

Community Safety Initiative

OUTLINE OF TOOLS, STRATEGIES, PROJECTS AND OUTCOMES

Purpose

There is no shortage of articles or studies on the disparities between minority and low-income youth and their white and socioeconomically advantaged peers. The glaring inequities motivated Obama administration efforts such as the Task Force on 21st Century Policing and the My Brother's Keeper Initiative.

Collective Impact has spent nearly a decade developing and implementing strategies that connect youth with opportunities to succeed on their own terms, influence their communities, and transform the ways they are viewed. The Community Safety Initiative (CSI) works to create a safe place for underserved youth to learn, live, and dream, without the fear of ridicule, judgment or low expectations. The CSI program provides support and resources to develop community engineers who can build bridges, pipelines and pathways for themselves and their communities to reach a better future.

Tools

1. Family Support
2. Community Engagement
3. Academic Institutions

In order to build pipelines,—not to prison, but to college and career opportunities—we must partner with families and communities, while leveraging the resources and support of academic institutions. The Center for Early Adolescence includes family, school, and community in their Raising Successful Youth Principles. Education is crucial to equip youth with the best toolbox for fighting back against the systemic inequities of the income gap and the school-to-prison pipeline; family and community are critical to the "build."

Strategies

1. Expect
2. Expose
3. Educate
4. Equip
5. Empower

Low expectations – and even no expectations – have contributed greatly to the issues we see in both the academic achievement gap and the struggles between the police and youth of color. We believe that expectation is the beginning of empowerment; our strategy starts with high and realistic expectations.

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FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECTS

- Everybody Reads!
- Workshops
- Snacks and meals
- Afterschool programming
- Summer Internships for youth

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

- Summer Reading Program
- Summer Learning Day
- Curriculum Guides
- Service & Resource Guides
- Community Events
- Field Trips
- Career Explorations
- Capacity Building Workshops
- Weekly meetings

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS PROJECTS

- Summer Reading Program
- Summer Learning Day
- Curriculum Development
- Resources: volunteers, supplies, space, expertise, research

Outcomes

Some indicators of success include opportunities for youth engagement, amount of time spent reading, access to food, and skill development.

- 100 hours literacy instruction
- 30 hours mentoring
- 10,000 hours of skill development
- 25,000+ minutes spent reading
- 12,000 meals served
- 15,000 backpacks with school supplies distributed
- 10,000 books distributed
- \$500,000 in youth stipends and wages