



A Bridge to Reconnection:

A Plan for Reconnecting One Million Opportunity Youth Each Year Through Federal Funding Streams

By John M. Bridgeland,
Erin S. Ingram, and Matthew Atwell

In Collaboration with:
The Forum for Youth Investment,
Jobs for the Future, and YouthBuild USA

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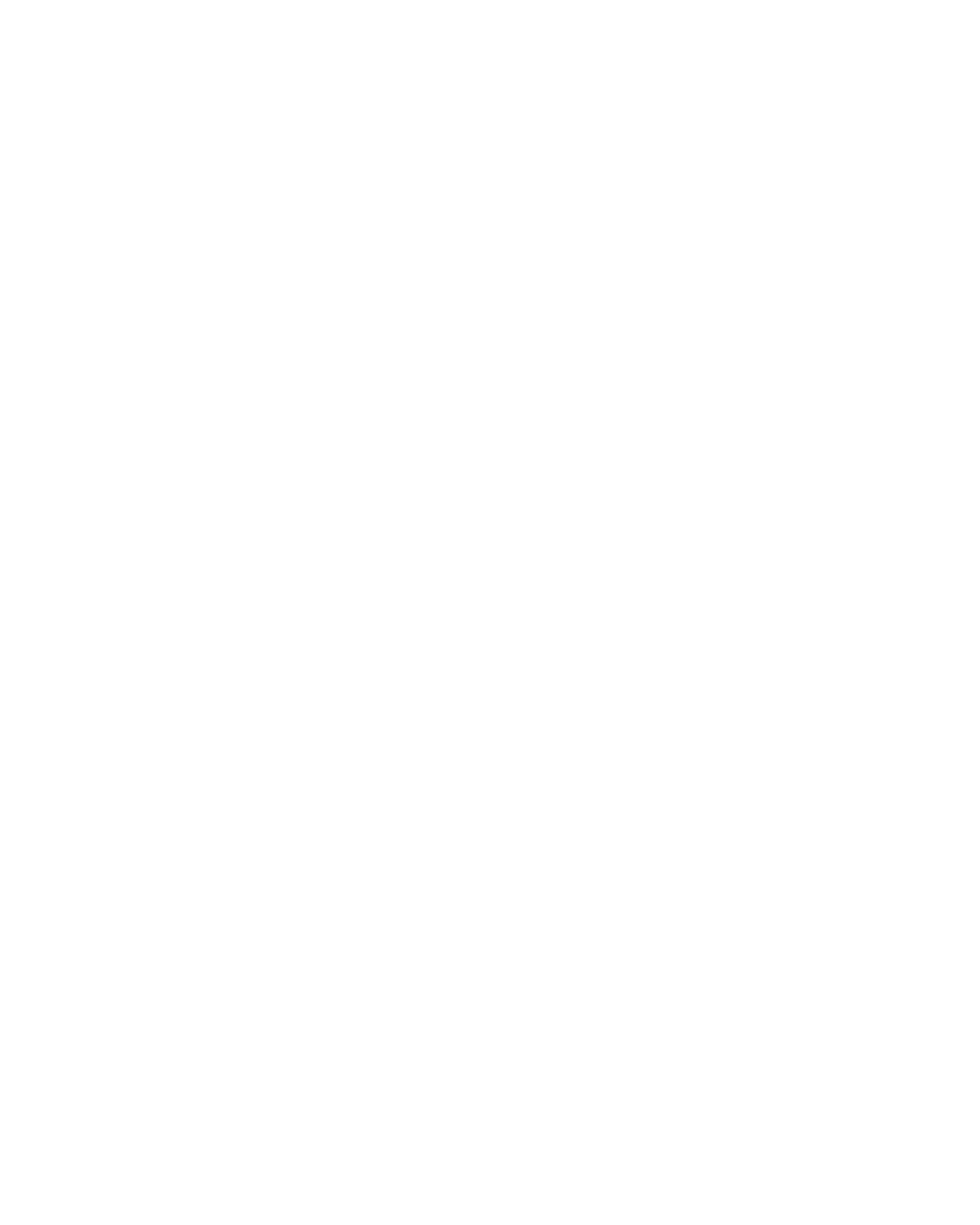


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Introduction

The Value of Investing in Opportunity Youth

Important progress has been made in recent years to draw the nation's attention to "opportunity youth" – the five and a half million young people between the ages of 16 - 24 who are not in school and not working.¹ Many are seeking an opportunity to reconnect to school and employment and understand how critical these pathways are to their success.² These young people also hold tremendous potential if we choose to invest in them.

The analysis that follows offers a path to reconnect one million of these opportunity youth to school and work each year by 2021. This will cost an additional \$4 billion per year in federal spending, for a total of \$6.5 billion each year. The benefits, however, far exceed the cost. Over the lifetime of each annual cohort of one million opportunity youth, if we estimate conservatively that 60 percent of the reconnected youth will remain permanently on track, the estimated savings to the taxpayer could amount to more than \$102 billion, a net benefit of \$98 billion.³

The consequences of young people remaining disconnected from school and work are immense. The lifetime direct cost to taxpayers of one 20-year-old that does not reconnect to education or employment is \$235,680, and the social cost amounts to \$704,020.⁴ To allow young people to go without the opportunities they need to move forward to forge a

better future is an enormous waste of money and human potential. But despite gains in visibility for opportunity youth, and high levels of interest on the part of philanthropy, nonprofits, and corporations, federal appropriations for the programs that serve this demographic have stagnated. The number of opportunity youth served by federal programs has actually *decreased* since 2012, falling from 440,000 to about 340,000 federally funded annual opportunities to access education, employment, or community service.

Opportunity youth have the potential to be strong assets for our nation. They possess enormous untapped talent. In many cases, they become disconnected from school during their teenage years as they are struggling with poverty and an inadequately supportive school or family system. By the time they realize the consequences of leaving school without a diploma, they were already so far outside the education and workforce system that it is difficult to find a way back. From a position of greater maturity they seek a chance to correct past errors, transcend past barriers, and seize opportunities that can put them on a track to success. They take responsibility for their disconnection and want a way back.⁵ We must ensure that there are viable pathways for them to become active citizens.

In this report, we explore in detail what actions the federal government, in partnership with the philanthropic sector, could take to reach the goal of reconnecting at least one million opportunity youth each year. This is an attainable goal and a necessary one. Attainable, because there is much to build upon in current federal and philanthropic investments. Necessary, because we cannot afford to let one in seven of our youth remain unprepared for the jobs of the future, and unable to support their families or contribute to their communities.

Negative Impacts of Poverty on Opportunity Youth

The majority of opportunity youth are born into poverty, and raised in hard-pressed communities. Three million out of the total 5.5 million opportunity youth come from low-income families, and a disproportionate number are people of color. They grow up in areas of concentrated poverty, where poor housing and health conditions, high rates of crime, and low-performing schools make it difficult to complete their education or access gainful employment.⁶ Opportunity youth tend to have children who suffer the same fate, creating a powerful intergenerational cycle of poverty and insufficient education and training.

