



## Girls Light Our Way (GLOW): A Family-Run Organization in Peoria, Illinois

**Girls Light Our Way (GLOW)** is an African-American-led Family-Run Organization serving youth and families in Peoria, primarily within zip codes 61602, 61603, 61604, 61605, and 61606. With more than 12 years of community-based experience, GLOW delivers integrated behavioral health, youth development, and workforce programming in neighborhoods facing high rates of poverty and community violence.

GLOW serves youth and adults ages 14–70 through school-based academic support, out-of-school violence prevention initiatives, workforce readiness programming, and trades-related training. Career exploration and immersive virtual reality (VR) training aligned with industry-recognized credentials provide hands-on exposure to career pathways. Participants also receive life-skills programming and healing-centered supports designed to strengthen personal development and emotional regulation.

Recognizing that mobility and justice-system barriers often limit opportunity, GLOW supports participants in navigating licensing requirements, probation obligations, unpaid fines, and identification needs. Structured transportation assistance helps ensure youth and adults can attend school, job interviews, work shifts, court appointments, and program activities. GLOW collaborates with schools, workforce partners, justice entities, health systems, and violence-prevention coalitions to coordinate services and strengthen pathways to employment and safety. Programs are shaped by participant input and grounded in lived experience, ensuring responsiveness to community realities.

Based in years of research, GLOW approaches wellness through not only physical, nutritional, and mental health, but self-efficacy and literacies of power, such as financial and digital skillsets to help young people to lasting success. Their programs proudly exist at the intersection of education, entrepreneurship, skilled trades, civic leadership, and cultural empowerment.

Through integrating behavioral health support with workforce development and violence prevention strategies, GLOW strengthens economic stability and expands opportunity for teens, families and generations across Peoria.

Learn more about Girls Light Our Way by emailing:  
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*“Our goal is to  
‘Give brilliance equitable  
power to shine.’”*

