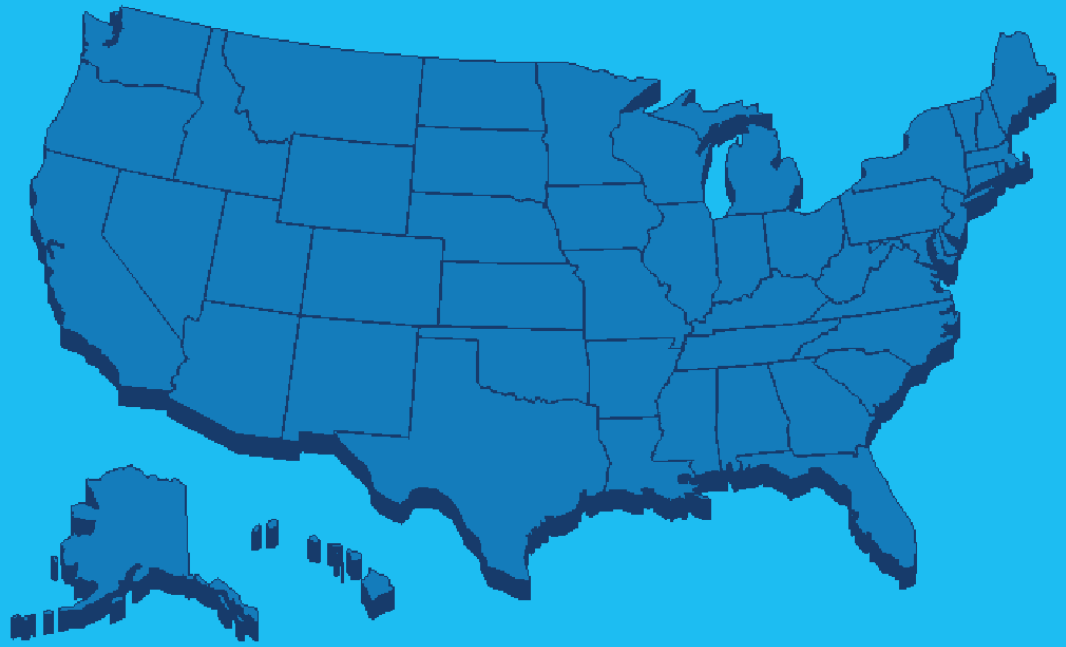
WHERE IS OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA?



2016

OPPORTUNITY INDEX

OPPORTUNITY NATION

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Today's Speakers

Selena Gonzales Jones, Director of Impact and Community Engagement, Opportunity Nation

Monique Rizer, Executive Director, Opportunity Nation

Rebecca Gluskin, Ph.D, Chief Statistician, Measure of America

Lashon Amado, National Coordinator of Community Action Teams, YouthBuild USA

Speaker Information

Selena Gonzales Jones
Director of Impact and Community Engagement, Opportunity Nation
selena@opportunitynation.org

Rebecca Gluskin, Ph.D
Chief Statistician, Measure of America
rebecca@measureofamerica.org

Lashon Amado
National Coordinator of Community Action Teams, YouthBuild USA
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Today's Agenda

I. Opening Introductions - Selena Gonzales Jones

II. Opportunity Nation Overview - Monique Rizer

III. 2016 Opportunity Index Findings - Selena Gonzales Jones

IV. Index Data and Methodology - Rebecca Gluskin

V. Index in Action - Lashon Amado

VI. Q&A

OPPORTUNITY NATION

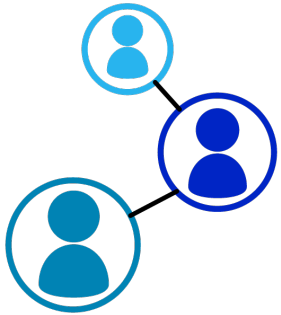
Selena Gonzales Jones
Director, Impact and Community Engagement
Opportunity Nation

OPPORTUNITY NATION

Monique Rizer
Executive Director
Opportunity Nation

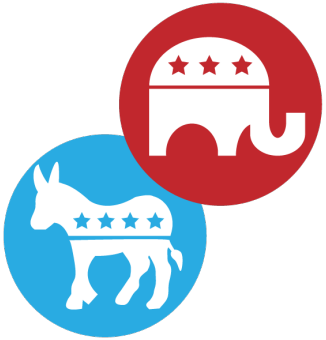
Opportunity Nation is a bipartisan, national campaign comprised of more than 350 organizations working together to expand economic mobility and close the opportunity gap in America