National trends demonstrate that students who come from low-income backgrounds often struggle to achieve the critical first step toward higher education and gainful employment – a high school diploma. In 2014, just 74.6 percent of low-income students graduated on time, as compared to 89 percent of their middle- and upper-income peers.⁷ Across the nation, nearly one-third of states graduated less than 70 percent of their low-income students, and in nearly half of all states, the gap between low-income students and their more affluent peers was 15 percentage points or more.⁸ Although the largest single group of low-income Americans are White, minorities make up a disproportionate percentage of the low-income demographic. Twenty-six percent of African Americans and 24 percent of Latinos live below the federal poverty line, compared to just 10 percent of all Whites.⁹ As a result, graduation rates for minority students lag behind those for White students across the country. The graduation rate gap between Latino students and White students was over 10 percentage points in 2014, and the gap between Black and White students was nearly 15 percentage points.¹⁰

Far too many young people growing up in low-income communities see no visible pathway out of poverty, especially if they left high school without a diploma, had experiences with the juvenile or criminal justice system, or became young parents before they were prepared. Unless they are given positive opportunities to reconnect to school and work, they are likely to live in poverty, fail to complete their education, and end up in the criminal justice system or dependent on public assistance.

Negative Impacts of Remaining Disconnected

Predictions of what the job market will look like in the decades to come show that jobs for those without a high school diploma will continue to dwindle, as more and more occupations require higher levels of training or education. The Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce estimated that by 2018, only 30 percent of jobs in the United States will be for workers with either a high school diploma or an incomplete high school education – down from 72 percent in 1973, 44 percent in 1992, and 41 percent in 2007.¹¹ The study defined the future American economy as one that “puts a premium on education, training, and flexibility.”¹²

Opportunity youth who remain disconnected from school and work will be unable to take advantage of opportunities in the job market of the future, and are more likely to become economic burdens, rather than assets, to their country. In 2011 alone, disconnection of 16 - 24-year-olds cost taxpayers \$93.7 billion in government support and lost taxpayer revenue.¹³ In addition, a 2012 study estimated that the lifetime economic burden of the 2012 cohort of opportunity youth would be \$1.6 trillion to the taxpayer and \$4.7 trillion to society.¹⁴ This latter estimate of a “social burden” includes lost earnings, health expenses, crime costs, and welfare and social services. These are economic and social costs, but there are also personal costs resulting from the loss of dignity and self-respect that employment provides.

The devastating effects of failing to connect young people to opportunities can also be seen in the high rates of incarceration for youth without a high school diploma: sixty-eight percent of all males in prison do not have a high school degree. The risk associated with dropping out is far greater for Black

men.¹⁵ There is nearly a 70 percent chance that a Black man without a high school diploma will be imprisoned by his mid-thirties, a full 53 percentage points higher than a White man without a high school diploma.¹⁶ In 1980, the incarceration rate for 20 - 24-year-old Black men was 10 percent. By 2010, that rate had reached 26 percent.¹⁷ While criminal justice reform is necessary to address racial discrepancies in the criminal justice system and mass incarceration, another piece of the solution is providing education and employment to the young people who at an earlier stage of life left high school without a diploma.

Rising Awareness of and Investment in Opportunity Youth

In the face of such daunting statistics, several coalitions of nonprofit organizations, philanthropies, and government agencies are addressing the challenges. Building on the recommendations of the White House Council for Community Solutions, the Aspen Institute launched the Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund (OYIF), with Jobs for the Future (JFF) as the implementation partner, as the first public initiative of the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions. The OYIF has galvanized philanthropic investments in collective impact efforts on behalf of opportunity youth in 23 communities. A subset of selected communities are building and testing pathways to postsecondary credentials and careers for the most underserved opportunity youth, with a special focus on young men of color, through Opportunity Works, a Social Innovation Fund initiative of JFF in partnership with the Aspen Forum.

The Opportunity Youth Network, a broad coalition of nonprofit organizations, philanthropies, corporations, and public agencies, coordinated by the Forum for Youth Investment and GAP, Inc., raises awareness of the needs and promising practices for opportunity youth on the national stage. In addition, Opportunity Youth United is a movement of young people, supported by 15 national nonprofits serving opportunity youth, who have developed *Recommendations to Increase Opportunity and Decrease Poverty in America*. Opportunity Youth United is creating a national platform for young people to share their stories, advocate for effective policies, and mobilize their peers to create change in communities across the United States.

The private sector is also coming to the table around this important issue. A coalition of more than 30 corporations now supports the 100K Opportunities Initiative, which promises to hire 100,000 opportunity youth in select demonstration cities by 2018, and makes philanthropic investments in those regions as well.

Given this forward momentum and the progress already made, the nation cannot allow federal appropriations that would benefit opportunity youth – and potential employers by preparing youth for the 21st century workforce – to stagnate or decline. Now is the time to double down on efforts made to date, and greatly increase the investment in opportunity youth so they can realize their full potential.

The comprehensive programs that are already succeeding with opportunity youth should be expanded. These are typically full-time programs that include education, job training, counseling, personal supports and mentors, leadership development opportunities, a positive peer group, pathways to college and jobs, and service opportunities in which young people can learn that it is possible to get paid for doing something good. Every urban and low-income community should have an array of these programs that are well publicized so that young people can see alternatives to the street life.

The National Council of Young Leaders for Opportunity Youth United, excerpt from *Recommendations to Increase Opportunity and Decrease Poverty in America*



Part I

The Status of Federal Investments in Opportunity Youth and Reconnection Programs

In the 2012 *Bridge to Reconnection* report, programs connecting opportunity youth to education, job training, counseling, and community service were broken down into two broad categories, which is the same methodology used in this paper for the purposes of estimating the federal investment.

■ **Full-time Comprehensive Education and Employment Programs:** These comprehensive programs provide opportunity youth with full-time education and training programs for at least six months and up to two years. In some cases, they include personal counseling and case management, community service, leadership development, stipends for work performed, mentoring, placement in jobs and/or college, and long-term follow-up supports. Also included in this category are full-time national and community service programs that provide youth with the opportunity to serve and build skills relevant to the workforce, such as team-building, project management, and leadership, while earning an education award to help defray the costs of post-secondary education.

■ **Short-term Education and/or Employment Programs:** These are short-term and often part-time programs that primarily focus on either education or employment and usually do not

include the full range of supports offered by the more comprehensive programs.

Using the best available public data, this report estimates how many opportunity youth are being served currently through federal programs and how much federal investment is being directed to this important population.

