



**Aspire Education**



**COMMUNITY  
READING BUDDIES**

# Program Overview

- CRB recruits and trains young adults (ages 13-18) throughout Oakland to become Youth Mentors
- Youth Mentors provide 1:1 literacy tutoring and mentorship twice weekly to elementary students reading below grade level
- It's a win-win:
  - Elementary students ("Buddies") accelerate their reading progress while learning from a trusted, caring role model
  - Youth Mentors grow in their social-emotional, communication, and leadership skills while engaging in meaningful community service
- CRB currently runs three two-month cycles each year: fall (after-school), spring (after-school), and summer (all-day)



# Program Impact

## Elementary Buddies

- Grow by an average of 4 months in reading in each two-month CRB cycle
- Build genuine excitement and joy in reading
  - This summer, 70% of Buddies demonstrated growth in their excitement and motivation around reading
- Build a connection with an older peer and role model from their community



# Program Impact

## Youth Mentors

- Average of 90%+ of Youth Mentors grow in key social-emotional skills (e.g., communication and compassion)
- Engage in meaningful community service that builds the next generation of readers in their communities
- For many Youth Mentors, this is their first professional experience; gain professional skills and references to set them up for success in future job opportunities



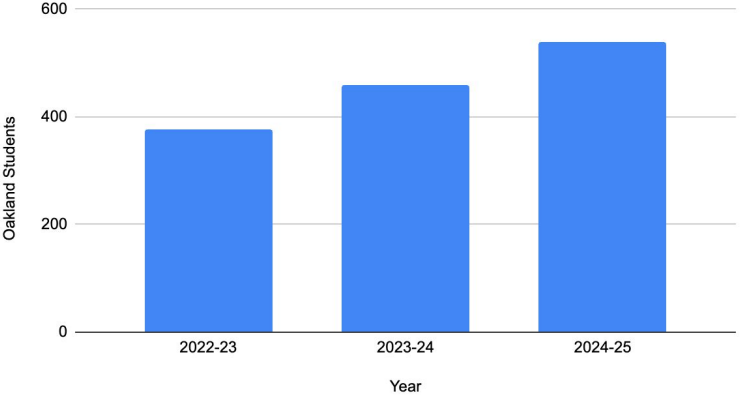
# Use of OFCY Funds

- Thanks to OFCY, CRB has been able to shift from a summer-only program to be year-round, with programming running throughout the fall, spring, and summer each year
- This shift to year-round programming has not only enabled the continuity of our services, but also enabled us to dramatically increase the number of students we're serving throughout Oakland

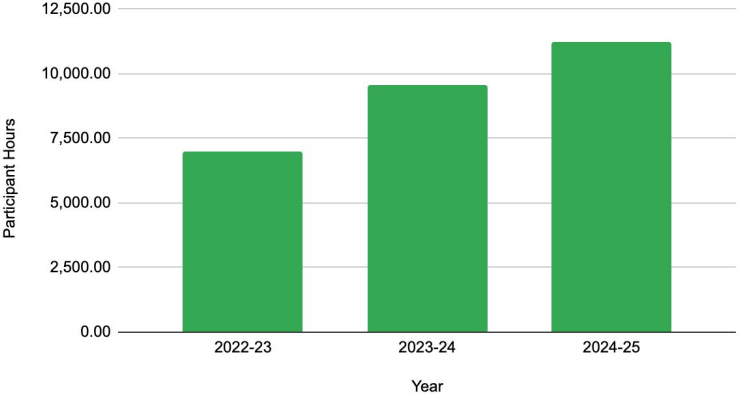


# Impact of OFCY Funds

Growth in Students Served by Year



Growth in Participant Hours by Year



- In addition to our virtual program via Zoom, CRB has expanded to six in-person sites (afterschool programs and libraries) throughout Oakland
- We've also developed a strong leadership pipeline for our teen mentors, enabling them to move from Youth Mentors to Lead Mentors to paid Program Interns

# Participant Highlights

- “I love learning how to read from you and **I feel really good about reading now.**” -Angelina, Summer 2025 Buddy
- **“This internship has made me grow as a person** and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity.” - Dilan, Summer 2025 Youth Mentor
- **“I LOVED WORKING WITH MY BUDDY.** I didn’t like it, I loved it.” - Luna, Spring 2025 Buddy
- “My buddy’s first language is Spanish, as is mine, and struggles to read in English, which reminded me of my younger self. When I was young, I didn’t have anyone who could help me or understand me. **Now, I was the person I needed when I was younger, to my buddy.**” -Claudia, Spring 2024 Youth Mentor



# Program Highlights: Aniyah's Story





**Thank You!**

