

CLASP YOUTH POLICY TEAM
PRESENTATION

**RECONNECTING THE
DISCONNECTED:
LEVERAGING FEDERAL POLICY
& LOCAL PRACTICE TO
EXPAND EDUCATION &
LABOR MARKET
OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH**

Center for Law & Social Policy (CLASP)

CLASP seeks to improve the lives of low-income people.

Through careful research and analysis and effective advocacy, CLASP develops and promotes new ideas, mobilizes others, and directly assists governments and advocates to put in place successful strategies that deliver results that matter to people across America. We are nonpartisan and situated at the intersection of local practice, national research, and state and federal policy, and striving to translate each world to each other.

CLASP's youth policy work aims to advance policy and practice that will dramatically improve the education, employment, and life outcomes for youth in communities of high youth distress.

- Pathways to Reconnection for Disconnected Youth
- Building the Capacity of Communities
- Supports and Strategies for Youth of Color

CLASP Youth Agenda

Pathways for Disconnected Youth

We advocate for federal policies that meet the education and training needs of the millions of young people ages 16 to 24 who are disconnected from school and employment.

Building the Capacity of Communities

We work with communities to identify and highlight effective cross-system approaches that can provide opportunities for youth to complete their education, enter the labor market and improve their life outcomes.

Supports and Strategies for Youth of Color

We highlight the depth of the disadvantaged and disconnected youth problem for young people of color in some of the nation's most challenged communities and propose strategic solutions.

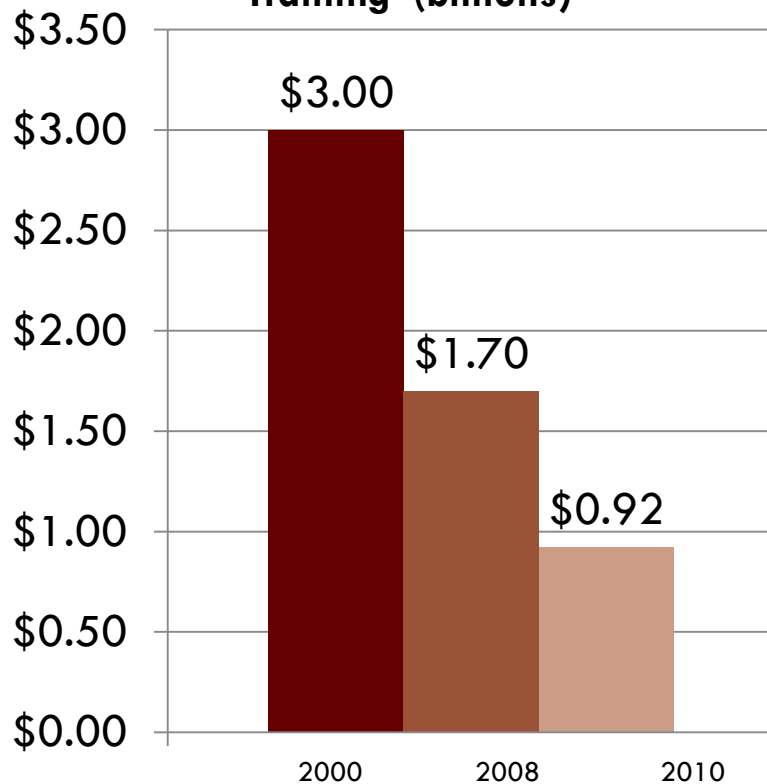
YOUTH POVERTY

- **Children and youth who grow up in poverty and in low- income communities have far more negative education and employment outcomes in adulthood. A comprehensive approach is needed to support these youth to get on track to good careers and self-sufficiency.**
- Children born into poverty are three times more likely to drop out of high school, or to become a teen parent.
- The longer a child lives in poverty, the worse their adult outcomes. Only 34% of persistently poor boys and 28% of persistently poor girls have consistent employment in young adulthood.
- Black boys in poor families have the worst employment outcomes in young adulthood of any sub-group. Poor black children are more likely to be poor in adulthood.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

