



# **Realizing Youth Justice:**

## **Advancing Education and Employment through Public Policy and Investment**

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# About CLASP

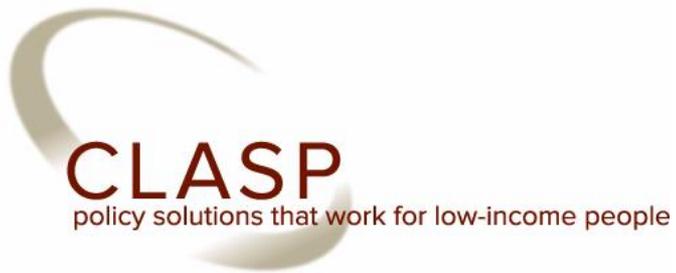
- The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) is a national, nonpartisan, anti-poverty organization advancing policy solutions that work for low-income people. We offer nearly 50 years of trusted expertise, a deeply knowledgeable staff, and a commitment to practical yet visionary approaches to opportunity 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.

# Workshop Outline

- Introductions
- Setting the Context
- Group Breakout and Discussion: Unrealized Justice
- Towards an Investment Framework
- Community Spotlight: Clayton County, GA
- Group Breakout and Discussion: Surfacing Solutions

# Workshop Goals

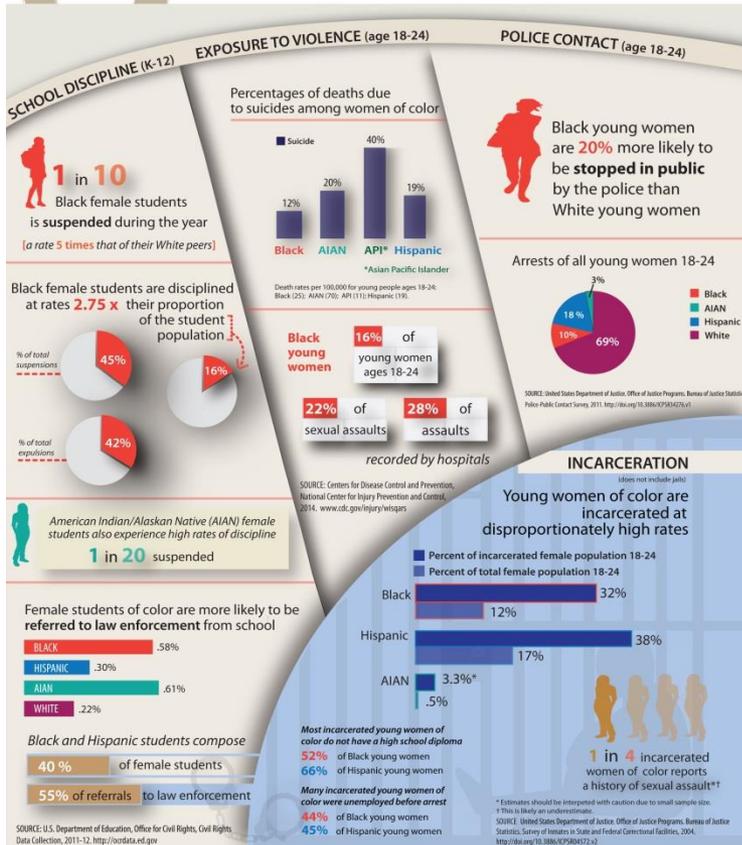
- Ground our conversation in context of national data and trends
- Outline the principles that support an investment framework as effective anti-incarceration strategy
- Explore how local innovation can foster system change
- Learn about the work and strategies in your respective organizations and communities



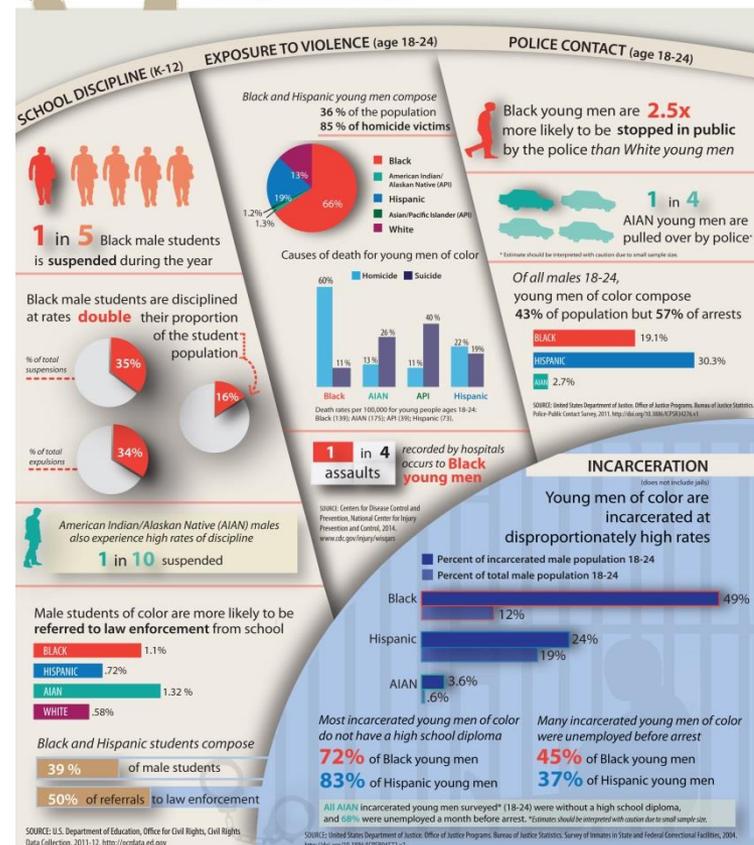
# **Realizing Youth Justice: Setting the Context**

