

Healthy Youth/Healthy Regions

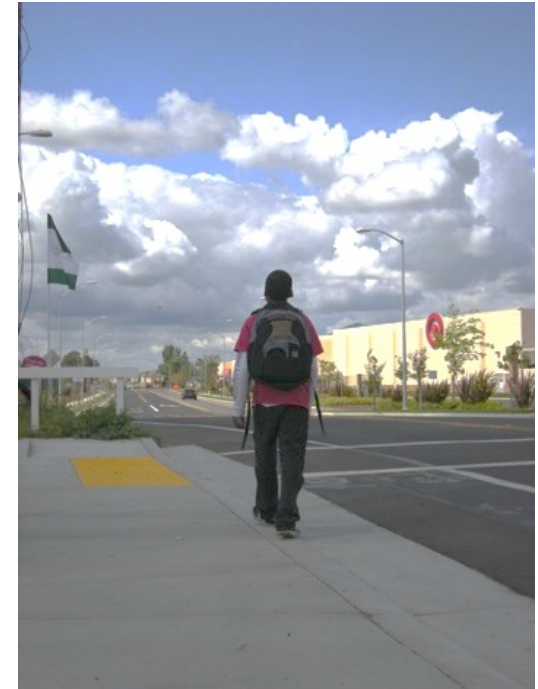
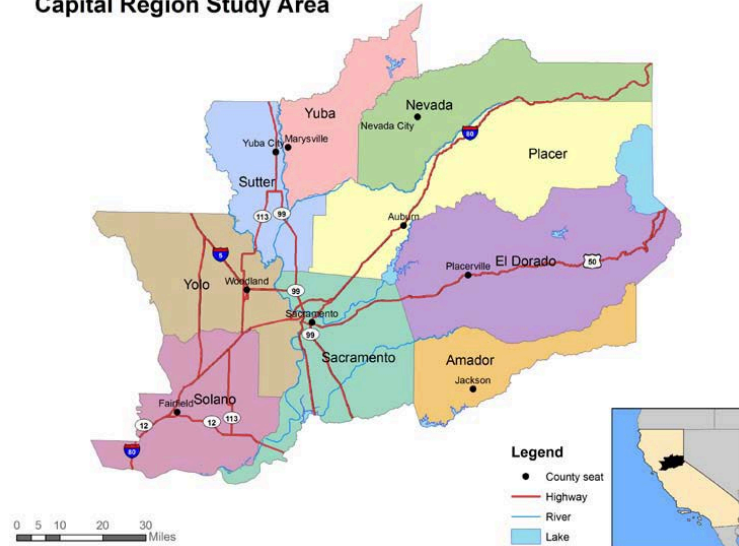
Informing Action

For The 9-County Capital Region



Healthy Youth? Healthy Region?

Capital Region Study Area



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Youth Portraits from the Region

“Audrey”:

High mobility; lost relationships, records, and opportunities.