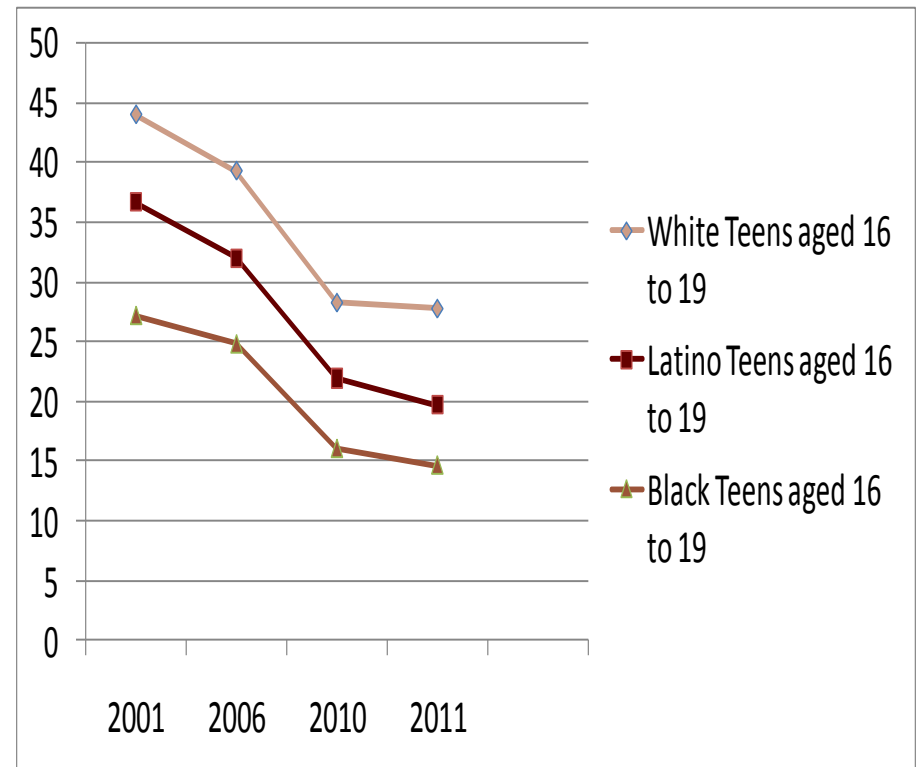
Opportunities for employment are critical to putting youth on a path to self-sufficiency.

Funding for Youth Employment & Training (billions)