Full-time Comprehensive Education and Employment Programs

Full-time comprehensive programs that reconnect opportunity youth to education and employment often offer a holistic perspective and tailor the program design to meet the needs of individual participants. These programs can make adjustments based on the education or skill level of the participant and other extenuating circumstances that may impact what kinds of supports a young person will need going into employment and post-secondary education in order to produce longer-range success.

Some of these programs engage youth in various forms of national and community service, including training in careers that are service-oriented, allowing them to experience the satisfaction of contributing to

the welfare of their communities and developing the motivation to “give back” and “make a difference.” This may also include leadership development opportunities that foster a strong sense of citizenship and responsibility. These programs can provide a caring community of peers and adults, and offer a safe and supportive context in which young people can define and pursue their highest aspirations and internalize a new sense of personal agency and hope.

Below we describe the comprehensive programs supported by federal investments.

Jobs Corps is a full-time, residential, education, and vocational training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor and implemented in about 125 locations by for-profit, public, and nonprofit entities. The program helps economically at-risk youth, ages 16 - 24, earn a high school diploma or GED, learn career skills, and connect to job opportunities. In 2013, over 82 percent of Job Corps graduates were initially placed in jobs, apprenticeships, military service, or enrolled in higher education. The placement rate for former enrollees was just 44 percent.¹⁸ Students receive Career Technical Training (CTT) in over 100 different occupational areas with possible certificates ranging from Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS).¹⁹ In Program Year (PY) 2013, 65.9 percent of participants completed a CTT program during enrollment in Job Corps, and 63.8 percent of participants attained a GED or High School Diploma. Additionally, 56.1 percent of participants attained both a GED or high school diploma and completed a career technical training (CTT) program.²⁰ The Job Corps program served an estimated 52,415 opportunity youth with an approximate cost of \$30,106/person for a total of \$1,578,000,000 in approximate federal funding for FY15.

YouthBuild is a full-time, comprehensive, non-residential program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), implemented in local urban and rural communities by nonprofit and public entities. It is a community-based alternative education program that provides hands-on job training, and educational and community service opportunities for low-income youth ages 16 - 24 who have left high school without a diploma. In addition to spending 50 percent of their time in individualized academic instruction, participants learn job skills through building affordable housing in their com-

munities for homeless and low-income people. They earn a stipend for this work and many also earn an AmeriCorps education award for their service to the community. The Department of Labor encourages career paths in addition to construction, such as health care, technology, and customer service, if the local grantee can demonstrate that the hands-on job training experience provided to the trainee will also serve the community. Community service, leadership development, and the creation of a mini-community of peers and adults committed to each other's success are emphasized. In 2014, 77 percent of all enrollees obtained their high school diploma, high school equivalency credentials, and/or industry-recognized credentials, with 61 percent of all enrollees going on directly to postsecondary education and/or employment.²¹ In FY15, DOL YouthBuild programs served an estimated 7,560 opportunity youth at \$10,036 federal dollars per youth for a total of \$75,872,160 federal program dollars. Programs are required to raise a 25 percent non-federal match. Several thousand additional students are typically funded by private or local public funds. Seventeen studies over a twenty-year period have documented a variety of positive impacts, including very low recidivism rates, low public dependency, a high return on investment, and highly positive evaluations of the program by graduates.

YouthBuild changed my life forever. I built housing for homeless people and earned my GED. Now I'm chairman of the homeowners' association in my inner city neighborhood. I used to be a menace to my community. Now I am a minister to it.

Antoine Bennett, *YouthBuild Sandtown*

The National Guard Youth Challenge Program

is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and managed by the National Guard Bureau. Youth Challenge is designed to provide opportunities to adolescents who have left school before earning a high school diploma. The first five months are residential, followed by 12 months of follow-up services. This 17-month program enrolls youth between the ages

of 16 - 18 who are unemployed or underemployed to improve their education and employment success. RAND Corporation recently conducted a cost-benefit analysis and found the Youth ChalleNGe Program generates \$2.66 in social benefits for every dollar expended on the program, a return on investment of 166 percent.²² In FY15, Youth ChalleNGe served an approximate 9,000 opportunity youth for \$13,889 per youth at a total federal program funding level of \$125,000,000 in FY15.

National and community service programs run by the **Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS)** enable opportunity youth to engage in productive work, build their skills, and contribute to their communities. While doing so, they can earn an education award that can later be used to help pay for college or continued training. Research shows that national service programs act as a strong bridge to full employment.²³

CNCS programs that serve opportunity youth include the **National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC)** and **AmeriCorps State and National**. NCCC and NCCC FEMA (associated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency) are full-time, team-based residential programs for men and women between the ages of 18 - 24 that work to strengthen communities and build leaders through direct community and national service. NCCC and NCCC FEMA engaged an estimated 138 opportunity youth in FY15, spending \$29,674 per youth for a total federal funding level of \$4,095,012. These youth responded to various environmental crises and disasters, rebuilding communities while earning a living allowance and an education award for college.

AmeriCorps State and National members are ages 17 and older (there is no upper age limit) and serve as full-time or part-time participants. They may serve two full years in total. AmeriCorps State and National funding provides support to a wide range of service programs, some of which engage opportunity youth as service providers, including Service and Conservation Corps, Public Allies, and many others. While data is not publicly available on the number of opportunity youth enrolled in the AmeriCorps State and National programs administered by CNCS, using the proportion of opportunity youth to the total population, there are an estimated 6,260 opportunity youth engaged in AmeriCorps State and National with \$11,063 federal dollars spent per youth for a total of



approximately \$69,254,380 federal program funds for opportunity youth. This cost does not take into account the value of the service they perform in their communities.

Service and Conservation Corps engage youth between the ages of 16 - 25 in service, education, job training, and mentorship. They are comprehensive, non-residential youth development programs that engage participants in service projects coupled with job training and academic programming. Evaluations of Service Corps programs found that participants were more likely to find employment and less likely to be arrested, particularly African American male participants.²⁴ Service and Conservation Corps engaged 14,800 opportunity youth with an approximate cost per youth of \$9,900 for a total of \$146,302,200 federal program dollars spent on opportunity youth in FY15. Funding comes from several different federal agencies, such as the National Park Service, CNCS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Department of Justice.

Each year, an estimated 200,000 youth are released from correctional facilities.²⁵ While statistical information on outcomes of prisoners reentering communities is limited, youth who are released from institutional confinement are more likely to succeed if they have access to services that help them thrive when entering back into their communities. To that end, the **Reentry Employment Opportunities (REO)** program provides funding designed to develop guidance to the public workforce system on how best to serve formerly incarcerated youth, young adults, and adults. Managed by the Department of Labor, Youth REO projects focus on pre- and post-release services, including case management,

educational skills training, tutoring, mentoring, high school diploma equivalency preparation and credit retrieval, occupational skills training, job placement and occupational learning, and other supportive services. REO served an estimated 6,130 opportunity youth, spending \$7,300 per youth for a total of \$44,749,000 federal dollars in FY15.

