Forgotten and Left Behind: Shifting Narratives and Exploring Policy Solutions for Vulnerable Youth and Young Adults
Small Group Questions:

• What formative experience(s) in your adolescence allowed you to realize that you were capable of becoming the person that you are today?

• What is a message that you would deliver to a younger version of yourself about the transition into young adulthood?
Agenda Overview & Meeting Guidelines

Habits of Happy Meetings

1. Seek to build a community of practice where everyone is a learner, resource, and guide.
2. Speak to the point
3. Be curious
4. Say what is not being said
5. Help ensure equitable participation (WAIT)
6. One Diva One Mic
Meeting Objectives

- Develop shared understandings of who youth and young adults are, where they live, the opportunities they have access to, and the challenges they are confronting.

- Identify mainstream and alternative narratives on “Millennials” and their implications of those narratives for policies that impact the economic mobility, health and wellbeing of the population.

- Explore and identify strategies to more effectively center the needs of youth and the young adult population and in particular low-income youth and young adults and young people of color.
Who Youth and Young Adults Are Today

Millennials are between ages 18 and 34:

- 23 percent of the total population
- 30 percent of the voting age population
- 38 percent of the primary working age population

Figure 1: US Race-Ethnic Profiles for Age Groups, 2015

Who Youth and Young Adults Are Today

2015 Census Data on Poverty

- Young women ages 18-24 are poor at higher rates than young men: 21.7%
- Young adults ages 18-24 are at high risk of poverty: 16.4%
- 1 in 5 young adults lives below the federal poverty line—one of the highest rates of any age group

1 IN 4 U.S. YOUNG PARENTS (UNDER 30) IS POOR

In 2015, 24.6 percent (2.3 million) of U.S. young parents ages 18-29 were living in poverty

- The official measure defines poverty as $20,090 for a single-parent family of three. The supplemental poverty measure (SPM) shows the effects of non-cash transfers and taxes as well as out-of-pocket medical costs.
Who Youth and Young Adults Are Today

Opportunity Youth

• 4.9 million young adults Ages of 16 and 24

• 12.3 percent of American youth, about one in eight

• 20.3 percent in rural counties, much higher than the rate for counties in urban centers 14.2 percent
Questions to Consider:

• Based on your work and experience, is there anything else that you would add?
• What did you learn from the evidence offered in the presentations?
• What was most interesting/new/surprising?
Questions to Consider:

• Did you have any aha moments, if so, what were they?

• After hearing the research evidence and the young people’s narratives, where is there divergence?

• How has your picture of the “narrative” framework for thinking about young people and their lives shifted?
How might we achieve justice with and for young people? How might we create social mobility with and for young people? How might we promote healing and wellness with and for young people?

Questions to Consider:

• Given the current political context where are the opportunities to do this work? What audiences would you target, given where you sit?
• Are there messages we should be doubling-down on to push change and opportunity?
• What do you see as the potential next actions to take from where you sit based on the issues we discussed today?
Closing Exercise: Thank You!