



**SkillWorks**  
PARTNERS FOR A PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE

Youth Industry Partnership Initiative  
Opportunity Youth Collaborative Meeting –  
March 18, 2015

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## YIPI Overview

- Youth/Industry Partnership Initiative
- Focused on:
  1. Enhancing pathways to postsecondary & careers for disconnected young adults
  2. Developing deeper understanding of how strong employer engagement can help low-income young adults connect to good careers
- Funders: National Fund for Workforce Solutions/JFF, Rockefeller Foundation, w/ interest from Annie E. Casey Foundation

## Goals

1. Train and place at least 50 Opportunity Youth in employment
2. Recruit and bridge at least 20 Opportunity Youth to post-secondary education
3. Help at least 5 Opportunity Youth complete post-secondary credentials
4. Strengthen the network of youth-serving and workforce development providers

## Strategy

Creating, supporting and learning about multiple pathways for young adults to access skills training, education, and jobs.

Approach:

- 1) Build learning network of providers focusing on OY
- 2) Fund outreach/recruitment and program expansion

## Activities so far...

- Added training capacity to YouthBuild Boston
- **Small grants to support outreach and recruitment efforts**
- Supported coaching capacity
- **OYC and YIPI Network convenings**
- Data collection
- Convened with other NFWS/YIPI-funded sites

## Key Lessons Learned

- Small grants can have a catalytic impact
- Disconnected young adults require a significant amount of training & wrap-around services to persist & be successful in school & jobs
- We need to be clearer about the payoff to training and education, especially if job placement is not immediate
- Use of technology is key to find, recruit, and keep OY engaged
- Word of mouth/peer-to-peer referrals are most common
- Partnership and network building is crucial
- Survey results

## Key Lessons Learned

- YouthBuild Boston – Pre-Apprenticeship program
- AACA – Building Energy Efficient Maintenance Skills program
- Year Up referral incentive pilot
- Others:
  - College Navigation – Zeida Santos
  - JVS
  - X-Cel Education

## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?