



**NEXT STEP
LEARNING
CENTER**

For the year
ending June,
2022



ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Build your skills, access your brilliance, and shape your future.” This is our message to every student who walks through our doors.

At Next Step, adults and transitional-aged youth enter our center eager to learn and discover new opportunities. Students impress us every day as they welcome new ideas and expand their skills. Under demanding circumstances, they embrace a second chance at education and create pathways towards a better future. As they learn to read, study for their GED’s, complete their high school diplomas and succeed in careers and college, participants create new lives and find their passions.

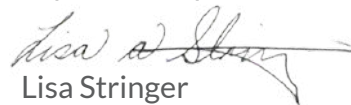
Working at the intersection of racial, economic and educational justice, Next Step creates long-term solutions for low-income people struggling to earn a living wage in the Bay Area. We are a place to learn that is safe,

caring and vibrant. With individual tutoring, engaging staff and robust transition services, students thrive.

Read on to learn about just a few of our outstanding students who launched their careers this year. Meet the next generation of future graduates, and join my colleagues and me in applauding their accomplishments. We couldn’t be more proud of their achievements, and we are humbled by their talent and dedication.

Thank you for giving our students the opportunity to learn, earn and excel.

In partnership,


Lisa Stringer



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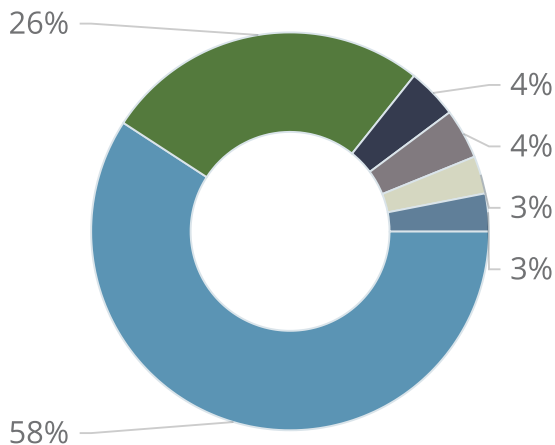
Next Step Year at a Glance

Next Step provides educational pathways out of poverty through a holistic, trauma-informed care lens, so that our students not only earn diplomas and skills, but also have a safe place to find support, reach goals, overcome challenges and heal from trauma.

457 Students participated in our programs

10,000 Instructional hours provided

Student Demographics



- Black / African American 58%
- Latinx 26%
- White 4%
- Asian / Pacific Islander 4%
- Native American 3%
- Mixed Race 3%

49% Women 5% Trans / Non-Binary 46% Men

97% **Low Income**
Are living below 1/2 of the poverty line

49% **Parents**
Are balancing parenting with school

32% **Working**
Are juggling work and studying

42% **Disabled**
Are living with disabling conditions

100% **Are powerful!**

“ Next Step has been a big support in my life. The way they help students makes you love learning and wanting more! ”

Carrole
Next Step Student

This Year's Highlights: Literacy, GED, and High School



409

Students

Enrolled and received instruction



227

Skill Gains

Advanced a grade level or passed a GED sub-test



103

Graduates

Earned a high school diploma or GED



“

Next Step has taught me my worth and the values I have to look forward to for the rest of my life.

”