Approach



Convene Cross-Sector Groups

Measure Access to Opportunity



Advance Bipartisan Legislation

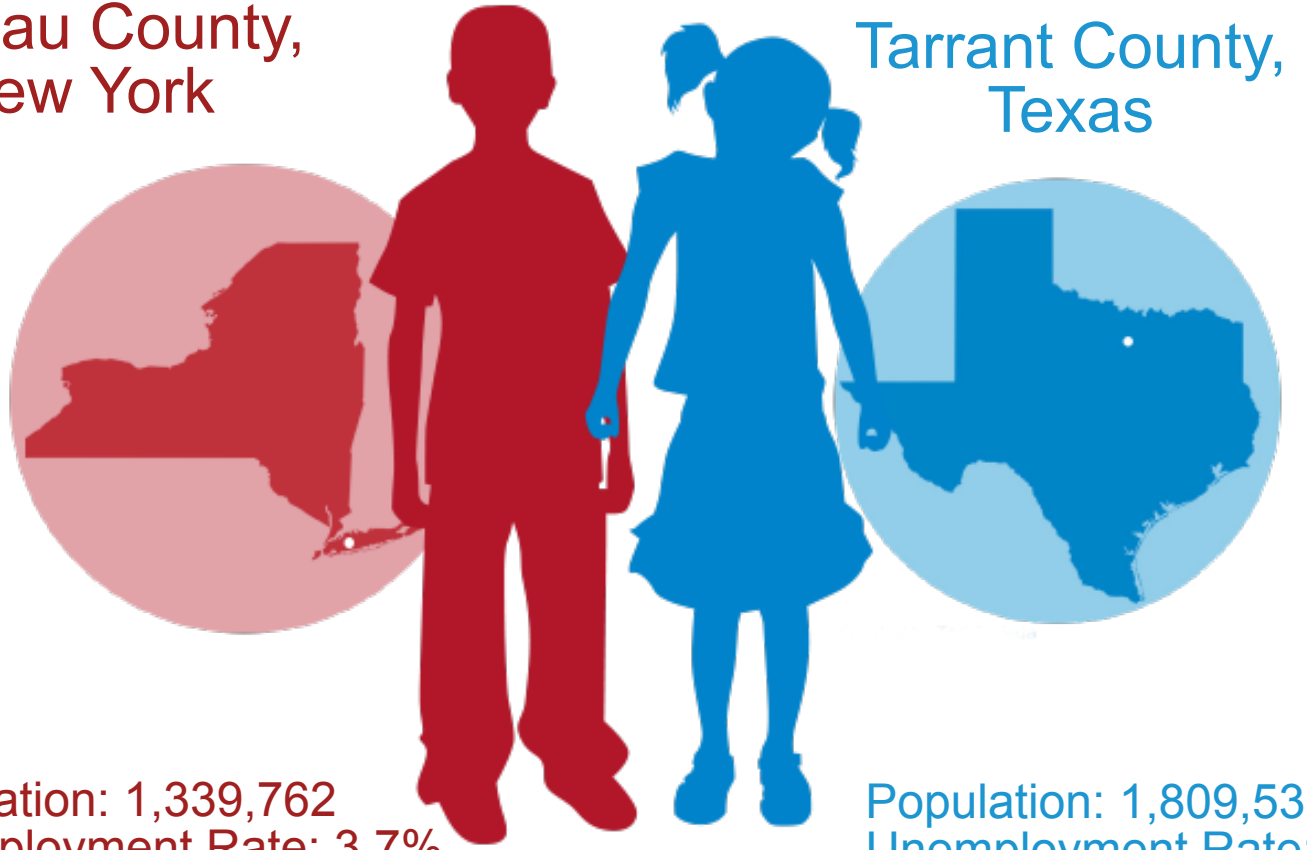
The Opportunity Index

The Opportunity Index is an annual composite measure at the state and county levels of economic, educational and civic factors that expand or constrict opportunity.

The Index is jointly developed by Opportunity Nation and Measure of America.