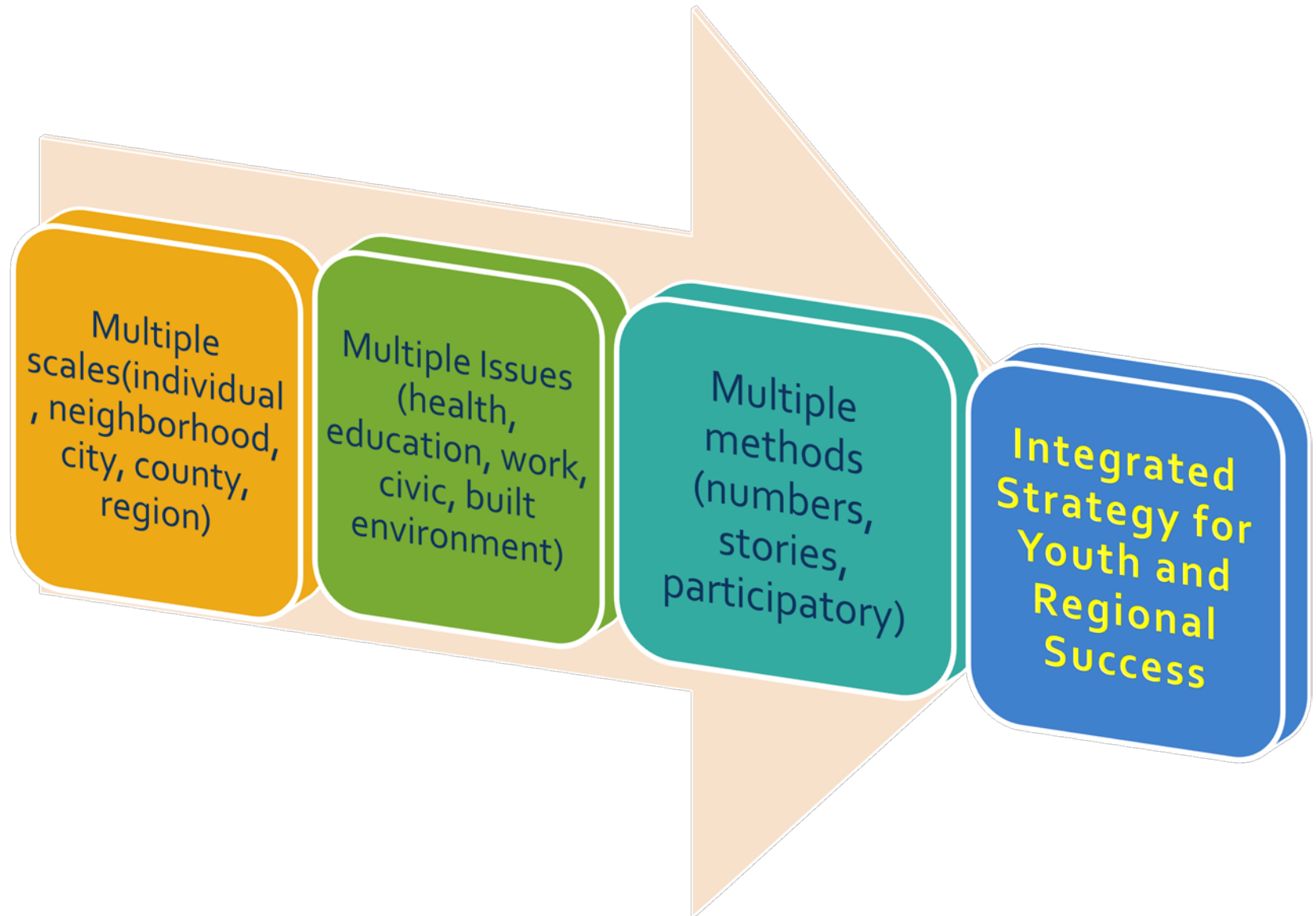
Transportation challenges jeopardizes heroic efforts to care for her child and herself.

