

# **APALI Civic Leadership Program: Group Project**

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For our civic engagement project, Angela and I would like to focus on assisting disadvantaged youth in rising above their circumstance. One of the ways to empower someone to take control of their situation and gain both financial stability as well as social mobility is to offer job-seeking assistance geared to result in job placement. Having a job promotes confidence in one's ability to support themselves and their family, as well as their ability to be a successful member of society. Organizations offering these services help these youth take advantage of opportunities that might not have otherwise been available to them.

The organization we have chosen to focus on is NOVA Job Seeking Center in the city of Sunnyvale, specifically the youth department and their services. NOVA is a nonprofit, federally-funded employment and training agency that provides customer-focused workforce development services. They work closely with local businesses, educators, and job seekers to ensure that their programs provide opportunities that build the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to address the workforce needs of Silicon Valley. NOVA enables jobseekers to transition back into the workforce by providing new skills, new connections, new information, and new opportunities. For our project, we plan to learn about the logistics of how organizations such as these work and stay successful, as well as whom they help.

Disadvantaged youth are a vulnerable group of our society who have experienced challenges in life and need the inspiration and support of community organizers, business partners and education leaders to become

productive citizens. We do hope by sharing their story, we can make them a priority in every community initiative for a healthier society.