



American Youth  
Policy Forum

## **Building Pathways to Postsecondary Success for Vulnerable Populations**

AYPF Discussion Group

July 20, 2016

Hall of States Building

444 North Capitol St. NW

Washington, DC 20001

Room 333

For youth aging out of foster and/or involved in the juvenile justice systems, it is critical that we create accessible and supportive pathways to postsecondary success. Youth involved in the juvenile justice system face many barriers that impede their access to education upon reentry. In fact, [66 percent](#) do not return to school after being released from secure custody. Upon aging out of care, often the biggest obstacle youth face is finding a way to support themselves. Nearly [47 percent](#) of youth who have aged out of foster care are not currently employed. Accessing opportunities both in education and the workforce is necessary for these young people to ensure they are equipped with credentials, skills, and abilities to be successful.

Through sharing the latest research and promising practices, including education and workforce development strategies for serving these vulnerable populations, AYPF will facilitate a conversation about the role of policy to grow, scale, and sustain these strategies.

### **Agenda**

**9:00am Breakfast Available**

**9:30am Welcome and Introductions**

- Leticia Peguero, Executive Director, Andrus Family Fund

**9:45am Program Overview**

- Jennifer Brown Lerner, Deputy Director, AYPF

**10:15am Panel and Q&A: Research Perspectives on Building Pathways for Vulnerable Populations**

*Panel will discuss the current research base for effective pathways to postsecondary education and the workforce for vulnerable populations, and draw out common elements in serving youth aging out of foster care and/or involved in the juvenile justice system.*

- Amy Dworsky, Research Fellow, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
- Jessica Kendall, Senior Technical Specialist, ICF International
- Nina Salomon, Senior Policy Analyst, Juvenile Justice, Council of State Governments Justice Center
- Moderator: Jenna Tomasello, Policy Associate, AYPF

**11:45am      Networking Lunch**

**12:30pm      Panel and Q&A: Best Practices in Action: Voices from the Field**

*Panel will discuss their models to provide vulnerable populations with pathways to education and workforce skills and credentials.*

- Monique De La Oz, Senior Director of Learning and Career Development, Phipps Neighborhoods
- Geoff Foster, Director of Organizing and Policy, UTEC
- Jodi Rosenbaum, Founder and CEO, More Than Words
- Melissa Sawyer, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Youth Empowerment Project
- Moderator: Zachary Malter, Policy Research Assistant, AYPF

**2:00pm      Small Group Discussion of Implications for Policy**

**2:30pm      Panel Discussion: Digging into the Policy Opportunities and Barriers**

*Panelists will reflect on the challenges and opportunities presented in the earlier discussions and share the policy frameworks guiding their work.*

- Kisha Bird, Director, Youth Policy, Center for Law and Social Policy
- Thaddeus Ferber, Vice President, Policy Advocacy, Forum for Youth Investment
- Jennifer Miller, Founding Partner, Child Focus; Lead Consultant, Foster Care Working Group of Youth Transitions Funders Group
- Jennifer Pokempner, Child Welfare Policy Director, Juvenile Law Center
- Moderator: Monique Miles, Director, Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund; Deputy Director, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions, Aspen Institute

**3:30pm      Large Group Reflections**

**4:00pm      Adjourn**