



BACK ON TRACK PATHWAYS THROUGH POSTSECONDARY

Jobs for the Future assists partners to plan, create, and sustain a portfolio of Back on Track pathways to postsecondary credentials and careers for opportunity youth—young people ages 16-24 who are disconnected from education and work. We offer Back on Track services in four areas:

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

- > JFF helps communities use data to identify off-track and out-of-school/out-of-work young adults, determine the right mix of school and pathway designs, and establish supporting policies and systems that will put them on a path to postsecondary credentials.

PATHWAY DESIGN

- > JFF helps communities design pathways that lead to postsecondary and labor market success, identifying core features including sector-based designs, college- and career-ready curricula, student-centered instructional and support strategies, and use of educational technologies.

PATHWAY IMPLEMENTATION

- > JFF provides consultation and tools to help schools and programs implement core features of high-quality pathways; build effective postsecondary, workforce and employer partnerships; and develop the programming needed to ensure that youth are fully prepared for postsecondary education and careers.

SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPACT

- > JFF helps communities use data and cost models to strengthen programs, make the case for sustainability, and develop financing strategies that will ensure schools and pathways can be sustained.

SELECTED WORK WITH PARTNERS AND CLIENTS

Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund: As the implementation partner to the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions, JFF helps support the 23 communities in Aspen's OYIF as they use a collective impact and community collaboration strategy to build and deepen Back on Track pathways, resulting in better outcomes in education and employment for opportunity youth.

Opportunity Works: JFF is partnering with and supporting community organizations ("backbones") in seven communities to develop a portfolio of Back on Track pathways for opportunity youth, with a particular focus on improving outcomes for boys and men of color, through the Opportunity Works Social Innovation Fund initiative.

LEAP: JFF is an implementation partner in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Learn and Earn to Achieve Potential initiative, which aims to increase employment and educational opportunities for young adults who have been involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Denver Public Schools: JFF has assisted the Denver Public Schools to conduct data analysis to identify students who are off-track to graduation, determine targets for school redesign and new school development, redesign metrics for holding schools accountable, and reorient school practices so that formerly off-track students are graduating ready for postsecondary education.

Texas: JFF has partnered with districts in Texas to replicate a successful Back on Track school, and provided technical assistance to 56 dropout recovery programs to create smooth on-ramps to postsecondary education and career credentials.

National Youth-Serving Networks: JFF has partnered with and assisted YouthBuild USA, the National Youth Employment Coalition, The Corps Network, and their affiliate community-based sites, to work with community colleges in building out pathways to a postsecondary credential in high-demand fields.

TYPICAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

- > Determine the scope of the dropout problem and the populations of youth who are disconnected from school and work
- > Set the stage for addressing the problem by redesigning key policies
- > Map the supply of options for the population
- > Develop a strategic plan to expand education/career options and improve outcomes

PATHWAY DESIGN

- > Help sites choose and customize pathway design(s)
- > Use up-to-date labor market information to identify best sectors for pathway design for opportunity youth
- > Develop or adapt RFPs for new schools and pathways
- > Build secondary/postsecondary partnerships
- > Map requisite academic and career skills to inform curriculum design
- > Determine how to best use educational technology to improve learning and outcomes

PATHWAY IMPLEMENTATION

- > Build capacity of leaders implementing Back on Track designs
- > Develop skill-based curriculum with input from employer and postsecondary stakeholders that is fully aligned to postsecondary and workforce readiness
- > Provide instructional coaching to engage youth and prepare them for postsecondary success
- > Develop capacity of system leaders (e.g., district, community college, and youth intermediaries) to support schools in Back on Track strategies

SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPACT

- > Use progress and outcomes data to guide school/pathway improvement and demonstrate value of growing and sustaining Back on Track schools and pathways
- > Determine financing strategy and cost models aligned with Back on Track model for new or redesigned school/pathway

EXPERIENCE AND LEADERSHIP

All Back on Track projects are led by a senior team from Jobs for the Future. JFF staff have significant depth and breadth of experience working with states, districts, intermediaries, schools, and community-based organizations to implement programs and strategies that propel off-track youth to graduation and postsecondary success.

JFF offers specific expertise in school and program design, curriculum development, leadership and staff development, data analysis, district-level reform, and policy analysis and development.

At the start of each project, JFF meets with key state, district, or intermediary leaders to assess student data, current practice and policies, and school and pathway options. Based on this assessment, JFF develops a project plan tailored to each client.

For more information contact::

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Jobs for the Future is a national nonprofit that works to ensure educational and economic opportunity for all. We develop innovative career pathways, educational resources, and public policies that increase college readiness and career success, and build a more highly skilled workforce. With over 30 years of experience, JFF is the national leader in bridging education and work to increase mobility and strengthen our economy.



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