Nassau County, New York

Tarrant County, Texas



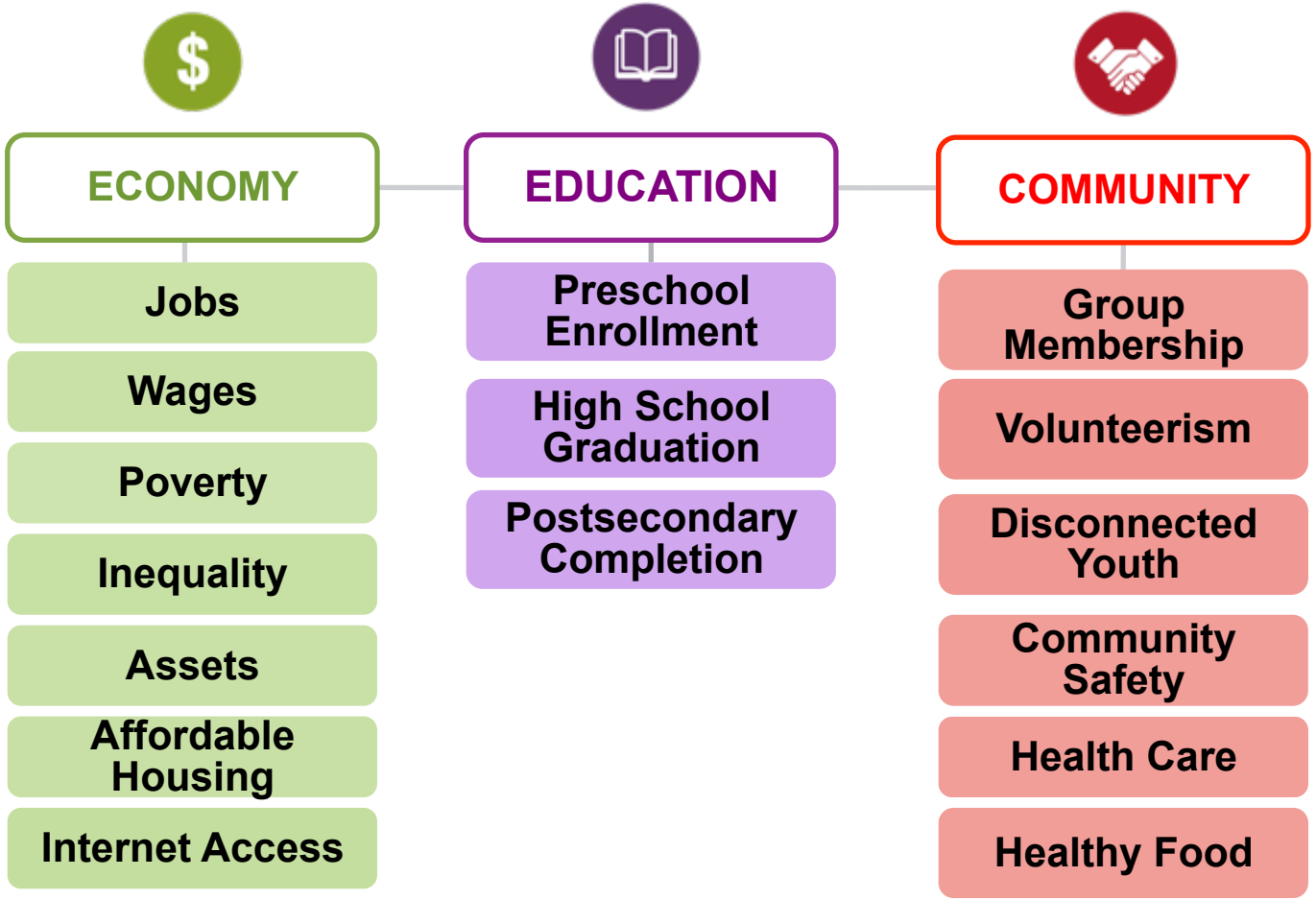
Population: 1,339,762
Unemployment Rate: 3.7%

Population: 1,809,531
Unemployment Rate: 3.7%

A-
OPPORTUNITY GRADE
C
OPPORTUNITY GRADE
Nassau County, NY
Tarrant County, TX

	Nassau	Tarrant	National
Wages	$90,634	$53,170	$48,906
Poverty	6.3%	15.3%	15.5%
Postsecondary Completion	50.1%	36.6%	36.2%
Disconnected Youth	9.5%	13.6%	13.8%

Zip code should not determine one’s destiny.


