

Youth Council Meeting
Monday, January 26, 2026 @ 9:00 A.M.

[Join ZOOM Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9715412651?pwd=UEExhUkRtUnVuMER0cm96ZEVWZ05OZz09&omn=84178669463)

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Call-in Number: (305) 224-1968

Meeting ID: 971 541 2651

Pass Code: 290096

As courtesy to others:

1. Please remember to mute your phone if you are not speaking.
2. Please do not put this call on hold if your telephone system plays hold music.

Please let us know if you hear static, echoing, or any other interference on the line; or if you cannot hear others.

Call 863-385-3672 and ask for Caleb, or Matthew, if you have these or other connectivity issues.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

- The meeting will be called to order by Gary Ritter, Council Chair.
- Mr. Ritter to inquire if any Requests for Public Comment have been made.

II. Introductions

- Roll will be called to identify/confirm all council members calling in. Council members, staff, and others present will be identified.
- Mr. Ritter to inquire if there are any others on the phone who were not identified.

III. Presentations

- A. CareerSource Heartland Youth Program Performance to Date

IV. Topics

A. ACTION ITEMS:

None

B. INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

V. Other

VI. Adjourn

Any person who might wish to appeal any decision made in a public hearing or meeting is hereby advised that they will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which will include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based. **Reminder:** Board members employed by organizations which have any interest in any Board item may not discuss, make motions, second motions or vote on any matters which may involve that organization. Additionally, they must declare a Conflict of Interest and sign a Conflict-of-Interest form.

CareerSource Heartland is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.

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WIOA Youth Program Youth Council Report

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PYP to CareerSource WIOA Youth Program

Transitioning Participants from SFSC Panther Youth Program to CareerSource Heartland WIOA Youth Program

39 In School Youth

49 Out of School Youth

88 Total Participants

Current Participants Served 2025/2026

County	Desoto	Hardee	Highlands	Okeechobee
In School	05	07	18	09
Out of School	01	08	29	15
Total	06	15	47	25

Outcomes & Closures

* New Out of School	05	
Case Closure	23	
Post Secondary	15	
Employment	07	(average hourly earning \$16.00 per hour)
Military	01	

Participants Accomplishments



High School Diploma	17
GED	06
Occupational Certificate	02



Lack of Stable Support Systems



- ▶ Many at-risk youth experience unstable home environments, limited parental involvement, or frequent housing changes.
- ▶ This instability can lead to poor school attendance, difficulty focusing on academics, and a lack of guidance or encouragement to persist in school or pursue employment opportunities.

Academic Gaps and Limited Access to Resources

Youth often enter Adult Education with learning gaps due to earlier educational disruptions.

Barriers to tutoring, technology, transportation, and career guidance reduce academic persistence and delay entry into the workforce.



Thank you!

Eddie Cuencas

Program Coordinator

CareerSource Heartland

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