Source: Department of Labor

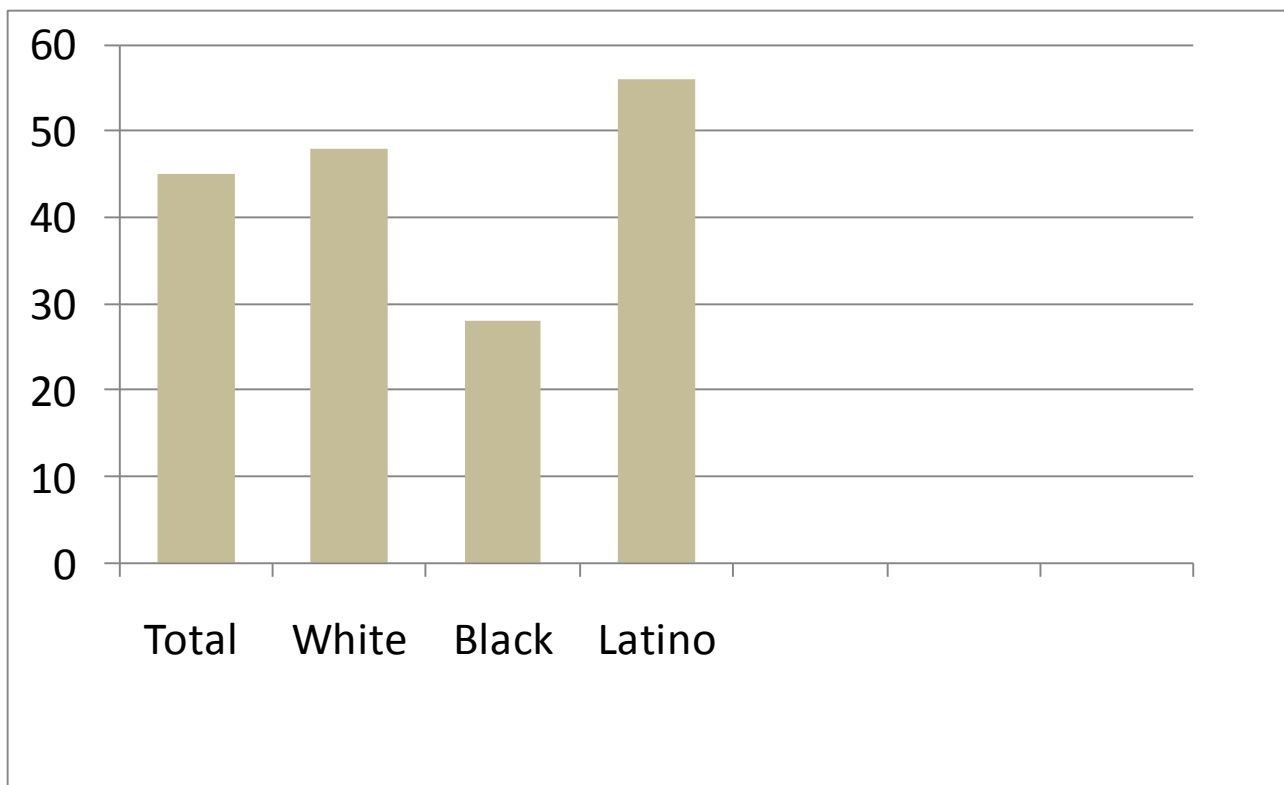
Percent of Teens Employed



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey, retrieved June 21, 2011

High Joblessness for the Undereducated and Unskilled

Percent of High School Dropouts 16 to 24 who were employed May 2011

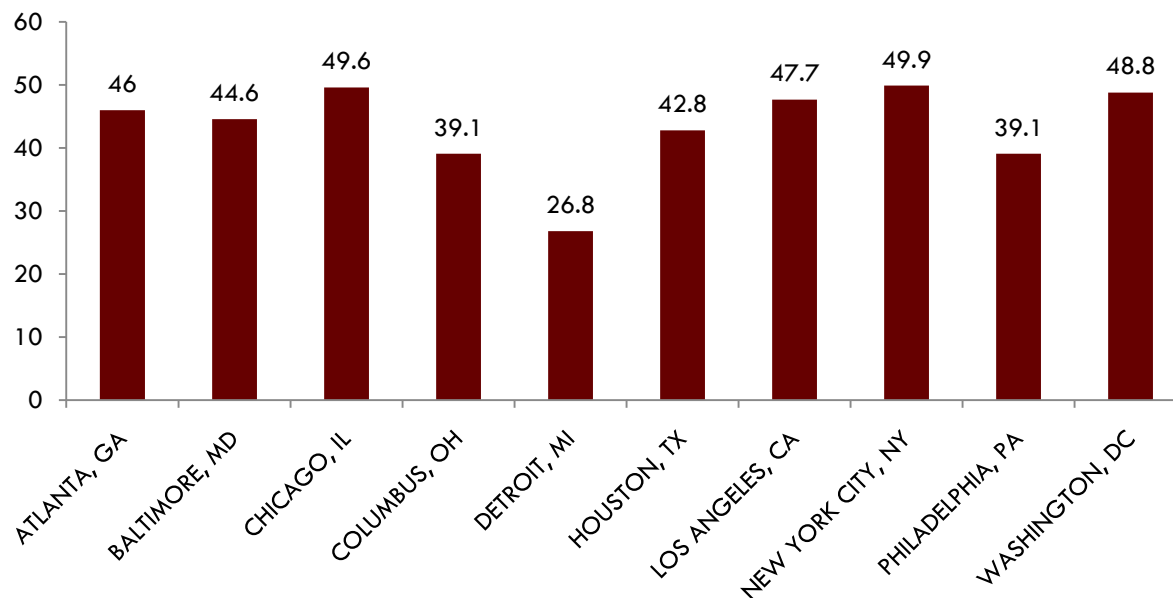


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey, retrieved June 21, 2011 A-16. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 to 24 years of age by school enrollment, educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

DROPOUT RECOVERY

- The number of youth who drop out of high school in distressed communities is far too high. Local school districts must take on the responsibility to recover these youth, and to guide them successfully to high school completion and post-secondary opportunities.