ECONOMY
Jobs
Wages
Poverty
Inequality
Assets
Affordable Housing
Internet Access
EDUCATION
Preschool Enrollment
High School Graduation
Postsecondary Completion
COMMUNITY
Group Membership
Volunteerism
Disconnected Youth
Community Safety
Health Care
Healthy Food

MEASUREOFAMERICA
of the Social Science Research Council

Rebecca Gluskin, Ph.D
Chief Statistician
Measure of America
rebecca@measureofamerica.org

Methodology

The Opportunity Index focuses on the conditions present in different communities – factors that are particularly useful because they are amenable to policy change & community actions.

This Index was jointly developed by Measure of America and Opportunity Nation.

1/3 1/3 1/3

All dimensions are weighted equally; each of the 3 dimensions makes up 1/3 of the final Index value

	DIMENSIONS	INDICATORS	SCORES	QUANTITY
STATE		16	100-1	All 50 states & the District of Columbia
COUNTY		14	A+ - F	2,700+

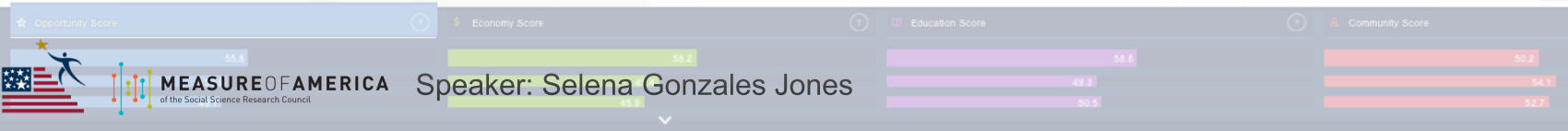
Since 2011, the Index has measured access to opportunity across the nation.

Top 5 States

1. Vermont
2. Massachusetts
3. New Hampshire
4. Connecticut
5. New Jersey

Bottom 5 States

47. Arizona
48. Louisiana
49. Mississippi
50. Nevada
51. New Mexico



+8.9%

Overall opportunity in America has increased **8.9%** since the 2011 Index, and remains unchanged since the 2015 Index.

POSITIVE TRENDS

Unemployment rates have fallen **45%** since the 2011 Index, and **2%** since the 2015 Index

Violent crime rates have decreased **15.4%** since the 2011 Index, and **5.7%** since the 2015 Index

MEDIAN INCOME

INCOME

Since the 2011 Index

-3.1%

Since the 2015 Index

+1.05%

2011 Index	$51,050
2015 Index	$48,906
2016 Index	$49,422

INEQUALITY

Since the 2011 Index

+4.1%

Since the 2015 Index

+0.6%

INEQUALITY

2011 Index	4.8 to 1
2015 Index	5.0 to 1
2016 Index	5.0 to 1

POVERTY

Since the 2011 Index

+8.3%

Since the 2015 Index

-1.9%

2011 Index	14.3%
2015 Index	15.8%
2016 Index	15.5%

Most strongly correlated indicators with 2016 state Opportunity Scores

Poverty

Youth Disconnection

Postsecondary Completion

2011	2015	2016
14.5%	13.8%	13.2%
5.7 MILLION	5.5 MILLION	5.3 MILLION

The rate of youth disconnection has fallen **9.1%** since 2011 and **4.5%** since 2015

4,976,000
disconnected youth
in 2007*

5,252,896
disconnected youth
in 2016

The youth disconnection rate remains above pre-recession levels

** One in Seven: Ranking Youth Disconnection in the 25 Largest Metro Areas,* Measure of America, 2012

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Speaker: Rebecca Gluskin, Ph.D

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13.2%

5,252,896

Disconnected Youth in the US

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Speaker: Selena Gonzales Jones

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When young adults do well, communities do well.
SCHOOL BUS
STOP
ROAD CONSTRUCTION AHEAD

How is it calculated?

There are three main steps.

1. **Rescale** the indicators so they are all on a common scale.

2. **Average** rescaled scores together within the three dimensions of the Index.

