

THE RECONNECTING YOUTH CAMPAIGN

IT'S TIME TO INVEST IN AMERICA'S UNTAPPED POTENTIAL



The **Reconnecting Youth Campaign: Unleashing Limitless Potential** calls on Congress to invest in America's future by funding education, training, national service and employment opportunities for one million 16- to 24-year-olds who are not in school or work.

Across the United States, over 4.6 million 16- to 24-year-olds have been separated from pathways to productive adulthood.¹ They are known as "Opportunity Youth," both because they are seeking opportunities to provide for themselves and their families, and because they represent untapped potential for employers, communities and our economy.

RECONNECTING OPPORTUNITY YOUTH **STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES**

Decades of research show that investment in Opportunity Youth will improve the futures of young people, families and communities by reducing persistent poverty; increasing civic engagement; and improving health, education and career outcomes. It's the right thing to do.

RECONNECTING OPPORTUNITY YOUTH **IS GOOD FISCAL POLICY**

Every \$1 we invest in helping a young person reconnect yields a more than \$5 return on investment, saving taxpayers \$2 directly and generating another \$3.50 in net tax revenue.

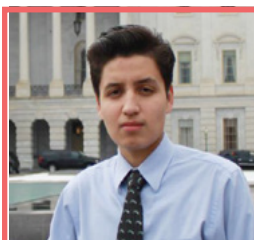
RECONNECTING OPPORTUNITY YOUTH **IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS**

Businesses that invest in hiring and training Opportunity Youth report that they outperform other entry-level employees, including lower interview-to-hire ratios, higher retention rates, higher job performance scores and faster promotion rates.



"What people need to know about Opportunity Youth is that we are strong, we are brilliant, we persevere. Find a way to engage us in your spaces because we're ready and willing [and] we know the difference it makes when we get support."

- KIMBERLY PHAM,
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
FOUNDING MEMBER, OPPORTUNITY
YOUTH UNITED



"I embrace the term 'opportunity youth.' The reason young people are 'at risk' is because they see few opportunities in their community. We feel a sense of pride and want to bring change to our communities."

- HUMBERTO PALACIOS, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA,
NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM ALUM

SOLUTIONS ARE WITHIN REACH

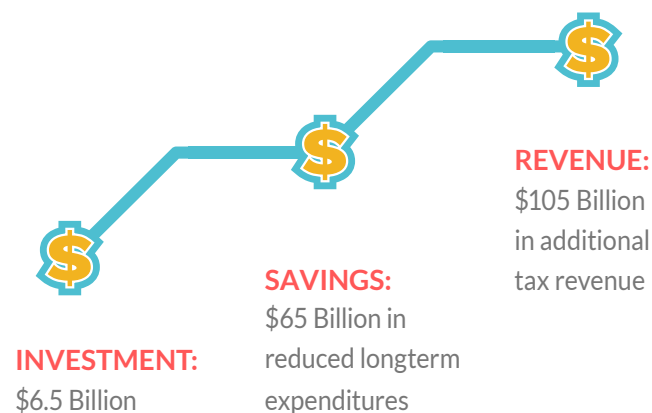
All young people deserve the opportunity to access a good education and pathways to productive adulthood, despite race, gender, where they live or where they start in life. Opportunity Youth hold tremendous potential if we make the choice to invest in them.

Federally funded programs that help Opportunity Youth to gain the skills, tools and networks to reach their full potential consistently demonstrate positive impact. Yet these highly effective programs lack the resources to meet the demand – every day, they are forced to turn young people away.

We call on Congress to increase appropriations from \$2.5 billion to \$6.5 billion to support existing federally funded programs.

Increasing annual investments will allow effective programs to immediately scale up and provide 1 million Opportunity Youth a viable pathway toward productive adulthood.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: A \$4 billion investment will save taxpayers \$65 billion in reduced long-term expenditures and will generate \$105 billion in additional tax revenue.



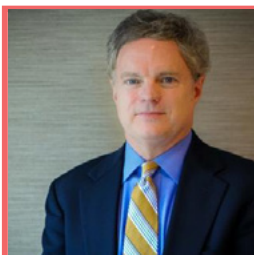
Source: *Bridge to Reconnection*, by John Bridgeland, domestic policy advisor to President George W. Bush.



“[Our Opportunity Youth program] helps us attract talent, helps motivate teams, helps communities, and helps create a diverse workforce.

It’s multi-dimensional, hitting a lot of different things we want to do. It’s a win-win-win.”

– JOHN GALANTE, FORMER CIO, JPMORGAN CHASE



“Imagine the positive change that could come to our cities and rural areas if all young people see that there is a pathway for them into employment and post-secondary education...and civic leadership. We have the power, knowledge, and resources to make this the reality.”

– JOHN BRIDGELAND, DOMESTIC POLICY ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

PROGRAM SUCCESS AND IMPACT

These federally funded programs currently serving Opportunity Youth offer a diverse and comprehensive range of approaches, locations, skill-building and career pathways. They are rigorously evaluated to measure their viability and success in achieving programmatic goals regarding improved health, academic and career outcomes. Here are the highly effective programs that, with increased investment, can immediately expand to serve 1 million young people.

ADULT SECONDARY EDUCATION

This U.S. Department of Education program supports adult learners (ages 16 and up) prepare for High School Equivalency exams, offering a critical second chance for many American high school dropouts.

