

BOSTON

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH
COLLABORATIVE

Emerging work plan 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 50% of those served will be Black or Latino young men
- There are a number of existing and new adult and young adult training and apprenticeship pathways, such as AACA's Building Energy Efficient Maintenance Skills (BEEMS), the City's culinary and construction apprenticeships, and YearUp's new sales and quality assurance programs. 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

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 of partners beyond the OW-funded vendors
- 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 engagement of OYC members through participation in monthly meetings, committees, and pathway activities

3. Continue to engage youth and young adults to inform both planning and implementation

- Conduct outreach and make referrals to the Connection Center, using social media, pop-up events, input from youth using the Center, and marketing techniques
- Conduct assessments/surveys with current organization participants, and provide feedback on results and best practices
- Share recommendations with the OYC on strategies for incorporating youth voice into organizational and institutional decision making
- Participate in OYC meetings; assist in facilitating specified OYC meetings, as well as maintain representation on subcommittees



OPPORTUNITY WORKS

- Link with BYSN Youth Council and OYU to participate in joint trainings and advocacy efforts that are connected to opportunity youth

4. Continue larger planning process to maximize collective impact

- Organize 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 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 four subcommittees to delve deeper into important issues and to develop and pursue goals: 1) Employment Pathways, 2) HSE/Alternative Education to College, 3) Connection Center pathways, and 4) Capacity Building around Learning Disabilities
- 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