



A unified effort supported by the Forum for Youth Investment, the National Urban League, and the American Institutes for Research

The Youth Fields Workforce Survey Feasibility Study



A study to determine the feasibility of and a plan for conducting a national Youth Fields Workforce Survey, which could provide current, relevant, and reliable information about the workforce of professionals that support youth development.

Goal:

We aim to paint the whole picture of the varied youth fields across the country and the challenges and potential of mobilizing that workforce more effectively for learning and development.

To accomplish this, we are working with a co-operative of policy, practice, and research organizations to finalize a survey plan using input from the field to reach the widest possible audience.

This will lead to an online survey to be launched in fall 2021, as well as supported collection and administration, an open database of the survey data for use by the field, and identification of deeper explorations of the workforce at the organizational or geographic levels.

The information will help us to:

- Fuel practice improvements, policy advancements, and knowledge-building research in our field.
- Define the youth fields workforce, prioritize efforts to recognize their assets and needs and act upon their perspectives, and ultimately support them and their continuing work to ensure all young people have opportunities to thrive.
- Independently, these efforts will contribute to the field using the information from the survey; together, they can lead to lasting improvements for the youth fields' workforce and better outcomes for all youth.

Read more about the Youth Fields Workforce Survey and what it can do [here](#).

Why we are taking this on now:

Youth workers are THE key lever in supporting youth. They have the power to change the odds for young people and upend inequities. Yet little is known about this critical and diverse workforce. Reliable information is needed to fuel policy, practice, and research efforts to understand, strengthen and support the youth fields workforce.

Key Partners:

- Dale Blyth, PhD
- S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation
- Forum for Youth Investment and the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality
- American Institutes for Research
- National Institute on Out-of-School Time
- Education Counsel
- National Afterschool Association
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Minnesota
- Afterschool Alliance
- Foundation for California Community Colleges

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