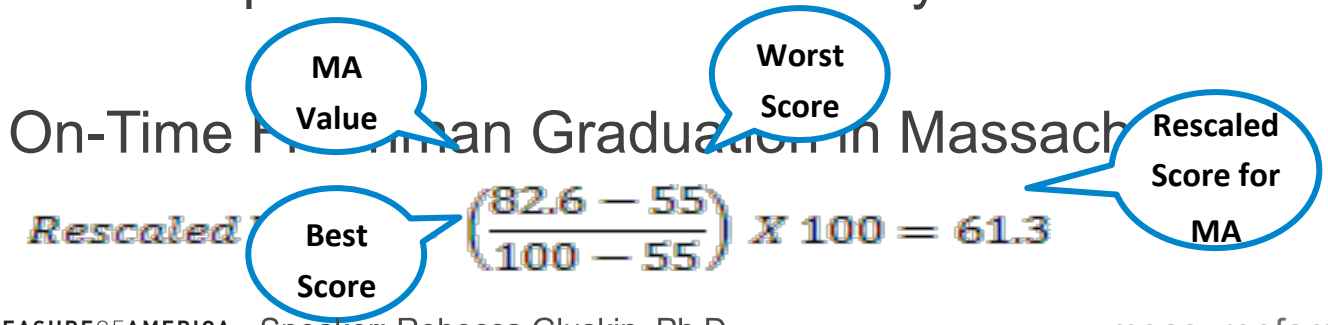
3. **Calculate** Opportunity Index score (states) or grade (counties).

Rescaling Indicators

Opportunity Index data come in many different forms: %, $, ratios, etc. In order to combine them in a composite index, they must all be converted into a common form.

The are transformed into a scale from 0 to 100 by comparing the performance of a state or county on a given indicator to the best and the worst performance observed anywhere on this indicator.

Example: On-Time High School Graduation in Massach

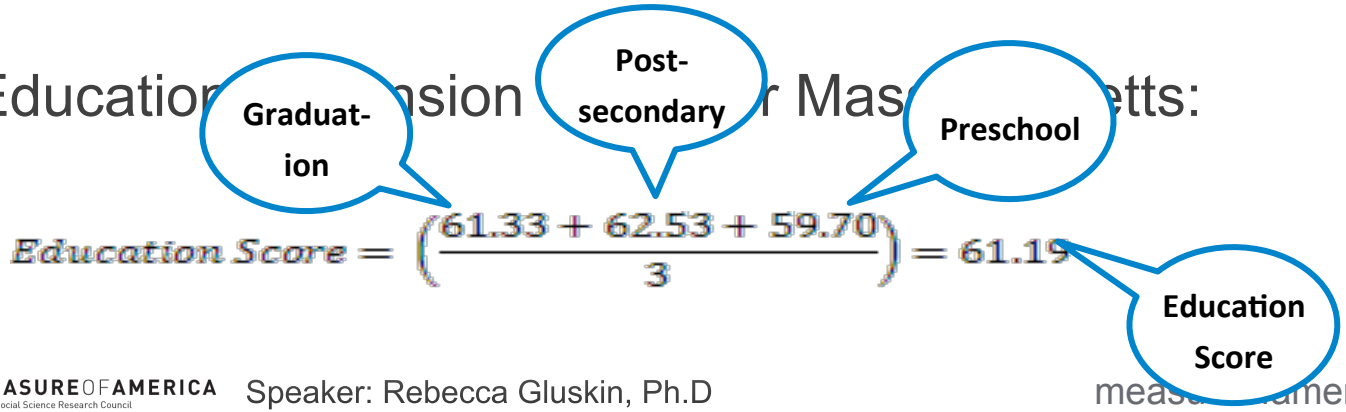


Averaging Scores

Once all the indicators are rescaled, we average the rescaled values for all the indicators in that dimension.

The Education Score for a state is the average of rescaled scores for that state on preschool enrollment, on-time high school graduation, and postsecondary completion.

Example: Education ...nsion ...r Mas...etts:



Calculating Final Score or Grade

Each of the three dimensions makes up one-third of the final Index value.

For states, the final Opportunity Score is the average of the three dimension scores on a scale from 0 and 100.

For counties, Opportunity Grades range from A+ to F in order to reflect the greater extremes on these indicators in counties. These grades are determined based on how far a county's final scores is from the average. Cut points for grades are based on the number of standard deviations above or below the mean—counties are given letter grades based on the normal distribution of raw final sores in the 2016 Opportunity Index.

