

BOSTON

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH
COLLABORATIVE

Emerging goals for 2016-2017

1. Implement the new pathway elements: Connection Center and postsecondary/career programs

- Connection Center engages 400 youth and places 150 into pathways: about 75 in postsecondary pathways and about 75 in career pathways
- At least 40% of those served will be Black or Latino young men (make proportional to population, using Census/ACS data)
 - There are a number of existing and new adult training and apprenticeship pathways, such as the BEST Corp hospitality training, the City's culinary and construction apprenticeships and ? A goal is to build on-ramps to at least two of these pathways
 - Identify 2 new community college certificate programs with good job placement potential, and build on-ramps to those programs
 - Identify promising high demand "middle skills" occupations for which there is no accessible certificate or training program and advocate for a community college or CBO to develop a program to fill the gap

2. Track progress on both the OYC pathway and city-wide levels

- Develop a database to facilitate case management and to measure outcomes for youth accessing the OW-funded pathways
- Track the participation and growth in the number of partners beyond the OW-funded vendors; develop a regular Connection Center report that identifies OW-funded and non-funded referrals
- Develop and use measures to determine the quality of pathway programming
 - Use completion and "next step" rates to begin to identify areas of strength and weakness among the pathways
 - Track and monitor "reason for leaving" for program incompletions
 - Develop and monitor qualitative measures of the different pathways' success (participant surveys, program characteristics, etc)
- Develop a data dashboard to track progress on broader education and employment indicators, such as high school graduation rates, college attendance rates, and employment rates
- Track the strength of the OYC and the engagement of OYC members through participation in monthly meetings, committees, and pathway activities



OPPORTUNITY WORKS

3. Continue to **cultivate the leadership of** youth and young adults in both planning and implementation

- Cultivate leadership of the Peer Leaders through formally structured participation:
 - create formal spaces in the OYC and OYC Planning Committee agenda for the Peer Leaders to lead or facilitate a presentation or discussion.
- Provide the Peer Leaders with individualized career advising and program referrals within and beyond the OYC that advance their goals
- The Peer Leaders will conduct outreach and make referrals to the Connection Center, using social media, pop-up events, input from youth using the Center, and marketing techniques (add numbers and describe event: such as 5 pop-up events, 3 Facebook campaigns, etc)
- The Peer Leaders will conduct assessments/surveys with current organization participants, and provide feedback on results and best practices
- The Peer Leaders will share recommendations with the OYC on strategies for incorporating youth voice into organizational and institutional decision making
- The Peer Leaders will develop structured links with the BYSN Youth Council and OYU, starting with inviting youth leaders from other networks to OYC meetings and publishing an on-line youth events calendar to better communicate about events amongst the different youth groups
- The Peer Leaders will participate in X (fill in a number) joint trainings and advocacy efforts that are connected to opportunity youth

4. Continue larger planning process to maximize collective impact

- Organize **three** public forums to raise the profile of opportunity youth and inform the conversation about their potential, their needs, and effective strategies for connecting them with pathways to career and financial independence. Upcoming forums will include three planned with the Rennie Center:
 - *Disrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline* (June 2016)
 - *Characteristics of Opportunity Youth* (Fall 2016)
 - *Promising Interventions for Opportunity Youth* (Fall 2016)
- Connect the Collaborative to larger trends and initiatives by having at **least six** guest speakers on topics such as My Brother's Keeper, dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, new apprenticeship pathways, and reforms to community college
- Facilitate **five** subcommittees to delve deeper into important issues and to develop and pursue goals.
- Subcommittees develop goals and deliverables around data, employment, capacity of HSE/alternative education to college, and Connection Center pathways
- Engage practitioners, funders, and policymakers to expand pathways in different ways. Ally with new career pathway initiatives like SkillWorks' expansion to the OY space and the City's new hospitality and construction pathways
- Convene specialized subsets of stakeholders on focused projects as needed, such as school-to-prison pipeline activities