

THE WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL



COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

"All Citizens, All Sectors, Working Together"



President Obama has said that this is an "all hands on deck" moment – individuals, businesses, nonprofits, philanthropy, and government need to pull together to make lasting progress on our national priorities. The White House Council for Community Solutions was created to help drive this critical goal of "all citizens, all sectors working together."

Established in December 2010 by President Obama, the White House Council for Community Solutions will highlight local initiatives that are making great progress on our national priorities and will promote these models to help communities learn from their success. This White House Council will focus especially on applying lessons-learned to help communities address a critical national priority: our shared responsibility to prepare all adolescents and young adults live productive and prosperous lives.

Connecting Young People, Creating Pathways to Success

In a global economy that's more competitive and connected than ever before, we need to ensure that every young person, by age 25, has the education, training, and skills to secure work and contribute to society. The White House Council for Community Solutions will identify effective community solutions, and will leverage the best cross-sector resources to help our Nation's young people succeed. By investing in what's working and spreading those innovative solutions to more communities, we can connect more youth to a brighter future.

The White House Council for Community Solutions will identify ways that every American community can create the civic infrastructure or local road map to move youth along pathways to education, employment, and ongoing civic participation.

Too many young people are not getting the education they need:

- Nationwide, roughly 30% of students fail to graduate from high school.
- 50% of minority youth fail to get a high-school diploma.

Source: Congressional Research Service Report, April 2010; Economic Report of the President, 2010 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/economic-report/president-chapter-8r2.pdf>); Pathways to Prosperity, January 2011; Congressional Research Service Report, 2010

Roughly 4 million young adults, age 16-24, in this country are disconnected from both education and the workforce.

Sources: <http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2009-sa.html>; Rumbaut and Komaie, September 2007; Congressional Research Service Report, April 2009; <http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/0438.pdf>; http://nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/nj_20100504_1581.php; Connected by 25, Wald and Martinez, 2003.



Our goal is to mobilize communities to forge cross-sector “success networks” that open new possibilities for young people and move them along pathways to opportunity.

Too many young people are not getting the work experience they need:

- The percentage of teens and young adults working is now the lowest since the 1930s, and almost 20% of young people ages 16-24 who aren't in school are unemployed.
- For young Latinos in the same age range the unemployment rate is over 20%, and for young African Americans this number is over 32%.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Pathways to Prosperity, January 2011

Too many young people do not have the skills or training to succeed in the jobs of the future:

- Over the next decade in the United States, job growth will be greater in higher-skilled industries.
- Nearly 2/3 of the jobs created will require that workers have some higher-education or substantial on-the-job-training

Source: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/oco2003.htm>, December 2010

To reach this goal, the White House Council for Community Solutions will connect, convene, and catalyze the best resources of the public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic sectors in communities across the country:

- **Connect** leaders and key constituents - especially young adults and community leaders - to address the challenge of connecting youth to education and employment
- **Convene** effective young adult “success networks” in communities, understand why they work, and how to scale them for maximum impact
- **Catalyze** communities to engage all sectors and collectively address the challenge of disconnected youth

By connecting young people to education, workforce training, and vital services, we can build a base for strong economic growth and make our communities safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

For more information about the White House Council for Community Solutions, visit us online at www.serve.gov/communitysolutions or email WhiteHouseCouncil@cns.gov.