Example – Final Opportu for Mass chusetts:

Economy

Education

Community

$$Opportunity\ Score = \left(\frac{56.11 + 61.19 + 59.49}{3}\right) = 58.93$$

FINAL SCORE

Opportunity Youth United

Lashon Amado
National Coordinator of Community Action Teams,
YouthBuild USA – Opportunity Youth United
Lamado@youthbuild.org

What is Opportunity Youth United (OYU)?

Speaker: Lashon Amado

National Council of Young Leaders (NCYL)

Diverse group of 20 young leaders

Nominated by 15 national youth serving organizations

Former opportunity youth

Speaker: Lashon Amado

Policy Recommendations

Six Immediate Priorities for Reconnecting 1 million OY

1. Expand Comprehensive Programs
2. Expand National Service
3. Expand Private Internships
4. Increase all forms of mentoring
5. Protect and expand pathways to higher education
6. Support Diversion and Reentry

Recommendations for Broader Systems Change

1. Criminal Justice
2. Upward Mobility
3. Education
4. Family Engagement
5. Community Development

Principles for Action

Love	*Inclusion*
Responsibility	*Accountability for Results*
Humility	*Visibility*
Forgiveness & Empathy	*Collaboration*
Respect for Faith	*Planning*
Community Empowerment	

ELEVATOR PITCH

- Opportunity Youth United is a national movement of opportunity youth— young people disconnected from school and work— and their adult allies to *Increase Opportunity and Decrease Poverty in America.*
- Grassroots membership movement to mobilize OY to become civically engaged and stand at the forefront of about real change in the community and create pathways to reconnection.
- Uplifting the VOICES of OY into the political conversation at all levels (local, state, and national)
- OY as advisors to all sectors (corporations, city initiatives , philanthropy, community based programs, etc.)

Speaker: Lashon Amado

Who's Behind Us?

Speaker: Lashon Amado

Partners

Speaker: Lashon Amado

Community Action Teams

Collective Local Action: CATs will work with youth, community members, youth serving organizations, and policy makers to unite around the issues that affect opportunity youth and develop a collective agenda to drive local action.

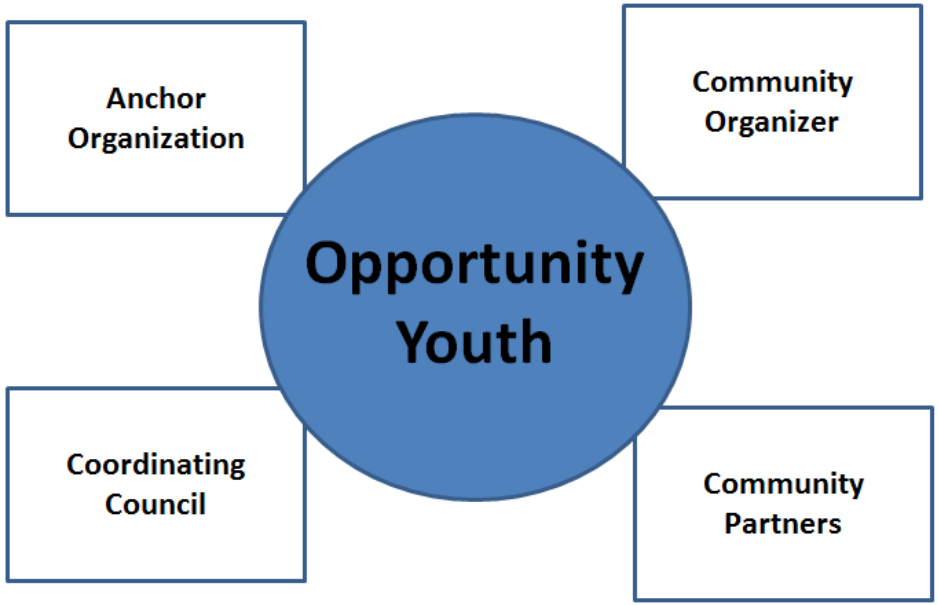
Voter Activation: CATs will work to increase the percent of youth who are civically engaged in their community. Voter activation includes registering youth to vote, educating their peers on the issues and the political process, and participating in elections at all levels (local, city, state, and federal)

Show Up! Stand Up! Speak Up: CATs will mobilize their members of OYU to demonstrate their leadership by showing up, standing up, and speaking up at public meetings, hearings, local campaigns, and events where there are conversations taking place that affect them.

Inform and Influence: CATs will mobilize their members of OYU to work with key stakeholders to inform and influence policies, programs, and initiatives that seek to serve opportunity youth.