# National Context

## UNREALIZED JUSTICE Young Women of Color



## UNREALIZED JUSTICE Young Men of Color

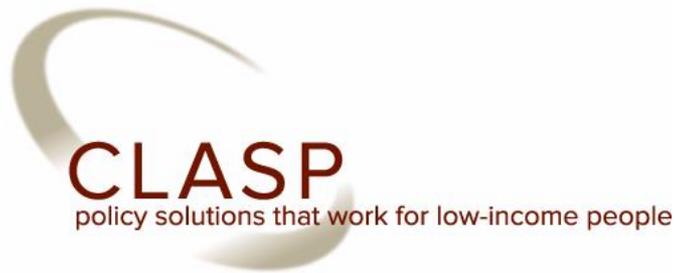


# Key Takeaways

- Young people of color have higher exposure to violence, encounter disproportionate rates of school discipline and police contact
- Many incarcerated young people of color were unemployed immediately before being incarcerated and most had not attained a high school degree
- Young people of color who are incarcerated typically have extensive trauma histories and past involvement with other systems

# Group Breakout

- Questions to Consider:
  - We discussed challenges confronting particular communities of young people. What are some of the ways that your organization/agency supports their unique needs?
  - What are some of the gaps in services and supports that exist from where you sit? What are some of the strategies you are using to address those gaps?
  - What data capacity exists in your community to assess the needs of justice-involved young people?
  - In what ways do you incorporate youth voice into your decision-making processes?



# **Realizing Youth Justice: Towards an Investment Framework**

# Elements of a Law and Order Framework

- Using law enforcement to respond to social distress
- Criminalizing adolescent behaviors
- Criminalizing poverty and vulnerability
- Expanding law enforcement presence in non-traditional settings



# Examples of Law and Order Framework

- Stop and Frisk Policies
- Mandatory Minimums
- School-based Police Presence
- Confinement for Status Offenses
- Charging Juveniles as/Confining them with Adults



# Principles for Realizing Youth Justice



- Incorporates a Racial and Gender Equity Lens
- Understands Youth as Assets
- Centers Youth Voice
- Data-informed Solutions
- Culturally-relevant and Youth-Development Informed Approaches

# Elements of an Investment Framework

An investment framework for realizing youth justice emphasizes how investment in youth-serving systems works as anti-incarceration strategy.

- Education
- Workforce
- Health & Mental Health

# Education



- Diversion:
  - The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and supporting accountability regulations address:
    - Harsh Discipline Practices
    - School Climate and Safety
- Re-Entry:
  - ESSA contains provisions intended to support the reenrollment of court-involved youth:
    - Credit Transfer
    - Records Transfer

# Workforce

- Diversion:
  - Investments in summer youth employment/youth development:
    - One Summer Chicago evaluation showed that youth who engaged in the program saw a 51% decrease in arrests for violent crime.
    - Phoenix YO! Program in Arkansas linked to the closure of the local JJ facility (with defunding of the program linked to the opening of 2 new JJ facilities)
- Re-Entry:
  - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA):
    - Prioritizes workforce development funding for Out of School Youth
    - Youth with history of contact with the JJ or CJ system are a priority population for service
  - Ban the Box

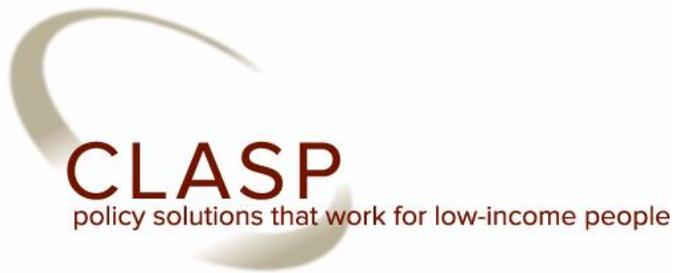
# Health and Mental Health

- Diversion:
  - Systems of Care:
    - Trauma informed practice in schools/communities
    - LA: Youth Peer Specialists as System navigators
- Re-Entry:
  - Guidance from the US centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services:
    - Medicaid eligibility for youth on probation, parole, released pending trial, or residential programs
    - Suspension of benefits, rather than termination, of coverage for youth with sentences <1 year



# Key Federal Legislation

- JJDPA
- The Second Chance Act
- Restoring Education and Learning (REAL) Act
- Second Chance Pell Pilot Program
- Stopping Unfair Collateral Consequences from Ending Student Success (SUCCESS) Act



# **Clayton County Georgia Systems of Care**

Judge Steve Teske

# Group Breakout

- Questions to Consider:
  - We provided examples of how federal policy in education, workforce and health support diversion and re-entry for young people of color. What are some examples of how this works or could work in your context/organization?
  - What role do you see for JJDPa and other key pending federal legislation in supporting an investment framework?
  - From your vantage point, what are ways that you would enhance or alter the framework that we've outlined? Does this framework resonate with you and the work that you do?

# Contact Information

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