

June 3, 2011

THE WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL

— ★ ★ ★ ★ *for* ★ ★ ★ ★ —

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Stakeholder Outreach Synthesis

- Progress to Date -



Stakeholder Outreach Efforts

- Nearly 250 stakeholders engaged to date across communities and sectors. Combination of meetings, roundtables, community-based listening sessions and webinars
- Primarily focused on philanthropic and youth-serving organizations, as well as youth; government and business leaders and higher education institutions also engaged
- Ongoing outreach intended to go “broad and deep”
 - ☆ Continued outreach via online and offline venues to drill down on key issues, based on lessons learned to date
 - ☆ Prioritizing education and business sectors, as well as expanded reach to leaders in government and faith-based organizations
 - ☆ Ongoing engagement of youth and youth-serving organizations



Key Findings

What do young people need to “reconnect” and succeed?

★ Programs

- Holistic programs, or network of services, that address full range of needs, with additional “seats” (capacity) in existing programs that work
- Multiple pathways to success, including a variety of on-ramps and re-entry pathways that meet young people “where they are”
- Effective programs that address the needs of those youth performing significantly below grade level at the time they leave the education system (estimated to be up to 70% of disconnected youth)
- High-quality, relevant education and job training programs that prepare youth for “real” job opportunities; Better access to relevant work experience

★ Communication

- Expanded outreach to increase young people’s awareness of programs that work
- Elimination of stereotypes of the limitations of disconnected youth; Messaging that reinforces youth as assets

★ Prevention and Intervention

- Improvements to systems that fail youth and lead to the point of disconnection (e.g., foster care, education, juvenile justice)
- Involvement of caring adults, including parents and guardians, when possible, mentors, positive role models and peer support



Key Findings

What is needed for effective cross-sector collaboration?

- ☆ Clearly defined problem, trust among stakeholders, “community-wide” common goals and metrics and data-driven decisions
- ☆ Effective design involving all stakeholders, e.g., youth, educators, employers, credentialing entities, youth-serving organizations, and other stakeholders
- ☆ Incentives for existing collaboratives (e.g., to address challenges facing youth) rather than formation of new collaboratives

What do stakeholders need to move forward?

- ☆ Common language articulating the challenge, clearly defined business case for each stakeholder and “proof” that transformation is possible
- ☆ Defined opportunities to engage and add value that align with stakeholders’ mission and capitalize on organizational competencies
- ☆ Better access to and alignment of public (state/local/federal) and private resources
- ☆ Engagement of non-corporate employers (e.g., local government, universities, healthcare, among others), particularly those with growth in job opportunities



Implications

Key implications for the Council's work

- ☆ While there is no “silver bullet,” the Council can highlight and identify ways to scale those programs that address the needs of youth in each “segment”
- ☆ Communication is a key area in which the Council can add value
 - Bringing visibility to this population, highlighting youth as assets, communicating “why I care” to key stakeholders, leveraging the local voices of youth
 - Developing powerfully effective mechanisms for communicating both outreach and support for disconnected youth
- ☆ Creating systemic linkage between education/credentialing and workforce needs is a key component of youth employability. The Council can engage business leaders to prioritize youth in workforce development efforts and to work hand-in-hand with youth-serving organizations
- ☆ The Council can identify areas where the Federal Government is making significant investments in linking youth to jobs and education, and recommend how to accelerate or bolster those efforts through cross-sector collaboration



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