Short-term Education and/or Employment Programs

Short-term education and employment programs offer a wide range of designs that can help youth reconnect. These programs are more likely to be part-time and are less likely to offer the comprehensive supports found in the programs discussed earlier. Federal funding for these programs are typically allocated to and administered by state and local jurisdictions. For most of these programs, federal funding is just one piece to a complicated funding puzzle.

Short-term programs that receive federal funds and are serving opportunity youth include the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Activities, sometimes referred to as “formula funds;” the federal Adult Basic Education Stream; and the Chafee Education Training Voucher.

In 2014, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was reauthorized as the **Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA)** in an attempt to improve job training while also preserving basic components of WIA. WIOA Youth Activities are funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and administered by local Workforce Investment Boards (WIB). Additionally, 15 percent of funds are set aside for governors as reserve activities to encourage state innovation.²⁶ WIOA youth programs are designed to help low-income youth with education, and/or occupational skills and training. Funds for youth services are allocated to WIBs that in turn fund state and local workforce agencies. Under WIA Youth Activities, only youth aged 16 - 21 were eligible. In a very important move that was widely recommended by organizations serving opportunity youth, WIOA expanded the age group to include youth up to age 24 who are out of school. In addition, WIOA expanded the requirement to serve out of school youth from 30 percent to at least 75 percent. In Fiscal Year 2014, 71.5 percent of program exiters entered into employment upon their exit and 69.2 percent of program exiters



had attained credentials of some kind. An exiter is defined as a person who has completed the program, has been inactivated, or who has gone for 90 days without receiving any WIOA funded or partner funded services, and who is not scheduled for any services in the future, except for follow-up services. WIOA Youth Activities served an estimated 94,390 opportunity youth, spending \$3,424 per youth for a total of \$323,191,360 federal dollars in FY15.

Research reflects that it is preferable for a student to earn a high school diploma whenever possible. However, sometimes that is impossible. In those cases, the High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma serves as a critical second chance for many American high school dropouts.²⁷ There are many young people who enroll in GED or other HSE preparation courses offered at community-based organizations, schools, libraries, and community colleges, many of which are supported by a combination of federal and state funding. One such program is the **Adult Secondary Education** program through the U.S. Department of Education, which focuses on adult learners seeking to prepare for HSE exams. The program engages individuals ages 16 and up. Funding is distributed to state workforce or education agencies on a formula basis and requires states to provide at least a 25 percent match to the federal allocation. A survey of state adult education directors suggests that nonfederal funds are closer to \$1.30 for every \$1.00 federal dollar.²⁸ In PY12, 231,969 adults participated in Adult Secondary Education Programs, of which 57 percent were under the age of 25, totaling an estimated 132,500 opportunity youth served by Adult Secondary Education pro-

grams, with the Department of Education spending \$298 per person for a total federal funding level for opportunity youth of \$39,485,000.

Former foster youth face a number of challenges in their transition out of care, including continuing their education. A study of former foster youth found that only eight percent had obtained a two- or four-year postsecondary degree.²⁹ The **Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV)** program provides tuition support for former foster youth enrolling in post-secondary educational and training programs. While national impact data is limited, states have reported that the Chafee ETV program has contributed to higher college attendance rates among foster youth in their states.³⁰ In FY15, the ETV program served an estimated 16,548, spending \$2,555 federal dollars per youth for a total federal program funding of \$42,272,674.

Special Support for the Most Vulnerable Opportunity Youth

Communities are also drawing on federal programs designed to serve the nation's most vulnerable young people who are at a greater risk of disconnection due to their circumstances, including foster youth, court involved youth, and teenage parents. These include the Chafee Independence Program, Juvenile Justice Block Grants (JABG), Juvenile Justice Formula Grants to States, and Temporary Aid for Needy Families' (TANF) for teen parents. While some of the programs in previous sections also offer services to the same vulnerable youth, the lack of data on participants, services provided, and cost of participation makes it impossible to form an educated estimate on the number of opportunity youth served by these programs.

The **Chafee Foster Care Independence Program** is a grant program operated by the Office of the Administration of Children and Families through the Children's Bureau, designed to support foster youth. Grants are provided to states that submit plans to assist youth in a variety of areas that help them transition to adulthood, including providing educational, employment, and housing supports. It is designed for youth who are likely to remain in foster care until they are 18, youth who have left foster care for adoption or guardianship upon turning 16, and young adults 18 - 21 who have "aged out" of the foster care system. In Fiscal Year 2013, the program

served 99,974 youth.³¹ However, since the eligible youth who have received at least one service paid for or provided by the state agency that administers the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program are between the ages of 14 - 26, it is difficult to calculate exactly the number of opportunity youth between 16 - 24 served by the program.

The **Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG)** and **Formula Grants to States** programs are operated by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). JABG provides grants to states for programs that promote greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. The Formula Grants program of the OJJDP provides states in compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act with formula grants to help support state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements. JABG programs served 165,515 youth in 2015,³² while Formula Grants served 119,256 youth.³³ The number of youth served for both of these programs is down considerably from Fiscal Year 2011. While the U.S. Department of Justice has significant performance data available, it does not provide participant level information that would enable us to estimate what portion of these youth are opportunity youth. Specifically, data is not publicly available indicating how many youth are served prior to, during, or post-incarceration and what type of services are received. Additionally, funding streams for these programs support a wide range of efforts to improve quality of care during trial and incarceration outside of direct services to youth, such as building and renovating correctional facilities, hiring staff, and developing and maintaining restorative justice programs.

Teenage parents are eligible to receive assistance through the **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families' (TANF)** Teen Parents Program as long as they are enrolled in secondary school or a workforce-training program. TANF as a whole is designed to help families in need gain self-sufficiency. In Fiscal Year 2013, TANF served 49,146 teen parents.³⁴ However, due to the limited participant data, program funding mechanisms, and implementation flexibility offered to states, it was impossible to estimate the average cost of the program per participant or what portion of the participants were opportunity youth.



Part II

New Federal Initiatives and Innovations to Support Opportunity Youth

The programs discussed in this report provide options to opportunity youth as they seek to reconnect with their education, and enter the workforce. These established programs should be expanded to accept more applicants. In addition, continued innovation in this space is essential, as a changing economy continues to require youth to obtain new and more complex skills, and navigate a rapidly changing landscape of school and employment in order to be successful. It is therefore imperative that federal funds also be allocated to trying and evaluating new methods, as well as scaling evidence-based innovations and models. Examples of this type of work are detailed below.

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF), a program under the Corporation for National & Community Service, awards grants to nonprofits through a national intermediary. Federal dollars are matched one-to-one at the national level, and then matched one-to-one again by the local grantee. For example, for every \$100,000 of federal dollars spent, \$400,000 is spent by the local grantee. SIF grantees seek to solve challenges in three priority areas: economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development.