“Joaquin”:

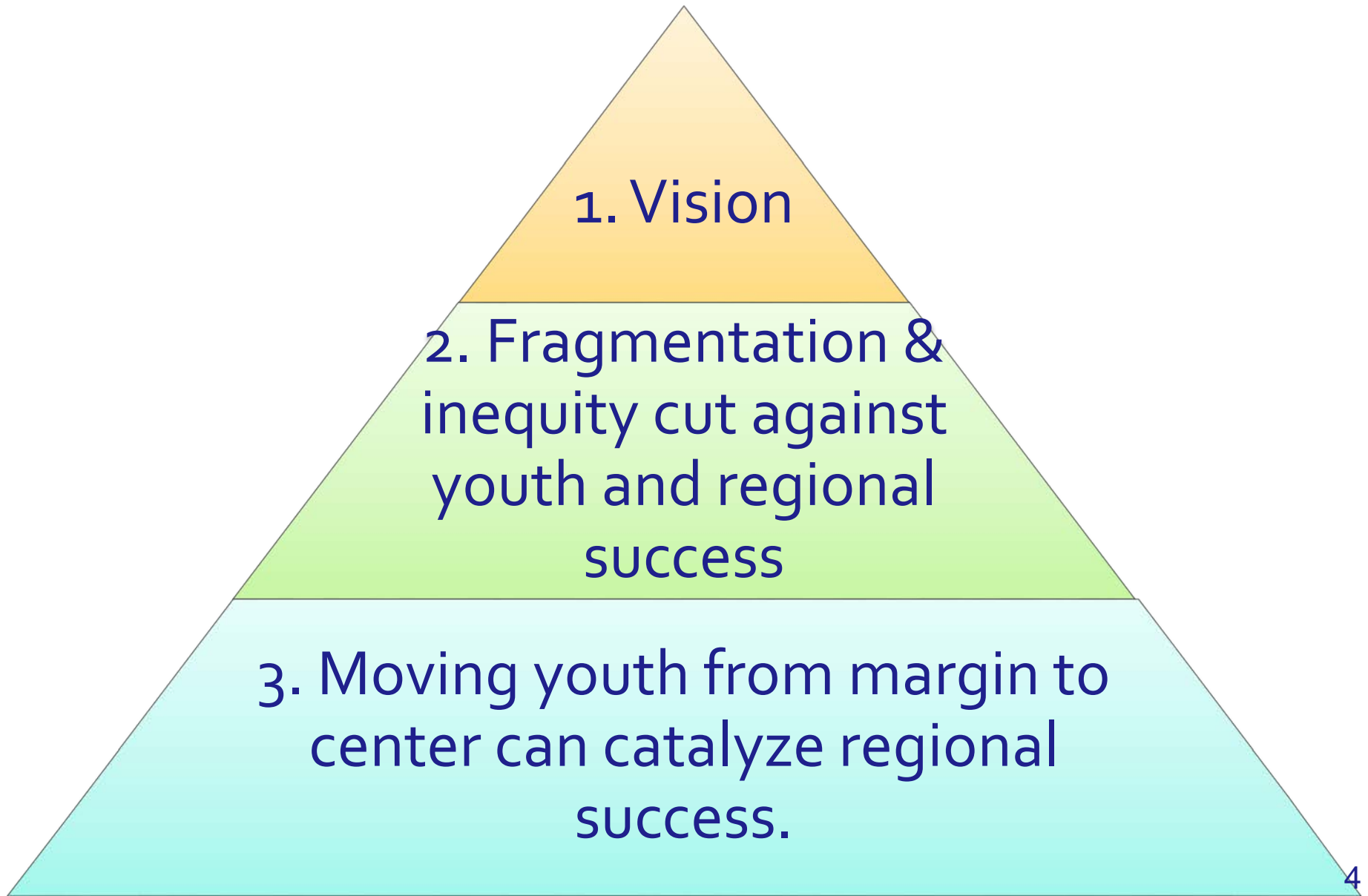
Son of immigrants whose work prevents involvement in children’s education.

