingly independent decisions and produce usable transition materials.

Examples: practice interview, budget, pathway comparison and education/training/employment action plan.

How a school or SNR collaboration could begin

Select one age band and a defined need, then agree on a workshop, short series or fuller pilot. The school framework organizes 36 units over a 90-day window; shorter collaborations would select specific competencies and would not be represented as completion of the full curriculum.

Youth Opportunity Program

Ages 18-24 | Cleveland cohort planned for January 2027

This is Y.E.S.'s young-adult pathway, distinct from the separate organization Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.). The exact January start day is pending.

Program model and focus

The planned 90-day cycle uses three days per week and three-hour program blocks. Core lessons are supported by practice, coaching, technology use, portfolio work and partner engagement. The curriculum centers on attitude and motivation; communication and conflict resolution; anger and stress management; priorities and time management; money management; safety; and career readiness.

From readiness to opportunity

- **Y.E.S. role:** build habits, workplace communication, financial readiness, goal-setting and follow-through; support participant preparation and early-employment retention.
- **Partner role:** provide or connect participants to technical instruction, recognized training, apprenticeship entry requirements, employment opportunities and appropriate referrals.
- **Participant evidence:** attendance and completion records, skills/portfolio work, a career action plan, referrals and verified next-step outcomes. Placement is a goal, not a guaranteed result.

Practical options for NLI / SNR discussion

- **Focused learning series:** choose an age band and priority such as communication, money choices, managing conflict or preparing for work.
- **Program or site introduction:** identify a school/community leader whose participants and schedule fit the Y.E.S. approach.
- **Young-adult connection:** explore suitable referrals or workforce introductions for the 18-24 cohort, with clear eligibility and responsibilities.