Authorized by the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act in 2009, SIF and its partners have to date invested more than \$800 million in compelling community solutions, and funded over 360 local nonprofit organizations.

Examples of SIF awards being put to work for Opportunity Youth include:

Opportunity Works

Opportunity Works is an initiative of Jobs for the Future, in partnership with the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund (OYIF). It seeks to expand work in low-income communities to reconnect opportunity youth with education and employment pathways. Using Jobs for the Future's "Back on Track Model," Opportunity Works provides local organizations and collective impact collaborations with coaching, data sharing, technical support, and subject matter experts to improve outcomes for young people.³⁵ The program seeks to connect underserved young people to education and employment through academic supports, connections to postsecondary options, and career pathways supports.

The target population is 16 - 24-year-olds, with or without high school diplomas, who are disconnected from school and work. This may include youth transitioning from the juvenile justice system or foster care. This initiative focuses particularly on engaging young men of color, and it is documenting the impact of the program on this demographic in response to the national My Brother's Keeper initiative.

Learn and Earn to Achieve Potential (LEAP) Initiative

Casey Family Program's LEAP Initiative received a \$4.5 million grant in August 2015 from the Social Innovation Fund. This Initiative aims to increase educational and employment opportunities for young adults ages 14 - 25 who are in foster care, involved in the juvenile justice system, or experiencing homelessness.



Ten local partnerships in Alaska, Arizona, California, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska and New York will adopt evidence-based models to improve young people's lives. The LEAP Initiative will be based on two models. The first is, Jobs for the Future's Back on Track, which prepares youth for postsecondary career pathways and supports them during their first year in college. The other model is Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), which helps youth earn a high school credential, develop job skills and gain employment, or enroll in higher education.

New Profit Pathways

The New Profit Pathways program seeks to strengthen the bridge between education and career development. It represents a collective effort by nonprofit investors and nonprofits to connect high-risk youth to the economic mainstream. New Profit partners with six nonprofits: College Advising Corps, College Summit, iMentor, Single Stop, Year Up, and YouthBuild USA to assist young people accessing post-secondary education. By strengthening these organizations, New Profit Pathways is on track to give 250,000 young people the skills needed to lead healthy lives and find meaningful work.³⁶ As of December 2014, the Pathways Program had served over 188,000 young people and all Pathways organizations were in the process of conducting rigorous third-party evaluations on multi-year outcomes of past participants.

The chip that young people carry on their shoulder, if you give them some power and influence and a leadership role, they will put it in their pocket.

Janine Johnson, *National Service Volunteer*

Other Relevant Programs

Other programs that have missions in alignment with our goals are listed in Appendix 2. While they provide valuable services, they are not primarily focused on reconnecting of opportunity youth and do not have data indicating the degree to which they serve them directly.

Table 1: Current Federal Funding for Opportunity Youth

Program	Agency	Population Served	Approximate No. of OY Served	Approximate Fed. Cost per OY	Approximate Federal Program Funding for OY in FY 15 **
Comprehensive Education and Employment Programs					
Job Corps	Labor	At-risk youth ages 16-24 who are deficient in basic skills, a high school dropout, homeless, a foster child, a parent, or other individual who needs additional training	52,415	\$30,106	\$1,578,000,000
YouthBuild	Labor	Low-income youth who left high school without a diploma, ages 16-24	7,560	\$10,036	\$75,872,160
Service and Conservation Corps	Various	Varies by program, but generally youth ages 16-25	14,778	\$9,900	\$146,302,200
National Guard ChalleNGe Program	Defense	Youth ages 16-18 who are high school dropouts	9,000	\$13,889	\$125,000,000
Reentry Employment Opportunities	Labor	Varies by grant, but generally youth ages 14-24 who have been involved in the justice system	6,130	\$7,300	\$44,749,000
AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps	CNCS	Youth ages 18-24	138	\$29,674	\$4,095,012
AmeriCorps State/National	CNCS	Individuals over the age of 17	6,260	\$11,063	\$69,254,380
Subtotals:			96,281		\$2,043,272,752
Short-Term Education Programs					
Adult Secondary Education	Education	Adults over age 16 who do not have a high school diploma or GED, are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school	132,500	\$298	\$39,485,000
Chafee Education and Training Vouchers	HHS	Current and former foster youth under age 22	16,548	\$2,555	\$42,272,674
Subtotals:			149,048		\$81,757,674
Short-Term Employment Programs					
WIOA Youth Activities	Labor	Low-income youth ages 14-24	94,390	\$3,424	\$323,191,360
Subtotals:			94,390		\$323,191,360
TOTALS:			339,719		\$2,448,221,786

** For programs where actual FY 15 budget or enrollment data was not available, we used the most recent publically available data.



Part III

A Federal Path to Reconnect Additional Opportunity Youth

Despite the significant impact of the programs discussed in this report, millions of opportunity youth are still disconnected or will become disconnected in the years ahead. Reducing these numbers will require improved retention rates and a high standard of education in our public schools to diminish the number of students who leave without a diploma. Fortunately, through a concerted effort on the part of diverse stakeholders, the national graduation rate has risen to 82.3 percent in recent years, the highest rate in our nation's history and up more than 11 percentage points over the last decade. But despite improvement, tens of thousands of young people (some 750,000 in 2012) still leave school each year without a high school diploma. This loss is concentrated in low-income communities.

Young people who are poor and lack a high school diploma face dim prospects for their futures. As they gradually realize this, a new motivation sets in. Many left high school in their early teen years. As they approach adulthood, and see the negative options before them, many are motivated to seek a path that will allow them to reconnect to education and employment, avoid incarceration, and take care of their families. If they see peers succeeding through available programs, it gives them hope.

Unfortunately, there is a widespread belief in society that reaching children in pre-school is the only way to break the cycle of poverty and that it is too late to reengage after young people have fallen behind or fallen off track. But program practitioners and thousands of former opportunity youth have demonstrated that it is absolutely not too late. Offering opportunities to engage young adults at a stage in their lives when they are making lasting and reasonably informed decisions about their futures can produce excellent results. It is a critical inflection point. Thus, it is a social imperative to ensure that there are doors open to second chance opportunities which allow them to pro-actively build a better future for themselves and their families. They can break the cycle of poverty if society offers the pathways.

In order to increase the number of opportunity youth and young adults who are re-engaged and put on track to college, careers, and civic engagement, a combination of federal policy changes and federal investments are needed, along with additional support from state and local governments, as well as partners outside of the public sector. Below we begin the discussion on how existing federal funding streams can reconnect more opportunity youth.

Coupled with this expansion of resources, we urge continued accountability for results, strong data collection and reporting specifically around opportunity youth being engaged through those funding streams, and expansion of public-private partnerships to leverage other funding streams and create new programs to meet additional needs.

