



Five questions with Tatiana Crosby

Tatiana is Braddock Youth Project (BYP) program coordinator in AmeriCorps KEYS, which is under the Office of Community Relations (OCR). She can be reached at Tatiana.Crosby@alleghenycounty.us.

1. What was your path to Allegheny County/DHS?

My path to Allegheny County/DHS began in 2018 as the assistant coordinator at Braddock Youth Project (BYP). I am proud to share that I was a part of BYP when I was in high school. To be able to work with the program in a different capacity has been such a rewarding experience.

2. Tell us a bit about the work you do.

I am a part of a small team of staff and AmeriCorps members that aim to provide youth (14-18 years old) in the Braddock area with the work readiness skills that will be useful in the workforce and higher education. My position has a good balance of administrative duties and hands-on teaching and mentoring the youth.

3. How does your work help to support DHS's mission and goals?

Part of DHS's mission is to assist residents in living safe, healthy, and productive lives. We support this by focusing in on the youth in the Braddock area and being sure that they can independently and creatively accomplish these same goals. Additionally, we assist them with creating meaningful and sustainable projects within their community.

4. What most excites you about your work?

The most exciting part about the work is being able to connect the youth to different opportunities. A few examples include attending animation workshops and environmental justice summits as well as meeting many different creative entrepreneurs. If a youth tells us they are really interested in a topic or career, we do our best to connect them with someone actively working in that field. When I hear the youth interacting at these events or with these individuals, it reassures me that the work we are doing is important and having a true impact.

5. What is most important thing DHS staff should know about your role?

They should know that the most important thing is the youth. They are why we do what we do. They are the future. Therefore, all of my decisions and actions are with them in mind.