4-Yr High School Graduation Rates for Selected High-Poverty, High-Minority School Districts (2006)



Needed: Federally Funded Youth Recovery and Re-Engagement System

Targeted

- To communities of High Youth Distress
- To serve disconnected & high risk youth

Builds Community Capacity

- To create comprehensive delivery system
- To leverage community & public resources

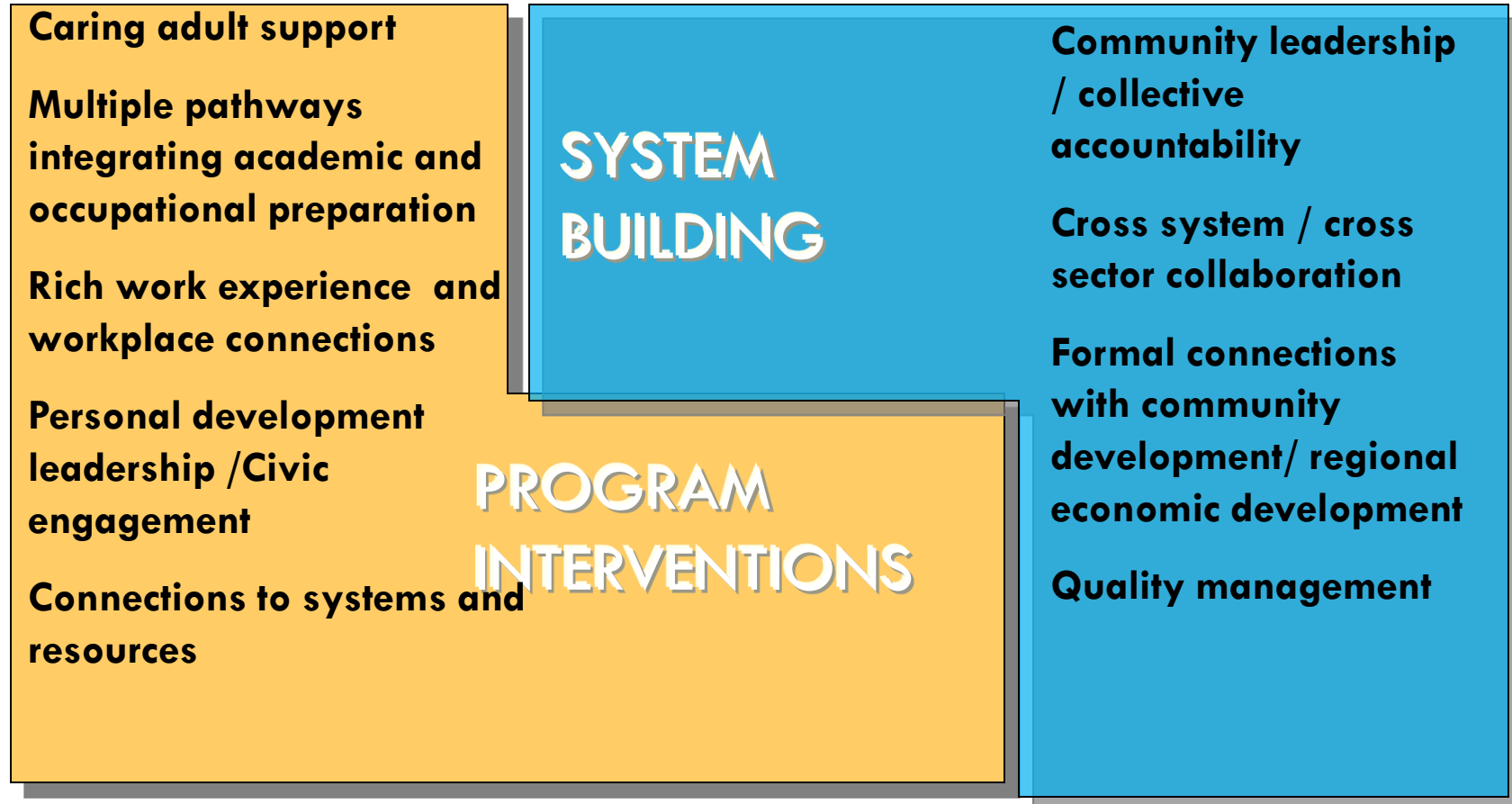
Creates Multiple Pathways