How to Reach One Million Opportunity Youth through Federal Investment

Table 2 outlines a possible path for federal investment, emphasizing significant investment in the comprehensive, full-time programs that have proven to be more effective, especially for the most vulnerable young people. This path is based on a review of publicly available data on program waiting lists, excess applications and remaining demand, and, where available, program capacity for growth. We recommend that increases in funding and the number of opportunity youth served should be scaled over a five-year expansion period to ensure that programs can grow without sacrificing program quality or effectiveness.

In some cases, program projections for the number of opportunity youth that could be served focus on increasing the proportion of opportunity youth within existing funding, based on targeted growth plans, or previous participation rates. For example, before reauthorization under WIOA, WIA Youth Activities programs reached youth aged 16 - 21 and were required to use 30 percent of funding for out-of-school youth. Fortunately, under the reauthorization, out-of-school youth aged 16 - 24 are eligible for WIOA Youth Activities, and the programs are required to use a minimum of 75% of funding on out of-school youth. While this is estimated to cause an increase in the amount of dollars spent per youth, it also allows for a substantial increase in the number of opportunity youth the program can serve.³⁷

Efforts to engage more opportunity youth in national service programs, such as AmeriCorps and Service and Conservation Corps, could also build on existing funding allocations and authorizations. Thanks to the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, Congress established a goal of reaching 250,000 service members by 2017. As AmeriCorps funding is scaled to reach this goal, CNCS, state commissions, and AmeriCorps grantees should ramp up efforts to recruit a higher proportion of opportunity

youth to help address community challenges. In addition, CNCS and FEMA should scale their efforts to engage more opportunity youth to rebuild their communities through their new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Corps.

Based on the recommended expansion of federal programs in the table below, **we estimate that the federal government could reach more than one million opportunity youth each year at an average annual cost of \$6.5 billion by the fifth year, a net increase in funding of \$4 billion over the current level. This is over 660,000 more opportunity youth than the number estimated to be currently served.**

While this is a significant increase in federal funding, it is an investment with a huge potential return. Investment in opportunity youth will not only improve their own futures, and the futures of their families and communities in immeasurable ways, but also will save taxpayers and society billions of dollars over the long run. When compared to their peers, the average opportunity youth imposes \$64,940 in immediate costs to taxpayers. Additionally, each opportunity youth that fails to be reconnected to school or work goes on to impose a future fiscal burden of \$170,740 after their 25th birthday for a total lifetime cost of \$235,680 to taxpayers.³⁸

The success rate for the programs discussed in this paper vary based on the age, education, and life experiences of the opportunity youth served. While we are hopeful that all of the opportunity youth enrolled in these programs will make a permanent reconnection to education and/or employment, we recognize that may not be possible. Therefore, to estimate the impact and potential long-term savings these investments can have on the taxpayer, we conservatively estimate that 60 percent of the youth served, or 600,000, make a successful and permanent reconnection by the age of 25. Using the average future burden of \$170,740 per youth, successfully reconnecting 600,000 opportunity youth each year could result in a reduction in future taxpayer costs of \$102 billion over the lifetime of each annual cohort of young people who have the opportunity to reconnect through these programs. **This amounts to a total savings of \$98 billion after accounting for the federal cost of reconnecting additional opportunity youth.** If all one million youth were successfully reconnected, the taxpayer savings would rise to \$166 billion.³⁹

Table 2: How to Reach One Million Opportunity Youth

Program	Agency	Number of OY Served	Target for Growth	Projected Federal Cost per OY	Cost at Estimate for Growth	Estimated Lifetime Fiscal Savings, by Savings Type				
						Taxes	Crime	Health	Welfare	TOTAL
Comprehensive Education and Employment Programs										
Job Corps	Labor	52,415	65,000	\$30,106	\$1,956,890,000	\$6,857,500,000	\$890,500,000	\$2,721,550,000	\$627,900,000	\$11,097,450,000
YouthBuild	Labor	7,560	50,000	\$15,000	\$750,000,000	\$5,275,000,000	\$685,000,000	\$2,093,500,000	\$483,000,000	\$8,536,500,000
Service and Conservation Corps	Various	14,780	65,000	\$10,000	\$650,000,000	\$6,857,500,000	\$890,500,000	\$2,721,550,000	\$627,900,000	\$11,097,450,000
National Guard Youth ChalleNGe	Defense	9,000	20,000	\$13,890	\$277,800,000	\$2,110,000,000	\$274,000,000	\$837,400,000	\$193,200,000	\$3,414,600,000
Reentry Employment Opportunities	Labor	6,130	18,000	\$7,300	\$131,400,000	\$1,899,000,000	\$246,600,000	\$753,660,000	\$173,880,000	\$3,073,140,000
AmeriCorps National and Civilian Community Corps	CNCS	138	1,400	\$29,674	\$41,543,600	\$147,700,000	\$19,180,000	\$58,618,000	\$13,524,000	\$239,022,000
AmeriCorps State/National	CNCS	6,260	50,000	\$11,063	\$553,150,000	\$5,275,000,000	\$685,000,000	\$2,093,500,000	\$483,000,000	\$8,536,500,000
Subtotals:		96,283	269,400		\$4,360,783,600	\$28,421,700,000	\$3,690,780,000	\$11,279,778,000	\$2,602,404,000	\$45,994,662,000
Short-Term Education Programs										
Adult Secondary Education	Education	132,500	248,700	\$300	\$74,610,000	\$26,237,850,000	\$3,407,190,000	\$10,413,069,000	\$2,402,442,000	\$42,460,551,000
Chafee Education and Training Vouchers	HHS	16,548	26,000	\$2,555	\$66,430,000	\$2,743,000,000	\$356,200,000	\$1,088,620,000	\$251,160,000	\$4,438,980,000
Subtotals:		149,048	274,700		\$141,040,000	\$28,980,850,000	\$3,763,390,000	\$11,501,689,000	\$2,653,602,000	\$46,899,531,000
Short-Term Employment Programs										
WIOA Youth Activities	Labor	94,390	456,801	\$4,424	\$2,020,887,624	\$48,192,505,500	\$6,258,173,700	\$19,126,257,870	\$4,412,697,660	\$77,989,634,730
Subtotals:		94,390	456,801		\$2,020,887,624	\$48,192,505,500	\$6,258,173,700	\$19,126,257,870	\$4,412,697,660	\$77,989,634,730
TOTALS:		339,721	1,000,901		\$6,522,711,224	\$105,595,055,500	\$13,712,343,700	\$41,907,724,870	\$9,668,703,660	\$170,883,827,730



Conclusion

Investing in a Bright Future for Young Americans

Opportunity youth have the capacity to become strong participants in our economy and our communities if they are given the right tools. While the documented return on investment is a core argument in the case for expanded public investment, there are also enormous not-yet-measured benefits to investing in youth and young adults who have been born and raised in poverty, who have extraordinary talents and resilience, who are eager to be participating citizens, and who can serve as role models and leaders in their families and communities if given the chance. Imagine the positive change that could come to our cities and rural areas if all young people see that there is a pathway for them into employment and post-secondary education, into responsible parenthood and civic leadership. We have the power, knowledge, and resources to make this the reality.