Marquish
Next Step Student

July, 2021 -
June, 2022

Graduate Outcomes

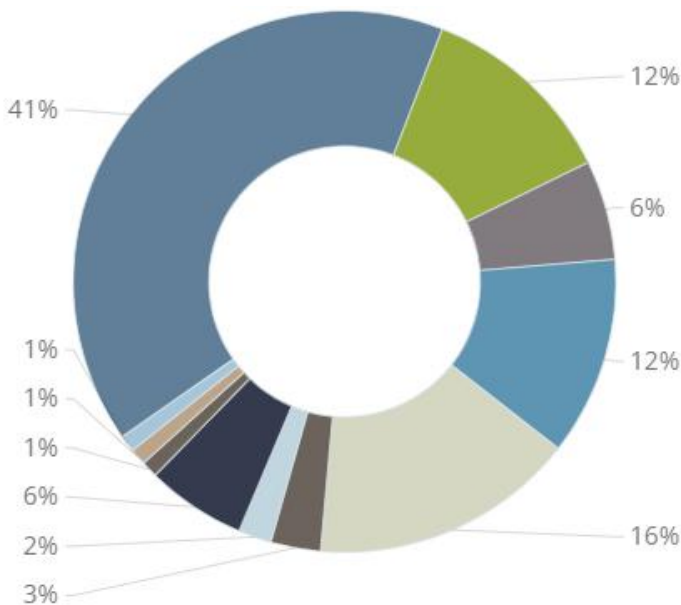
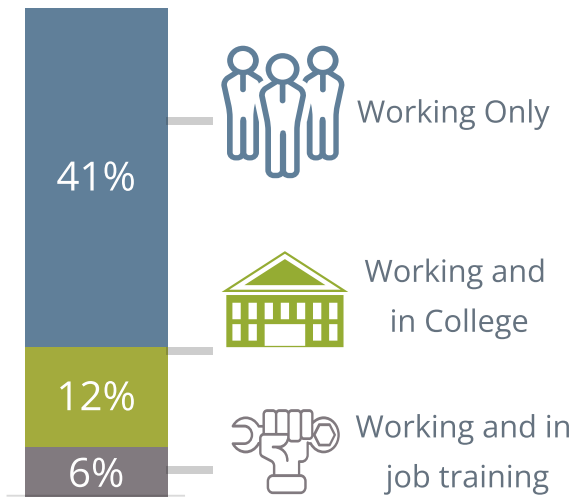


