



Opportunity Youth Network

The Opportunity Youth Network (OYN) was launched in March 2013 to capitalize on the momentum created by the White House Council on Community Solutions, which brought new visibility and focus to the needs of opportunity youth. Opportunity youth – also commonly referred to as disconnected youth – are the 5.5 million 16-24 year olds in the United States that are currently not in school and not employed. In partnership with the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions and Gap Inc., the Forum for Youth Investment manages OYN, a network that has brought together the country's leading philanthropists, corporations, federal government officials, nonprofits and formerly disconnected youth to work together to reconnect one million opportunity youth in five years.

The Opportunity Youth Network's primary roles are to:

- hold the field collectively accountable to the goal of reconnecting one million young people every five years
- continually take stock of progress in the field
- help align related efforts
- catalyze efforts where there are gaps

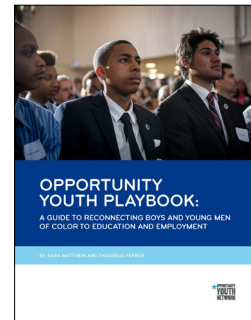
Join the Network

OYN shines a spotlight on what is working for disconnected youth, as well as opportunities to align existing efforts and catalyze new ones. The network facilitates information-sharing and collective action among its members through regular interactive online meetings, monthly e-newsletters, working groups to align efforts, and an annual in-person summit. Thaddeus Ferber and Sara Matthew lead the Forum's work on OYN. Leaders who work in support of opportunity youth and are interested in engaging with and learning from cross-sector leaders nationally are encouraged to participate in this network.

Resource Spotlight:

"Opportunity Youth Playbook: A Guide to Reconnecting Boys and Young Men of Color to Education and Employment" was developed to help communities take action to reconnect disconnected boys and young men of color. The toolkit begins with a set of cross-cutting strategies and then is

organized by the six critical milestones enshrined by the White House's My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge: entering school ready to learn; reading at grade level by third grade; graduating from high school ready for college and career; completing postsecondary education or training; successfully entering the workforce; and reducing violence and providing a second chance. Each section includes an overview, strategies for taking action, and links to key organizations and resources.



Available for download at:
http://forumfyi.org/files/oyp_guide_full_for_web.pdf

Come to the Summit!

**Opportunity Youth Network Summit
November 2017
Washington, DC**

The Opportunity Youth Network Summit serves as the network's anchor activity - providing leaders and stakeholders across sectors a forum to learn about the latest happenings in the field, uncover ways to collaborate, leverage their work and set priorities for the following year. The 2017 Opportunity Youth Network Summit is the fifth annual in-person convening and will take place in Washington, D.C.



Interested in learning more? Please contact Sara Matthew (sara@forumfyi.org) for more information on OYN.