Speaker: Lashon Amado

Community Action Teams



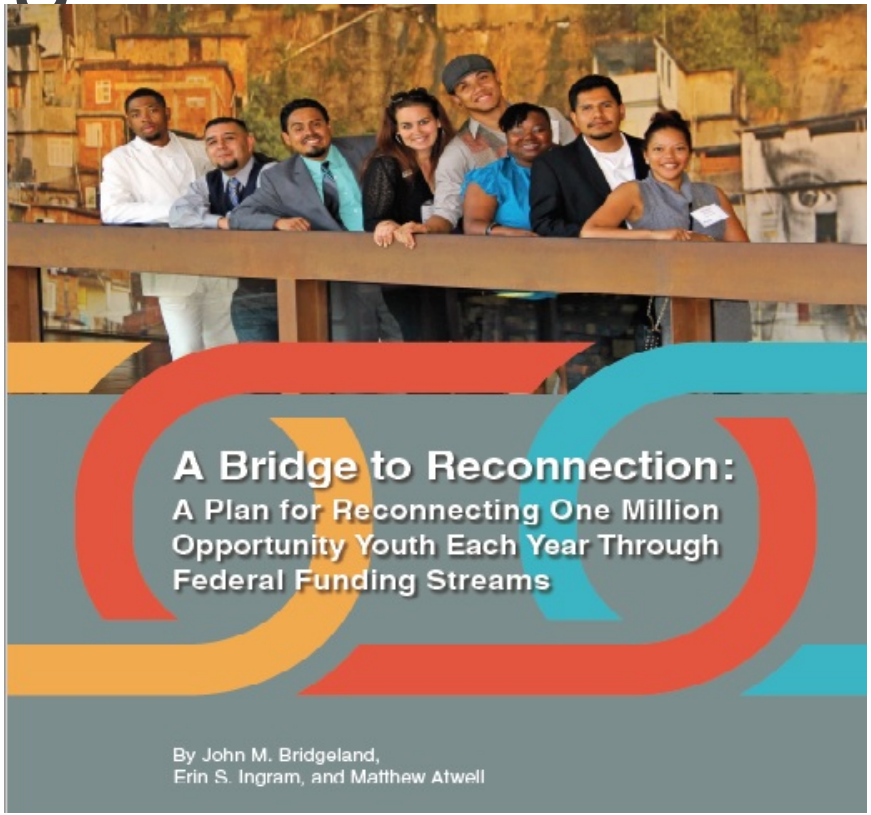
Speaker: Lashon Amado

Reconnect 1 Million Opportunity Youth

Speaker: Lashon Amado

OYUnited.org

Bridge to Reconnection



Speaker: Lashon Amado

Opportunity Index: Local Action

Boston

ECONOMY		COUNTY AVG.	STATE AVG.	NATIONAL AVG.
Jobs	Unemployment rate	3.8%	4.1%	5.1%
Wages	Median household income	$50,114	$62,495	$48,906
Poverty	Poverty (% of population below poverty line)	20.8%	11.9%	15.8%
Inequality	Ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to that at the 20th percentile	7.3	5.4	5.0
Assets	Banking Institutions (commercial banks, savings institutions, and credit unions per 10,000 residents)	4.3	4.4	3.9
Affordable Housing	Households spending less than 30% of household income on housing	53.3%	62.6%	65.4%
Internet Access	High-speed Internet (5-level categories for counties, % of households for states)	4.0	83.0	72.7
EDUCATION				
Pre-School Enrollment	Preschool (% ages 3 and 4 in school)	56.1%	48.9%	47.1%
On-time High School Graduation	On-time high school graduation (% of freshmen who graduate in four years)	65.0%	85.0%	81.4%
Postsecondary Completion	Associate degree or higher (% of adults 25 and older)	45.3%	43.7%	37.7%
COMMUNITY				
Community Safety	Violent Crime (per 100,000 population)	909.8	467.8	387.8
Disconnected Youth	Young people not in school nor working (% ages 16-24)	8.1%	11.8%	13.8%
Access to Health Care	Medical Doctors (per 100,000 population)	1362.7	375	286.5
Access to Healthy Food	Grocery stores and produce vendors (per 10,000 population)	3.0	2.2	2.2