69%

**Increased
Income**

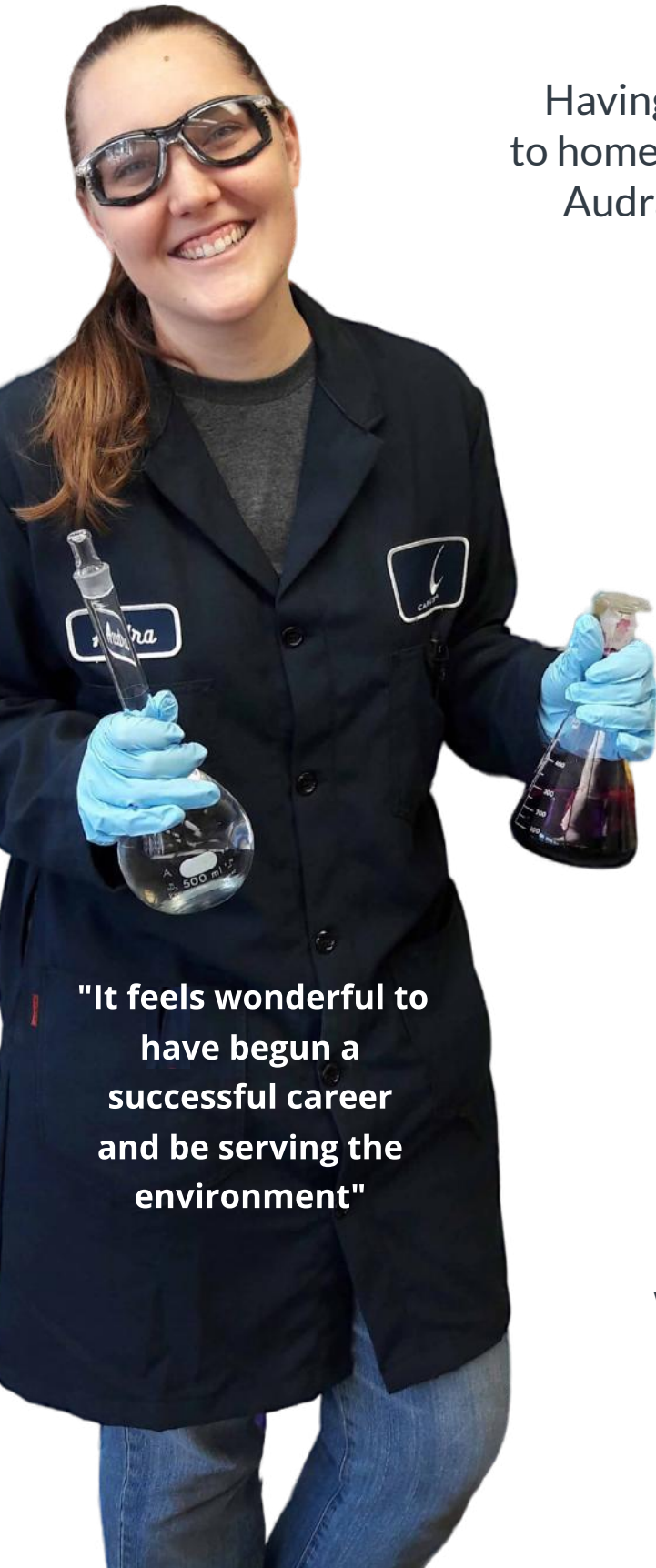
Within 6-months of
graduating

**59%
Working**



Working Only	41%	Job Searching	3%
Working & in College	12%	Parenting FT	2%
Working & in Job Training	6%	Unknown	6%
College Only	12%	Disabled	1%
Job Training Only	16%	Deceased	1%
		Incarcerated	1%

Student Journeys



"It feels wonderful to have begun a successful career and be serving the environment"

Having left high school due to homelessness, single mom Audra enrolls at Next Step

