The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) is a national, nonpartisan, anti-poverty organization advancing policy solutions that work for low-income people. We offer nearly 50 years of trusted expertise, a deeply knowledgeable staff, and a commitment to practical yet visionary approaches to opportunity for all. We lift up the voices of poor and low-income children, families, and individuals, equip advocates with strategies that work, and help public officials put good ideas into practice. Our solutions directly address the barriers that individuals and families face because of race, ethnicity, and immigration status, in addition to poverty. CLASP’s recent focus on justice-related issues stems from our organizational commitment to racial equity and understanding the particular challenges that justice-involvement have on the economic security of communities of color.
Discussion Outline

• Anjel’s Story
• Employment Landscape for BMOC and Federal Policy Threats
• Systemic Barriers Confronting Boys and Young Men of Color and Guiding Principles for Realizing Economic Justice
• Strategies for Reconnection
Anjel’s Story

Investing in Boys and Young Men of Color: The Promise and Opportunity (June 2014)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AAGAqpyjZc
Employment Landscape for BMOC
BMOC Employment Trends

- Steady decline of youth in the workforce since 2000 and BMOC have been severely impacted.

*Figure 1. Percent of Males Employed By Race, Ages 16-19*

Employment and Educational Attainment

Figure 4. Unemployment Rates for Out-of-School Males by Race and Education Attainment, Ages 16–24

Questions
Federal Context
Budgetary Threats

- The President’s proposed FY 2018 budget is expected to gut or eliminate funding of programs critical to children and youth well-being, including:
  - Job Corps
  - The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and
  - Competitive and formula programs authorized under Title I of the Every Student Succeeds Act.
  - Other critical support for youth serving programs
Additional Threats

- Presidential executive orders
- Cabinet and sub-cabinet nominations
- ACA Repeal
- Congressional Review Act
- Etc.
Systemic Barriers to Economic Security for BMOC

- Racism, Segregation and Social Isolation
- Education Inequality
- Over-Criminalization
- Inequitable Access to Physical and Mental Healthcare
- Unique Challenges for Undocumented Youth
Guiding Principles for Realizing Economic Justice for BMOC

• Considerations for programs and policies aimed at reconnecting boys and men of color to employment pathways include:
  ▪ Equity
  ▪ Youth Voice
  ▪ Data-Informed Solutions
  ▪ Culturally Relevant and Developmentally Appropriate
Questions
Strategies for Reconnection

• Provide Programming to Help Young Men of Color Master Early Work Skills
• Broker Relationships with Employers to Help Young Men of Color Enter into Employment and gain Work Experience
• Implement Traditional and Non-traditional Employment Strategies to Achieve Results for Employers and Youth
Interventions for BMOC: High Quality Early Work Experiences

- Transitional jobs
- Summer Jobs
- Occupational Training
- Internships
- Pre-apprenticeships
- Career Exploration
Questions
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