AMERICORPS NATIONAL CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS

Youth respond to various environmental crises and disasters, rebuilding communities while earning a living allowance and an education award for college.

AMERICORPS STATE/NATIONAL

AmeriCorps State/National funding provides support to a wide range of service programs that strengthen communities and build leaders through direct community and national service.

CHAFEE EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHERS

This program increases college attendance rates among foster youth by providing tuition support for former foster youth enrolling in post-secondary educational and training programs.

JOB CORPS

This a full-time, residential, education, and vocational training program administered by the U.S Department of Labor and implemented in over 100 locations by for-profit, public, and nonprofit entities. Youth earn a high school diploma or GED, learn career skills, and connect to job opportunities.

NATIONAL GUARD CHALLENGE

Funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, this program helps adolescents improve their education and employment success.

RE-ENTRY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Youth REO projects focus on pre- and post-release services, including case management, educational and occupational skills training, tutoring, credit retrieval, job placement and other supportive services.

SERVICE AND CONSERVATION CORPS

Youth are engaged in service projects coupled with job training, mentoring and academic programming.

WIOA YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth programs are designed to help youth with education, and/or occupational skills and training.

YOUTHBUILD

Administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), this community-based alternative education program provides hands-on job training, educational and community service opportunities.



“ YouthBuild changed my life forever. I built housing for homeless people and earned my GED. Now I’m chairman of the homeowners’ association in my inner city neighborhood”

**- ANTOINE BENNETT,
YOUTHBUILD SANDTOWN
(BALTIMORE)**

RECONNECTING YOUTH CAMPAIGN: PLAN FOR RECONNECTING 1 MILLION OPPORTUNITY YOUTH EACH YEAR THROUGH FEDERAL FUNDING STREAMS

Program	Agency	Number of OY Served		Target for Growth		Projected Federal Cost per OY		Cost at Estimate for Growth		Estimated Lifetime Fiscal Savings, by Savings Type				
								Taxes	Crime	Health	Welfare	TOTAL		
Comprehensive Education and Employment Programs														
Job Corps	Labor	52,415	65,000	\$30,106	\$1,956,890,000		\$6,857,500,000	\$890,500,000	\$2,721,550,000	\$627,900,000	\$11,097,450,000			
YouthBuild	Labor	7,560	50,000	\$15,000	\$750,000,000		\$5,275,000,000	\$685,000,000	\$2,093,500,000	\$483,000,000	\$8,536,500,000			
Service and Conservation Corps	Various	14,780	65,000	\$10,000	\$650,000,000		\$6,857,500,000	\$890,500,000	\$2,721,550,000	\$627,900,000	\$11,097,450,000			
National Guard Youth Challenge	Defense	9,000	20,000	\$13,890	\$277,800,000		\$2,110,000,000	\$274,000,000	\$837,400,000	\$193,200,000	\$3,414,600,000			
Reentry Employment Opportunities	Labor	6,130	18,000	\$7,300	\$131,400,000		\$1,899,000,000	\$246,600,000	\$753,660,000	\$173,880,000	\$3,073,140,000			
AmeriCorps National and Civilian Community Corps	CNCS	138	1,400	\$29,674	\$41,543,600		\$147,700,000	\$19,180,000	\$58,618,000	\$13,524,000	\$239,022,000			
AmeriCorps State/National	CNCS	6,260	50,000	\$11,063	\$553,150,000		\$5,275,000,000	\$685,000,000	\$2,093,500,000	\$483,000,000	\$8,536,500,000			
Subtotals:		96,283	269,400		\$4,360,783,600		\$28,421,700,000	\$3,690,780,000	\$11,279,778,000	\$2,602,404,000	\$45,994,662,000			
Short-Term Education Programs														
Adult Secondary Education	Education	132,500	248,700	\$300	\$74,610,000		\$26,237,850,000	\$3,407,190,000	\$10,413,069,000	\$2,402,442,000	\$42,460,551,000			
Chafee Education and Training Vouchers	HHS	16,548	26,000	\$2,555	\$66,430,000		\$2,743,000,000	\$356,200,000	\$1,088,620,000	\$251,160,000	\$4,438,980,000			
Subtotals:		149,048	274,700		\$141,040,000		\$28,980,850,000	\$3,763,390,000	\$11,501,689,000	\$2,653,602,000	\$46,899,531,000			
Short-Term Employment Programs														
WIOA Youth Activities	Labor	94,390	456,801	\$4,424	\$2,020,887,624		\$48,192,505,500	\$6,258,173,700	\$19,126,257,870	\$4,412,697,660	\$77,989,634,730			
Subtotals:		94,390	456,801		\$2,020,887,624		\$48,192,505,500	\$6,258,173,700	\$19,126,257,870	\$4,412,697,660	\$77,989,634,730			
TOTALS:		339,721	1,000,901		\$6,522,711,224		\$105,595,055,500	\$13,712,343,700	\$41,907,724,870	\$9,668,703,660	\$170,883,827,730			

¹ See <http://forumfvi.org/content/OpportunityYouthROI> for the number of Opportunity Youth and related costs in each specific district

² See <https://gradsoflife.org/business-case>, <http://www.fsg.org/impact-hiring-initiative>, <https://gradsoflife.org/>, <https://www.100kopportunities.org>