Sacramento

ECONOMY		COUNTY AVG.	STATE AVG.	NATIONAL AVG.
Jobs	Unemployment rate	5.7%	6.1%	5.1%
Wages	Median household income	$51,540	$56,338	$48,906
Poverty	Poverty (% of population below poverty line)	17.6%	16.6%	15.8%
Inequality	Ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to that at the 20th percentile	4.6	5.3	5.0
Assets	Banking Institutions (commercial banks, savings institutions, and credit unions per 10,000 residents)	2.5	2.7	3.9
Affordable Housing	Households spending less than 30% of household income on housing	54.7%	55.3%	65.4%
Internet Access	High-speed Internet (5-level categories for counties, % of households for states)	4.0	78.0	72.7
EDUCATION				
Pre-School Enrollment	Preschool (% ages 3 and 4 in school)	44.6%	48.4%	47.1%
On-time High School Graduation	On-time high school graduation (% of freshmen who graduate in four years)	82.0%	80.4%	81.4%
Postsecondary Completion	Associate degree or higher (% of adults 25 and older)	37.3%	38.9%	37.7%
COMMUNITY				
Community Safety	Violent Crime (per 100,000 population)	558.6	396.2	387.8
Disconnected Youth	Young people not in school nor working (% ages 16-24)	16.2%	13.8%	13.8%
Access to Health Care	Medical Doctors (per 100,000 population)	293.3	268.9	286.5
Access to Healthy Food	Grocery stores and produce vendors (per 10,000 population)	2.0	2.2	2.2

Speaker: Lashon Amado

Boston

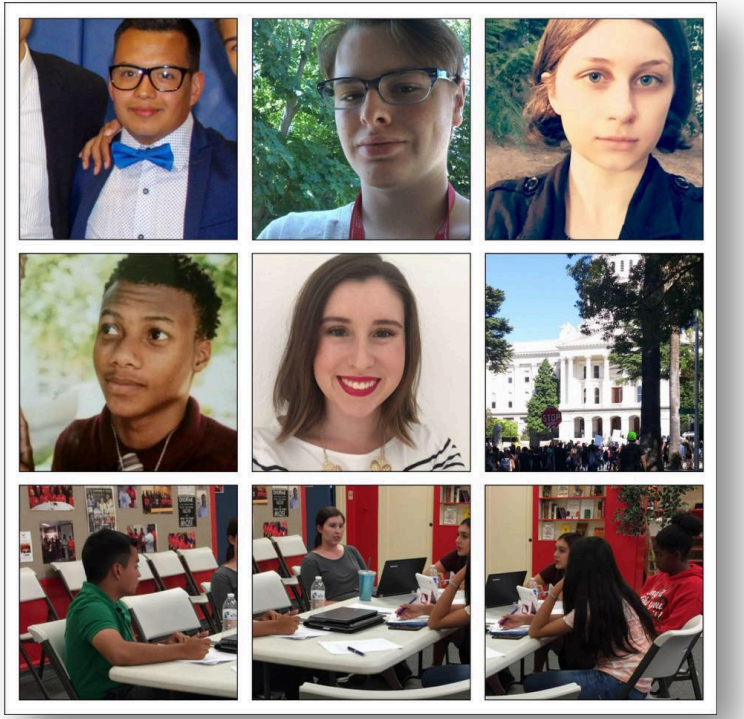
- State House Rally
- Stuck on Replay
- Race Dialogues with Mayor of Boston

Speaker: Lashon Amado

OYUnited.org

Sacramento

- Black Minds Matter Hearing
- Working with City Council
  - Dept. of Youth
  - Children & Youth Services Fund



Speaker: Lashon Amado

Opportunity
Youth United
CITIZEN UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
2016

Questions?

Thank you for joining us today. For more information on the Opportunity Index, visit opportunityindex.org.

Have a question for us? Email our Director of Impact and Community Engagement, Selena Gonzales Jones at selena@opportunitynation.org.

Join us for our **#OppIndex Twitter chat** today at 3 PM EST to discuss how the Index can be used to expand opportunity in your community!

SOURCES

- American Community Survey
- County Business Patterns and Population Estimates Program
- National Center for Education Statistics
- * *One in Seven: Ranking Youth Disconnection in the 25 Largest Metro Areas,* Measure of America, 2012
- US Bureau of Labor Statistics
- US Census Bureau
- US Department of Education
- US Department of Justice
- US Department of Health and Human Services

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