

**Los Angeles Basin Regional Plan Challenges and Opportunities for
Disconnected Youth**

Key Challenges Identified from Interviews with Regional Stakeholders	Proposed Next Steps and Opportunities:
<p>Priority in Engaging Disconnected Youth: Challenges include mixed levels of commitment, attention, resources and supportive service for recovering and reengaging out of school disconnected youth across the Los Angeles Basin, along with the need to restructure Workforce Development Board contracts that are more responsive to the needs of disconnected youth.</p>	<p>Recovery and Reengagement: Replicate and expand local and regional efforts to create innovative and comprehensive recovery and reengagement strategies for disconnected youth who are out of school by reintegrating them back into the educational system and encouraging multiple pathways to prepare them for college and career success.</p> <p>Contracting Opportunity: Share examples from Workforce Development Board’s that have restructured contracts to reduce contractual requirements that are excessively burdensome or may not serve their intended purpose and create incentives for potential contractors to address the real needs of disconnected youth and reflect youth development best practices.</p>
<p>Systemic Barriers: Skill development and credentials will be insufficient for disconnected youth to achieve equitable employment across race and ethnicity without successful efforts to overcome systemic barriers to employment, such as disparities in skill development, program participation, exclusionary hiring policies, implicit bias, hostile work climates, and lack of robust availability of transportation and childcare.</p>	<p>Reduce Systemic Barriers: Replicate and expand effective regional strategies for reaching out to, engaging, and successfully serving out of school disconnected youth with significant employment barriers and connecting them to sector pathway that expand opportunities to return to school, enroll in training programs, and find paid employment this could include the development of local agreements that recruit and serve this population.</p>
<p>Disconnected Data Systems: Interoperability among multiple education, workforce, social services and other data systems that inhibit coordination and alignment across the multiple systems that serve disconnected youth along with fragmented data systems that constrain the flow of information to improve results and finally the administrative requirements that impede holistic approaches in serving disconnected youth.</p>	<p>Data Sharing Agreements and Collective Performance Measures: Replicate and expand opportunities to capture lessons learned from existing data sharing agreements among the Workforce Development Board’s that are addressing interoperability between multiple systems (education, health and mental health, workforce development, job training, housing, social services and criminal justice) and are focused on assembling data from various systems that set priorities, goals, and benchmarks, data analysis of the need for multi-pronged interventions, managing and linking data, maintaining data quality, and protecting privacy.</p> <p>Consider supporting a regional process to create a common set of shared performance measures that could provide better information and tools that would enable Workforce Development Board’s to collectively track progress, direct resources to strategies that work and to measure and evaluate successful practices that would guide policies and support innovative approaches that</p>

	improve service delivery for disconnected youth.
<p>Challenges in Sharing Best Practice: No regional portal to capture and share effective approaches and “lift up” best practices in supporting disconnected youth has resulted in limited evidence about effective models and strategies that support positive outcomes for disconnected youth and a wide-ranging level of awareness and knowledge about the evidence that does exist.</p>	<p>Build a Community of Practice: Support the development of a regional platform that could drive innovation, share lessons learned and best practices that effectively coordinate multiple systems and programs serving disconnected youth and disseminate practitioner’s tools for measuring and evaluating outcomes along with key findings to inform practitioner’s and policymakers.</p>
<p>Cross-Sector Partnerships: Strengthen local and regional cross-sector partnerships that increase coordination between multiple public agencies and service providers in providing an innovative service delivery system change strategies that is seamless, integrated and can meet the education, employment, housing, health and other needs of disconnected youth.</p>	<p>Multi-System Approaches: Replicate and enhance cross-sector collaborations that are currently being led by the Workforce Development Board’s and are surfacing innovative new solutions that are achieving better outcomes and producing demonstrated results for disconnected youth.</p>
<p>Limited Employment Opportunities: Structural shifts in the regions job market have resulted in the lack of job creation and supply along with increasingly scarce career on-ramps and heightened competition for jobs has led to high levels of unemployment, hidden unemployment and underemployment for disconnected youth.</p>	<p>Labor Market Engagement: Replicate, enhance and scale up current innovative approaches that focus on the development of multiple diverse pathways, job training programs that are employer driven and linked to specific career pathways, supportive services that reduce barriers to employment for disconnected youth from achieving success in jobs and careers.</p>
<p>Enhance Regional Coordination and Communication: The necessity for increased coordination and communication across the region between the Workforce Development Board’s that would strengthen and connect comprehensive approaches that meet the multi-faceted needs of disconnected youth.</p>	<p>Support Ongoing Coordination and Communication: Replicate and enhance current partnerships and shared initiatives between Workforce Development Board’s that has effectively addressed communication barriers, connected data systems, implemented a governance structure that has effectively manages diverse partners, aligned public systems and increased coordination in reconnecting disconnected youth to education, employment, housing and career attainment.</p>
<p>Increase Capacity for Partnership Development: Build and enhance coordinating capacity between the Workforce Development Board’s and civic and private-sector partnerships that would result in the efficient and effective delivery of locally designed strategies and solutions that improve outcomes for disconnected youth in achieving success in meeting educational, employment, and other key lifelong development goals.</p>	<p>Enhance Partnership Development: Create a “gateway” for the Workforce Development Board’s to strengthen and advance current innovative partnerships between local governments, non-profits, businesses and philanthropy that would propel evidence-based practices and interventions and enable partners to focus on what works and the strengthen the capacity of the region in providing wraparound services to improve education, employment, and social outcomes for disconnected youth.</p>