

The CLASP logo features a stylized white swoosh above the word "CLASP" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

CLASP

policy solutions that work for low-income people

Mayors Innovations Project

Realizing the Promise of Cities

An Ounce of Prevention: Connecting Youth to Jobs

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Labor Market Imperative

- ▶ 15 million jobs will be added over the next decade, half will require some post-secondary credential
- ▶ At current trends, nation is producing more high school dropouts than post-secondary completers
- ▶ The fix is beyond the purview of just the education system
- ▶ We need both the youth in the K12 pipeline and those who have dropped out to fuel our economy

Work Preparation Continuum

LABOR MARKET

Middle School

College awareness
Community service
Career exposure

Cultural exposure
Leadership skills
Technology skills

High School

Smaller learning environments
Opportunities for applied learning

Transition support

Internships / work experience
College Exposure and Prep
Civic Engagement

Post Secondary

Dual enrollment
Apprenticeships

Certificate Programs
Bridge programs

College degree

after school

summer

high school

Lessons from Youth Opportunity

- ▶ Need all systems and sectors on board
- ▶ Mayor is key to getting the “buy-in”
- ▶ Multiple system partners key to sustaining effort
- ▶ Complicated work, but Communities can manage complex infrastructure at considerable scale
- ▶ Need school based and community based focal point for youth activity and support

Lessons from Youth Opportunity

- ▶ Innovative secondary and post-secondary linkages – key to labor market preparation
- ▶ OJT, paid internships, customized training, youth specific job development opened doors
- ▶ Dropouts want a second chance – have high aspirations – can make amazing transformations

Communities Collaborating to Reconnect Youth

A New Lens

On Dropout Recovery

Education Innovation

- Dual enrollment
- Credit recovery
- Accelerated learning
- Competency based award of credit

Youth Development Supports

Employer Engagement

- Contextual learning
- Work based learning
- Validate Competencies
- Internships
- Access to Career pathways

Quality Leadership and Management

Focus on excellence
and outcomes

**YOUTH AS
LABOR MARKET
ASSETS**

Connecting youth to high growth sectors

Key Role Mayors Can Play

- ▶ **Elevate youth** – in school and out -as the assets that must be developed for competitive economy and sustained quality of life
- ▶ **Insist** – Every system, every sector – **On Board**
- ▶ **Create the table** – assemble key partners – set the agenda – call for action
- ▶ **Insist** on **public systems** coming together and **changing their paradigms** – and creating the solutions
- ▶ Use leverage of Mayor's office to bring **Business leaders to table** – as engaged participants in creating the solutions
- ▶ Leverage the resources to move the vision