



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

Making the Invisible Visible:

Increasing the Visibility, Belonging, and Agency of Marginalized Adolescents and Their Families

"My advice for adults [working with teens] is...come without stereotypes... 'we don't care about anything, we're too moody to do anything'... if they don't think of [teenagers] like that, we won't think of them like someone who is trying to oppress us."

- Lily, a 16-year-old youth leader with Youth In Action, a program of the Nashville After Zone Alliance (NAZA).



Read These Blog Posts from The Readiness Projects

- [Summer. Learning. Loss. Leadership.](#)
- [Coronavirus Affirms the Need to Connect More Deeply with Adolescents in High Schools](#)
- [When Out-of-School Time Comes Home: Variations within an Extended Family](#)

Consider This Perspective from the New York Times

- ['You're Out of Your Mind if You Think I'm Ever Going Back to School'](#)

Read About a Bright Spot Community

- [Louisville Urban League paying teens, young adults to stay at home through social media challenge](#)

Listen to More Youth Voices from Our Partners at CASEL

- [Youth Voices: Locating Identity, Agency, & Belonging in all Learning Spaces](#)

School districts across the country are reporting declines in enrollment as the new school year begins

Vulnerable families are experiencing disproportionate health and economic impacts from COVID-19.

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

- **Who is connecting with the adolescents and families who have been most tenuously connected and historically marginalized?**
- **What would it take to get a more robust equity picture for the adolescents and families that are most vulnerable and least visible?**
- **How are adolescents and families at the vanguard of community and societal change efforts? What can we do to support them?**
- **Are the current responses working for marginalized adolescents and their families? Are they being squeezed out?**

How can you take action?

Commit to engaging your network

- Host a discussion about how you help improve visibility, agency, and belonging for adolescents and their families
- Consider discussing as a group:
 - How can we be more intentional about ensuring we are supporting or partnering with organizations that support marginalized adolescents and their families?
 - Do our policies and our systems create belonging for adolescents or squeeze them out?
 - As we work to partner with schools to support adolescents how can we advocate for transformative learning and development? Youth voice?
- Consider how you are building developmental relationships with adolescents. Search Institute's checklist – [Building Developmental Relationships During the COVID-19 Crisis](#) – is a great place to start.

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 increasing the visibility, belonging, and agency of marginalized adolescents and their families to the [Bright Spots Database](#), or nominate other organizations.

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