- Blending education, training, support
- Leads to secondary and PS credentials

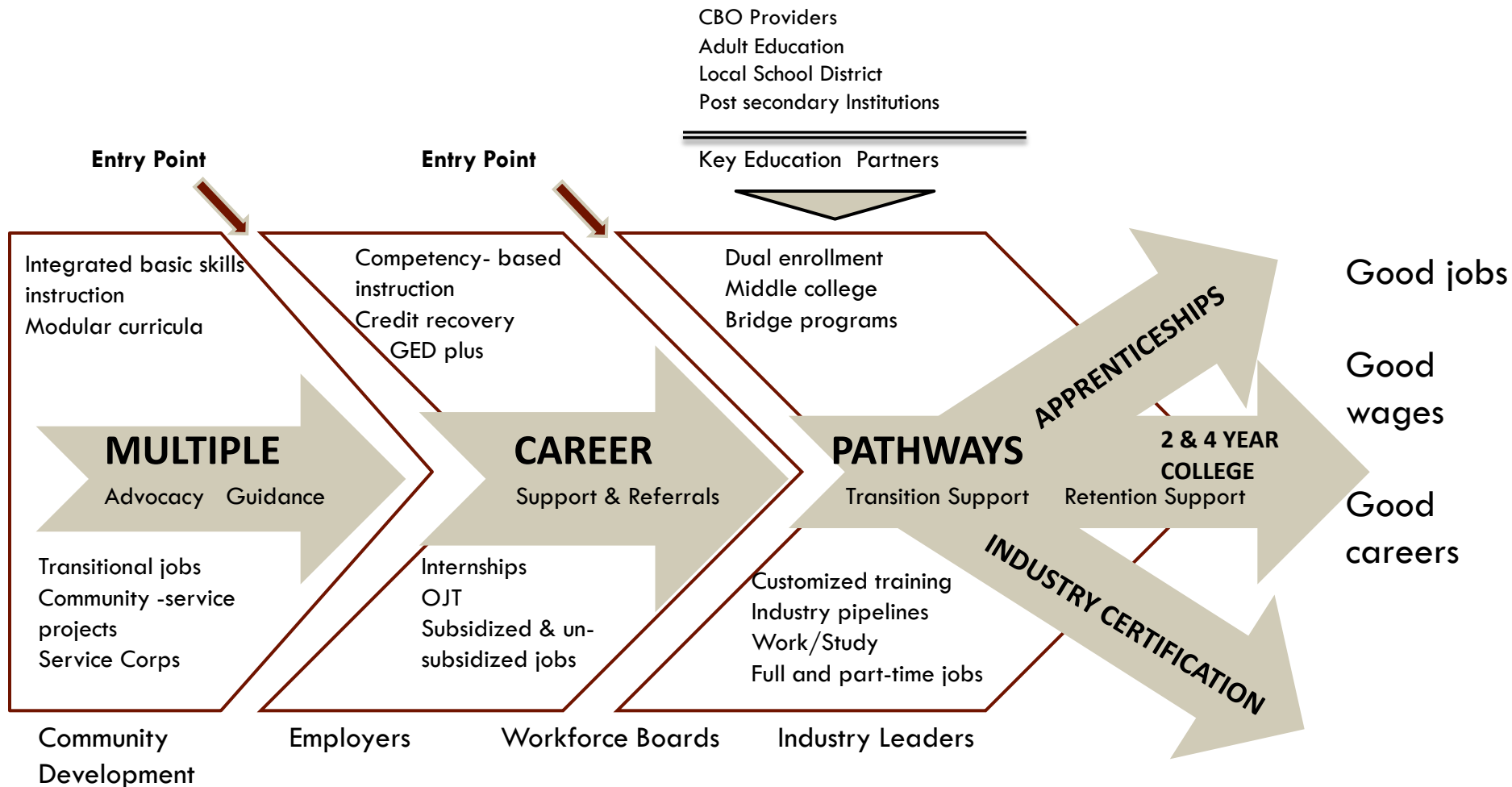
Greatly Expands Work Experience

- subsidized work
- internships
- OJT
- Summer jobs
- Transitional jobs

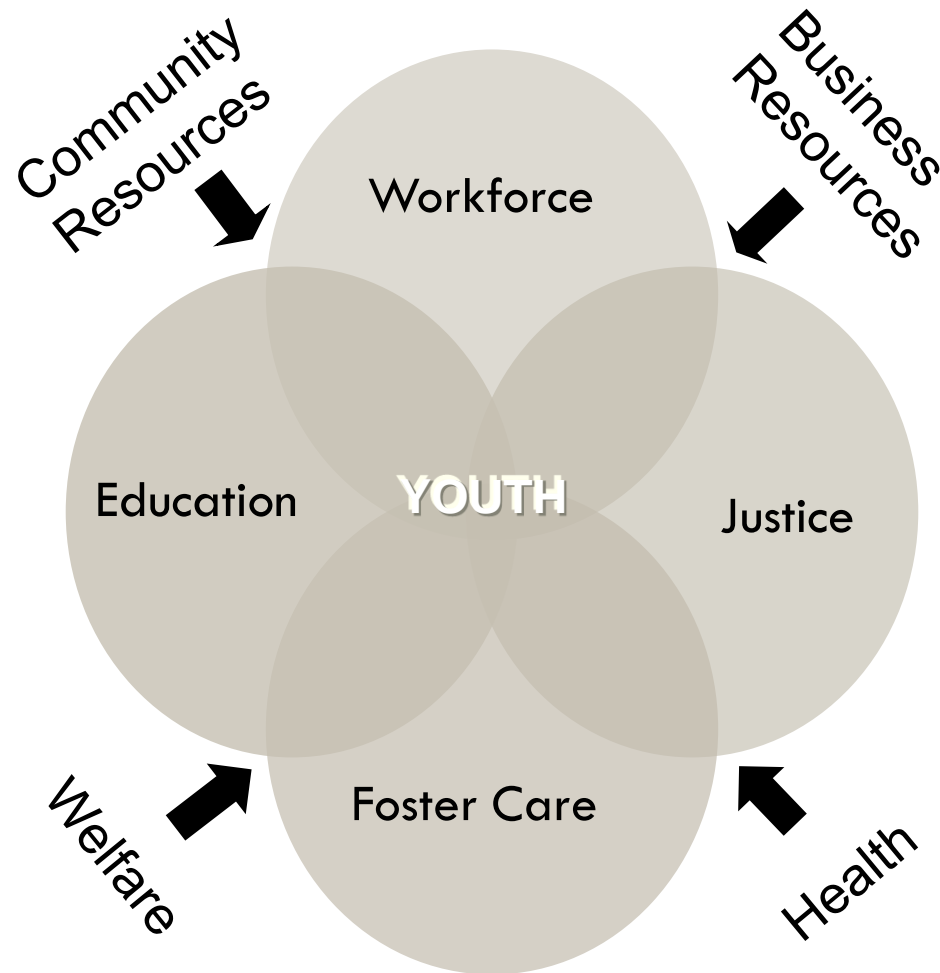
Comprehensive Community Strategy



The Goal: Connect Youth to Multiple Pathways

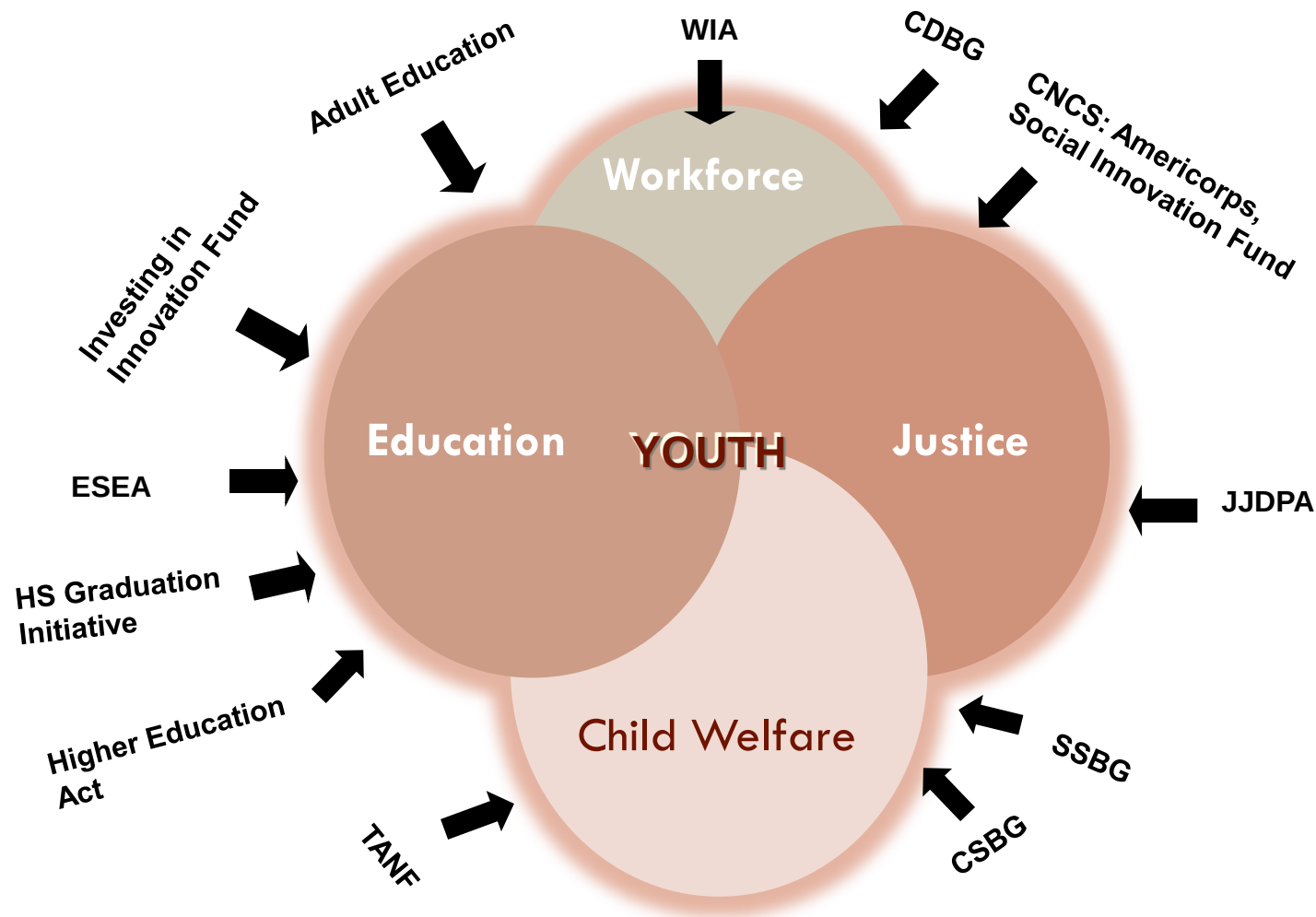


How Do We Get There?



“ALL SYSTEMS and SECTORS ON BOARD”

Putting Youth Back on Track Requires



“ALL FUNDING STREAMS IN PLAY”

MOVING THE AGENDA

- ❖ Political landscape is currently a challenge
- ❖ Fiscal realities and push back
- ❖ Little national leadership
- What should be done?
 - Advocates need to build and strengthen relationships with members of Congress
 - Push for the reauthorization of WIA and ESEA
 - Cultivate champions in all sectors
- Communities can still strengthen their services despite these political challenges
 - Systems can still think differently about how they use current resources
 - Community based organizations and advocates can urge local WIBs to be more strategic and responsive
 - Document outcomes and effective practices
 - Systems can still begin to create partnerships to expand service, and prioritize disconnected youth populations

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