



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

Making the Invisible Visible:

Empowering the Essential Adults Who Work Directly with Young People and Their Families

"Schools don't have communities, communities have schools. Schools are an educational force to help a community do its work."

-Hal Smith,
National Urban League



Watch a NEW Edutopia How Learning Happens Video

- [Building Adult Capacity for Social and Emotional Learning](#)

Read This Blog Post from The Readiness Projects

- [What Happens When Out-of-School Time is All the Time?](#)

Get an Overview of One of the Readiness Projects

- [Youth Fields Workforce Survey](#)

Learn About Investments in the Youth Development Workforce

- [Betting on the Workforce: An Interview With the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation](#)

Most of our discussions focus on systems, organizations and programs. But settings – clubs, classrooms, camps, cafeterias – are where young people and adults come together to build relationships and co-create experiences.

The Readiness Projects are working to address this challenge by grappling with these questions:

- **Who are the adults that work directly with vulnerable young people?**
- **Where are they (schools, employment training programs, youth organizations, youth advocacy efforts, etc.)? How does where they work impact what they do?**
- **What are they saying they need to be effective during these times? What resources and supports do they have? What do they lack?**
- **What would taking a broader community ecosystem view do to change the decisions that are being made by leaders in their organizations and systems?**

How can you take action?

Commit to engaging your network

- Host a follow up discussion about how you can empower the essential adults who work with young people and their families
 - Consider discussing as a group:
 - What decision from other systems have impacted our work recently?
 - What do we need to successfully serve vulnerable young people and their families?
 - How can we better support each other?
- Consider what resources might be useful to support the essential adults in your network, organization, or community during these times.
 - Our co-strategists at Every Hour Counts curated a [COVID-19 resource list](#).
 - Forum for Youth Investment's David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality hosted a [range of webinars](#) on virtual learning supports at both a network and program level.
 - Prime Time Palm Beach County's [Seven-Day Self-Care Challenge](#) reminds us that sometimes empowering essential adults means supporting them in taking care of their own well-being.

Comment & Contribute

- Share your feedback on ideas, tools, and resource material or contribute materials and tools from your network or organization
- Nominate the great work of your network or organization related to supporting essential adults to the [Bright Spots Database](#), or nominate other organizations.

To learn more about The Readiness Projects, visit: forumfyi.org/the-readiness-projects/