If, however, we fail to double down on investments made to date, we will not only lose ground already gained, but also squander the future potential of young people who, if given the tools to reconnect, could be great assets to our nation. If we are to reduce social service dependency, decrease incarceration rates, increase the numbers of successful young people in our communities, and combat poverty, we must invest in the programs that provide opportunity youth with the tools and pathways to achieve their goals. Now is the time to redouble our efforts, and focus on creating a bright future for all youth in America.

Public Allies did not make me a new person; instead it freed me to be the kind of person I always knew I could be - for my family, for my community and for myself.

Karl Valere
Graduate of Public Allies New York

Appendix 1: Methodology

Table 1: Current Federal Funding for Opportunity Youth

- In PY14, Jobs Corps had 52,475 new participants and was budgeted \$1,578,008 as identified in U.S. Department of Labor (2016). *Congressional Budget Justification, Employment and Training Administration, Job Corps*. To calculate the federal cost per opportunity youth served in this residential program, the total budget allocation was divided by the number of participants to equal approximately \$30,106.
- In FY14, the Department of Labor YouthBuild program was allocated \$77,534,000 and served 7,560 participants at a federal cost of \$10,036 per participant in PY14 according to U.S. Department of Labor (2016). *Congressional Budget Justification, Employment and Training Administration, Training and Employment Services*. While YouthBuild USA, Inc. typically estimates that the federal cost per participant per year to be about \$15,300 some participants complete the program at a quicker pace, which allows more youth to be served and leads to a lower actual cost per participant.
- In FY15, 24,631 youth participated in service and conservation corps of which about 60 percent, or 14,778, were opportunity youth, according to The Corps Network (2015), “FY15 Annual Report.” In addition, the *21st Century Conservation Service Corps Full Report* estimated that federal cost per youth for service and conservation corps is approximately \$10,000. Therefore, to calculate the approximate federal program funding for opportunity youth, the amount of participants was multiplied by the federal cost per youth to equal \$147,780,000.
- According to a 2015 Congressional Research Service Report, 9,000 cadets graduate annually from the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe program and in FY14, the program received \$125,000,000 in federal funds, see: Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara (2015). “Vulnerable Youth: Federal Mentoring Programs and Issues.” *Congressional Research Services*. 15-16. This equates to an average federal share of approximately \$13,889 per participant.
- According to the Department of Labor, the Reentry Employment Opportunity Youth Programs serve an average of 6,130 youth per year at an average cost per participant of \$7,340 for a total of \$44,994,200 in federal spending on opportunity youth.
- In FY15, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Core (NCCC) had 1,000 members. No data is available on the number of opportunity youth participating in the program. For the purposes of this study, we assume the number of opportunity youth are equal to 13.8% of the participants, the proportion found in the larger population, resulting in approximately 138 participants who are disconnected. The cost per participant was \$29,674 according to Corporation for National & Community Service (2016). *Congressional Budget Justification: FY17*. Available from http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/CBJ_Report_FY2017_1.pdf. Therefore, we estimate that the total federal program funding for opportunity youth was \$4,095,012.
- In FY15, 64,804 AmeriCorps members served. It is unclear what percentage are disconnected youth, however, research indicates that approximately 70% of members are under the age of 30 (Jastrzab, J. et al (2001). *Serving Country and Community: A Study of Service in AmeriCorps*. Cambridge, MA: Abt Associates Inc.). Assuming 13.8% of young members are disconnected, there are approximately 6,260 disconnected youth in AmeriCorps. In FY15 the average cost per member service year (MSY) was \$7,813. The amount of education award varies by number of hours served; however, the estimated average education award cost per MSY was \$3,250. Therefore, the estimated total cost per MSY equals approximately \$11,063 for an estimated federal program funding for OY of \$48,909,380. See Corporation for National & Community Service (2016). *Congressional Budget Justification: FY17*. Available from http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/CBJ_Report_FY2017_1.pdf.
- In PY11-12 (the most recent year data is available), 231,969 adults participated in Adult Secondary Education. Of all ASE participants, 132,500 (57 percent) were under the age of 25 (U.S. Department of Education (2015). *Adult Education and Family Literacy Act of 1998, Annual Report to Congress Program Year 2011-12*. Accessed from

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/resource/octae-aefla-2011-2012.pdf>). In FY12, the federal cost per participant in the adult basic and literacy education funding stream was \$298 according to U.S. Department of Education (2016). *Career, Technical, and Adult Education: FY17 Budget Request*. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget17/justifications/m-ctae.pdf>.

- In FY13 (the most recent year participant data is available), 16,548 youth received Chafee Education and Training Vouchers (Department of Health and Human Services (2016). FY17: Administration for Children and Families, Justification of for Appropriations Committees. Available from: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/olab/final_cj_2017_print.pdf). No estimates are available on how many of the youth are disconnected. However, research shows former foster youth are significantly more likely to drop out of high school or be unemployed than non-foster care youth (M. Courtney et al (2009). *Midwest Evaluation of Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth: Outcomes at Age 23 and 24*. Chicago: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago). For FY13, the total federal funding was \$42,272,674 according to Department of Health and Human Services (2014). FY15: Administration for Children and Families, Justification of for Appropriations Committees. Available from: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/olab/fy_2015_congressional_budget_justification.pdf. Therefore, we can estimate that the approximate funding per opportunity youth served in FY13 was \$2,555.
- In PY14, WIA-Youth Activities served 239,611 youth. Of those youth who exited the program in 2011 (100,628), 92,052 were not employed at participation. Among the unemployed youth, 47.5 percent were not attending school at participation (totaling 43,724). Therefore, among program exiters, 43,724 were not in school or work when they started participating in the program, equaling 43.5% of the overall population (Calculations based on data provided in U.S. Department of Labor (2016) *PY 2014 WIASRD Data Book*. Oakland, CA: Social Policy Research Associates. Available from https://www.doleta.gov/performance/results/pdf/PY_2014_WIASRD_Data_Book.pdf). Assuming the exiters are representative of the total population served, there were 94,390 disconnected youth served. In PY 2014, the average cost per participant was \$3,424. See U.S.

Department of Labor (2016). FY17 Congressional Budget Justification, Employment and Training Administration, Training and Employment Services, available from <https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/documents/general/budget/CBJ-2017-V1-04.pdf>.

