



ALIGNING POLICIES AND FUNDING WEBINAR SUMMARY

On August 12, the Forum for Youth Investment hosted a webinar on the topic of 'Aligning Policies and Funding'. The session, part of the Ready by 21 Webinar Series, featured presenters from Austin, TX and the Finance Project, a member of the Ready by 21 National Partnership. The webinar explored the best ways to establish and fund coordinated and aligned youth services, the different types of funding options available, and ways for coordinating bodies to pool and leverage their resources. This session was particularly timely, as this era of tight budgets has led leaders to search for ways to make better use of resources.

Speakers included Suzanne Hershey, Facilitator with the Austin Ready by 21 Coalition, who shared Austin's use of the Ready by 21 Dashboard to promote resource sharing and coordination. Suzanne also shared some indicators and resources that stemmed from the work to align policies.

Shawn Stelow Griffin, Program Manager with the Finance Project, explored a range of financing options to achieve the following:

- Make better use of existing resources
- Maximize federal and state revenue
- Create more flexibility in existing resources
- Build public-private partnerships
- Create new dedicated revenue streams

The core approaches Griffin shared were coordination, pooling, and decategorization. Examples of each were offered as well as an overview of each approach. In conclusion, Griffin offered the following resources for those who wanted more information:

Finding Funding:

http://www.financeproject.org/fedfund_search.cfm

Blending and Braiding Resources:

http://www.financeproject.org/publications/FPBlendingFunds1_24.pdf

Financing Youth Programs:

http://www.financeproject.org/publications/Thinkingbroadly_PM.pdf