2011

Audra earns her GED

2013

Starts classes at Laney College

2015

Graduates UC Berkeley fall 2021, BS Chemical Engineering, honors

2021

Working as a Process Engineer at Corteva Agriscience

Today

Audra's School to Career Pathway

Aiden's School to Career Pathway

2011

After a rough start in high school, Aiden enrolls at Next Step

2013

Aiden earns his high school diploma

2016

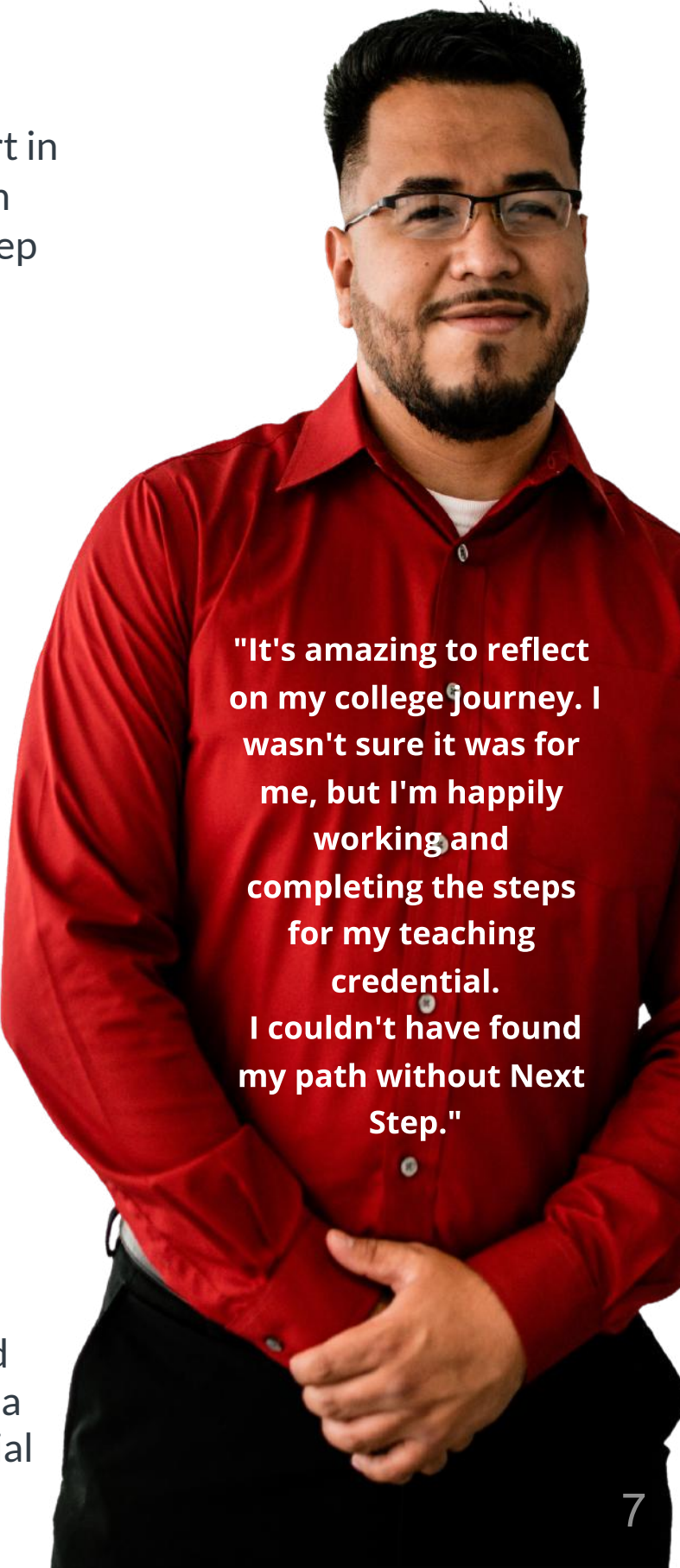
Starts classes at Laney College

2022

Graduates CSU East Bay spring 2022, BA Sociology, honors

Today

Employed as a Paraeducator and working towards a teaching credential



"It's amazing to reflect on my college journey. I wasn't sure it was for me, but I'm happily working and completing the steps for my teaching credential. I couldn't have found my path without Next Step."

This Year's Highlights: College and Careers



79

Students

Next Step grads attended post-secondary programs (college & other vocational training)



89%

Skill Gains

Successfully advanced in their programs - Next Step college students have an average GPA of 3.14



18

Graduated

with a degree or vocational certificate

Degrees Earned:

Vocational Certificates: 6
Associate Degrees: 7
Bachelors Degrees: 3
Maters Degree: 1
Doctorate Degree: 1



Jan., 2021

→ After loosing her job due to the pandemic shut-down, Jennifer enrolls at Next Step

Fall, 2021

→ Working with tutors, Jennifer adds a college class at Merritt to her high school studies

Dec., 2021

→ Graduates with her high school diploma and her first A in college

Jan., 2022

→ Begins phlebotomy training program and part-time college classes

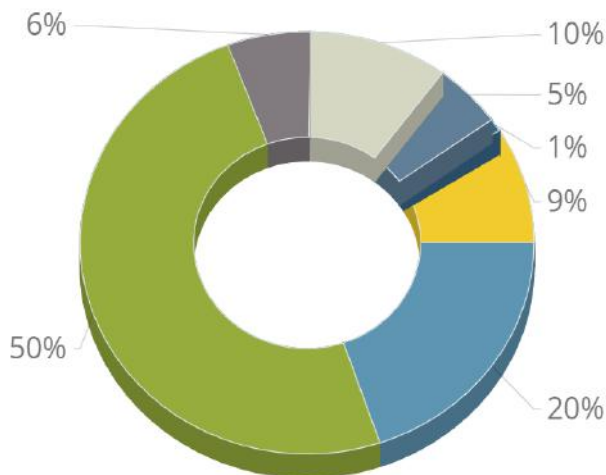
Today








→ Employed with her phlebotomy license and earning straight A's in college

"Next Step changed my life. My tutors taught me the skills I need to succeed. Not just math and writing, but how to trust myself and how to learn anything I put my mind to."

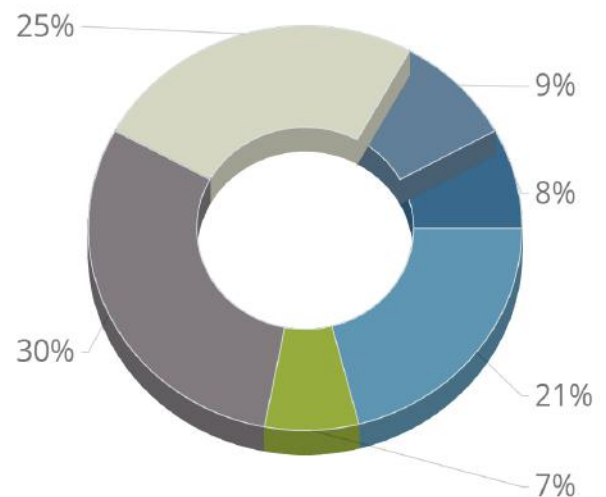
Financials







Revenue



	Individual Donations	20%
	Bequests	50%
	Government Grants	6%
	Foundation Grants	10%
	Religious Organizations	5%
	Corporations	1%
	PPP Loan	9%

Expense



	College Program	21%
	Workforce Program	7%
	Literacy / Adult Basic Education	30%
	High School Equivalency and Diploma	25%
	Administrative Oversight	9%
	Fundraising	8%

As we celebrate Next Step's students, we also want to celebrate the generosity of our donors. Everything students have been able to accomplish is because of your continued support and investment. Our students depend on you and we are so grateful to have you.



