The Forum envisions a world in which...

All young people reach their fullest potential – in education, work, and life

To achieve this vision, the Forum will...

1. **Strengthen Programs**
   - Improving program quality in youth development systems, using the Forum’s expertise to contribute to systems-wide best practices.

2. **Support System Leaders & Practitioners**
   - Designing, building, and implementing capacity building initiatives for system leaders and practitioners using assets developed in the program quality and policy functions.

3. **Shape Policy**
   - Convening the youth development ecosystem to facilitate shared learning, identify policy gaps, and coalesce around a united youth development policy agenda.

The three strategic goals will work together to enable the Forum to achieve greater impact in the youth development field.
In the next five years, the Forum will refine its focus to activate the strategic goals

**How to Engage**
Collapsing silos to deliver to customers more integrated offerings (i.e., program quality improvement, policy, capacity building, and ecosystem convening) that operate together and mutually reinforce each other

**Where to Focus**
Engaging high need jurisdictions at state and local level, agnostic of political affiliation, to drive meaningful impact across the youth development system

**Which Systems**
Developing leadership and expertise in systems of out-of-school time, education, youth workforce development, human services, child welfare, and juvenile justice

**Who to Serve**
Assisting organizations focused on 5-24 year-old youth, particularly youth of color, who lack access to opportunities and resources

The strategic goals will inform outputs and outcomes that help achieve the Forum’s vision in its theory of change

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| Improving program quality in youth development systems | • Assess, plan, and improve youth development program quality through continuous quality improvement tools, resources, and frameworks  
• Leverage data assets and measurement & evaluation frameworks to advance a youth development approach within and across systems | • High-quality, tailored tools to improve youth development programs | • Youth development programs know how they are performing and where to improve  
• High-quality programs that support positive youth development and uphold communities |
| Designing, building, and implementing capacity-building initiatives for system leaders and practitioners | • Provide consultation, training, and technical assistance to system leaders and practitioners on improving systems and programs  
• Shape and strengthen youth development ecosystems to co-design innovative solutions that support positive youth development | • Capacity building support for youth development system leaders and practitioners | • System leaders know what reforms to implement and how to enact change and youth development practitioners know what practices to implement and how to implement them  
• Prepared and empowered system leaders and practitioners across the field that address the needs of all youth including youth of color |
| Convening the youth development ecosystem to shape policy | • Convene stakeholders and engage youth and their families to facilitate shared learnings and identify policy gaps  
• Build relationships and promote opportunities to advance a youth policy agenda | • Convenings organized and relationships built to engage stakeholders | • Youth, families, and practitioners work together to achieve collective impact and policymakers know what policy changes are needed  
• Federal and state policies, legislation, and ecosystems that strengthen youth and communities |

**Our Vision:** A world where all young people reach their fullest potential – in education, work, and life