Table 2: How to Reach One Million Youth

- There are currently 126 Job Corps centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In the 2014 State of the Union Address, President Obama called for an increase in job based training programs, such as Job Corps. To that end, this estimate for growth calls for an expansion of the Job Corps program by 5 percent nationally. This rate of projected growth is relatively low, due to the high expenditures on recruitment that Job Corps must currently make to fill their current slots.
- There are currently 260 existing YouthBuild programs serving 9,000 youth. According to YouthBuild USA, Inc., these programs turn away an average of four young people for every one accepted, primarily for lack of funds. In addition, there have been over 2,000 eligible organizations that have applied for federal funds to run YouthBuild programs since 1993 to run YouthBuild programs and only 143 are currently funded by the U.S. Department of Labor due to a lack of funding. This estimate for growth conservatively estimates that half of those applicants, or 1,000 programs, would be capable of running a good program, with an average of 50 students each.
- Currently, the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps bill has been introduced to both the House and Senate with bi-partisan support. If signed into law, the bill would have a stated goal of expanding CSC to 100,000 participants per year by 2018, the same level recommended in the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Advisory Committee *Final Report*. Our estimate for growth is based on reaching the goal of expanding to 100,000 positions each year by 2018 with approximately 50,000 being opportunity youth, the level recommended in the *21st Century Conservation Service Corps Advisory Committee Final Report*. In addition, the growth target estimates the Corps expanding by 10% from 2019-21.
- Currently, there are 37 NGYC Programs in 27 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia with an average of approximately 243

participants per location. This estimate for growth includes expanding Youth ChalleNGe into all 50 states with an average of 243 participants per program and then gradually scaling each program to reach the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Foundation's goal of 20,000 positions over the next five years.

- Research indicates that an estimated 200,000 youth ages 18 - 24 leave correctional facilities each year, making them eligible to receive services through the REO program. Further research shows that formerly incarcerated youth are at greater risk of being disconnected and of falling victim to recidivism and having future experiences with the justice system. This estimate for growth nearly triples the number of youth served based on the large number of youth eligible and the imperative to allow formerly incarcerated youth access to the same opportunities as their peers.
- In the Serve America Act, Congress called for 50 percent of NCCC members to come from disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2012, CNCS formed a new partnership with FEMA to create a new disaster response corps of 1,600. This estimate for growth is based on both the traditional and FEMA NCCC programs recruiting opportunity youth for 50 percent and NCCC supporting an estimated 1,200 members each year.
- In the Serve America Act, Congress calls for AmeriCorps to be scaled to 250,000 members. This calculation for growth to 50,000, includes scaling to the 250,000 positions authorized in the Serve America Act and increased recruitment of opportunity youth so that they comprise 20 percent of the total AmeriCorps State and National participants.
- According to a survey of adult education programs by the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education, there were approximately 160,000 individuals on waiting lists around the country and the number of months a person waited for a space more than doubled (L. McLendon (2010). *Adult Student Waiting List Survey: 2009-2010 NCSDAE*). This estimate for growth assumes that the proportion of youth represented on the waitlist is similar to the youth served in adult secondary education classes for a total of approximately 91,200 youth. The assumption in this paper is that with additional outreach to opportunity youth, the demand could be increased by an additional 25,000 for a total of 116,200.
- According to a policy brief by the American Youth Policy Forum, approximately 26,000 youth transition out of foster care every year (See Russ, Erin and Fryar, Garet (2014). "Creating Access to Opportunities for Youth in Transition from Foster Care." Washington, DC: American Youth Policy Forum). This estimate for growth is based on ensuring that every former foster youth receives one award during their period of eligibility.
- In the Department of Labor's latest budget request and justification, DOL stated that WIOA Youth Activities are seeking to serve 241,601 participants in PY17. Due to the WIOA requirement that 75 percent must be out-of-school, this equates to 181,200 opportunity youth served. As WIOA serves additional opportunity youth, DOL estimates that the cost per participant will increase by approximately \$1,000 (See U.S. Department of Labor (2016). *Congressional Budget Justification, Employment and Training Administration, Training and Employment Services*). In addition, under WIOA reauthorization out-of-school youth are eligible up to age 24 now, up from the aged 21 cut off of WIA. Of WIA adult exiters in 2014, 182,528 were out-of-school and out-of-work. Assuming that participants are distributed evenly across the age range, 68,448 adult exiters, or 7 percent, were 22 - 24 and out-of-school and out-of-work at the time of enrollment. Assuming this proportion holds for all 6,542,806 adult participants, WIOA Youth Activities could stand to add up to 457,996 participants from the adult program. In keeping with the 75 percent requirement under WIOA, that is an additional 343,392. Given the fact that this WIOA delivery system is established in every community of need, and additional attention is being placed on the recruitment of older out-of-school youth through WIOA, this paper projects that an additional 34,000 could be recruited and served, for a total of 456,801.

Appendix 2: Additional Lists of Federal Programs that May Serve Opportunity Youth

The methodology detailed above led to the selection of programs featured in this report. A separate report, *Our Youth, Our Economy, Our Future: A Road Map for Investing in the Nation's Talent Pipeline*, released by the Campaign for Youth, provides a complementary list of programs. The Campaign for Youth list is more expansive, in that it includes broader funding streams that *could* support opportunity youth, but for which the portion of funds that *actually* serve opportunity youth is unknown. Each list is helpful for different purposes, so we include the list from the Campaign for Youth report below, with asterisks next to those that were not included in our analysis.

US Department of Labor

- Job Corps
- WIA Title I Youth Activities reauthorized to WIOA Youth Activities
- Registered Apprenticeships*
- Reintegration of Ex-Offenders now Reentry Employment Opportunities
- YouthBuild
- Workforce Innovation Fund*

US Department of Education

- Title I: Improving The Academic Achievement Of The Disadvantaged*
- Adult Education Basic Grants to States*
- Homeless Children and Youth—Grants for States and Local Activities*
- Title I-D Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or at Risk—Grants for States and Localities*
- High School Graduation Initiative*
- Promise Neighborhoods*
- IDEA – Part B Grants to States (B-611)*
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment*

US Department of Health and Human Services

- Chafee Education and Training Vouchers
- Community Services Block Grant*
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Program*
- Service Connection for Youth on the Streets*
- Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Block Grant*

Corporation for National & Community Service

- AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps
- AmeriCorps State and National
- AmeriCorps VISTA*
- Social Innovation Fund*

Department of Justice

- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II*
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title V Community Prevention Block Grants*
- Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program*
- Youth Mentoring*

Department of Defense

- National Guard Youth Challenge

Source: Campaign for Youth (2014). *Our Youth, Our Economy, Our Future: A Road Map for Investing in the Nation's Talent Pipeline*. Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy. Available from <http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/publication-1/Campaign-for-Youth-Road-Map-2014-Final-November.pdf>.

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