Cost per Student
\$1,200



Leveraged Services
\$400,000
(volunteer tutors and on-site Alameda County high school services)

Fundraising Goal, 2022
\$561,600

Fundraising goal met

100%



Remote Learning is Here to Stay

When Governor Newsom announced the pandemic shutdown in March of 2020, Next Step staff and volunteer tutors scrambled to make the switch from in-person to remote instruction, an all-hands-on-deck effort that entailed learning to use Zoom and ensuring students had access to computers and reliable WiFi. Initially there were the inevitable rough patches, but before too long a majority of students successfully transitioned to remote learning, and we were on our way.

To our surprise, what started as a necessity turned out to have unexpected benefits. Students who experienced challenges getting to school in-person suddenly had near perfect attendance. Take Lionna, a full-time Safeway manager, who previously commuted to Next Step from Antioch. She routinely clocked a three-hour round trip journey, but could now skip the traffic and attend class from the comfort of her kitchen table. And though we all missed the sense of connection and community of in-person learning, for some students the option of remote learning made their desire to go to school a reality by eliminating obstacles such as transportation, childcare, and absences due to chronic health issues.

Ashwaq, a Yemeni mother of three who moved to the United States four years ago, is a case in point. As a child in Yemen, Ashwaq was only able to attend school up to fourth grade, but she dreamed of eventually completing her education. Since enrolling at Next Step six months ago, Ashwaq has received twice weekly Zoom instruction in reading, vocabulary and grammar.

Pandemic or not, the remote format fits Ashwaq's needs perfectly - she doesn't drive and two of her three children are at home with her during the day. Attending school on Zoom has allowed Ashwaq to flourish. She is a thoughtful and attentive student who is serious about learning and picks up new skills quickly.

Ashwaq reports that her Next Step classes are going well: she's getting the help she needs with reading and writing and she feels comfortable working with tutors. "I'm learning a lot of new things," says Ashwaq. And for the time being, remote learning works just fine: "I can keep my eye on the children and do the class - it's easy!"

In addition to getting her driver's license, Ashwaq's goals are to continue strengthening her English, get her high school diploma, and attend college to get an early childhood development certificate. It is exciting to watch her day to day progress: Ashwaq's story embodies and reaffirms Next Step's mission of providing educational opportunities to underserved populations and enabling our students to achieve their true potential.

"I'm grateful my tutor can Zoom at night - working full time and going to school is possible now."

Richard, Next Step Student



Ways to Get Involved



Volunteer

Inquire online or call us directly



Invest

- Donate online
- Mail a check
- Invest your retirement drawdown
- Ask us about stock donations



Spread the Word

Know someone who would like to join our mailing list or take a tour?
Let us know!

Like us on Yelp or Google



Ask about Planned Giving

We can connect you with someone who can help



I donate to Next Step because I know my dollars have a direct impact on someone's life. I know I am a part of the solution for a more equitable Bay Area.



Donna

Next Step Learning Center Staff

- Lisa Stringer, Executive Director
- Peggy Presley, Program Director
- Greg Baquaix, Tutor
- Monica Berson, Bookkeeper
- Quinton Cabellon, Graduate Transitions Coordinator
- Jennie Emard, College Coordinator
- Karen Matza, Literacy Instructor
- Nicole Crosby, Opportunity Academy Teacher*
- Lisa McCarty, Opportunity Academy Teacher*
- Monique Guerrero, Opportunity Academy Instructional Assistant*

Next Step Board of Directors

- Evie Ashcroft, Board Chair
- Mary Brutocao, Secretary
- Peter Raffo, Treasurer
- Peter Boero
- Eugene Brown
- Joan Doyle, SNJM
- Sumana Lahiry
- Linda Orrick, SNJM
- David Pereda
- Greg Schopf
- Stephen Sanger
- Maureen Viani, SNJM

* Leveraged positions through our partnership with Alameda County Office of Education

Next Step Learning Center

Transforming Lives
Through Education for
27 years



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Website

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