Serves as powerful advocate for brother’s education.

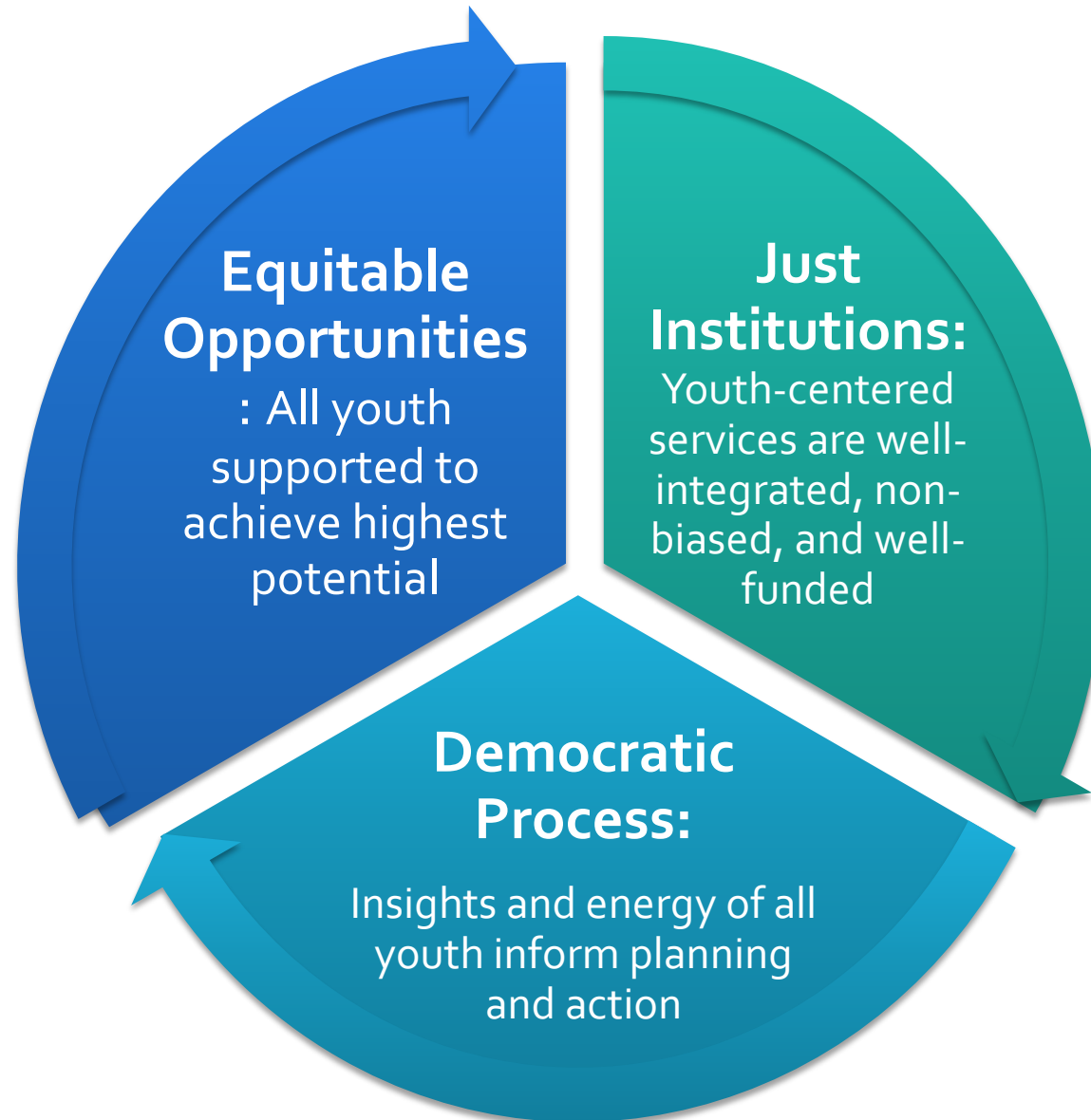
Unique Research for Action



The Opportunity Before Us



Vision for Regional Action



Our Youth/ our Wealth

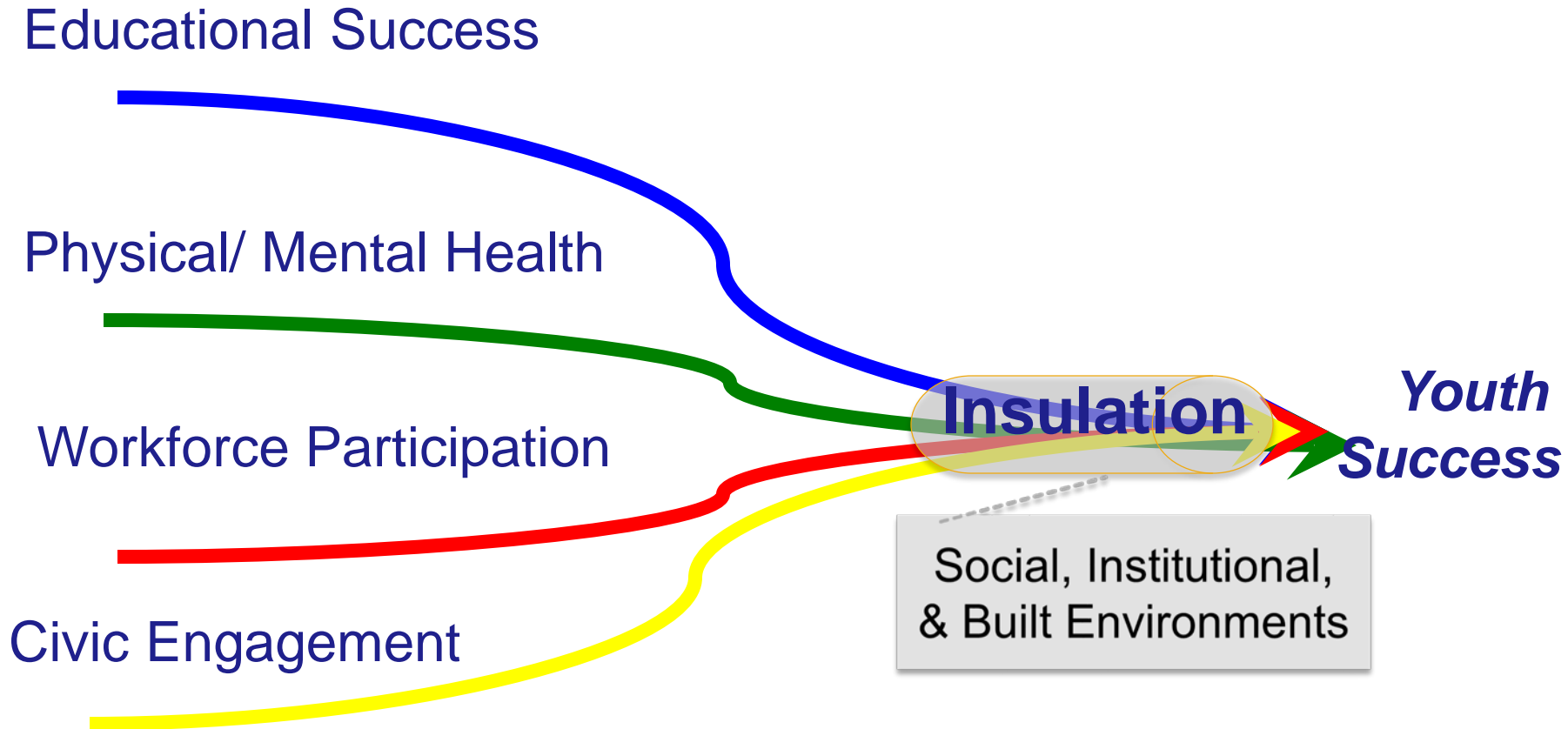
“We want to know why youth aren’t represented in this building?...We need youth to work in this building to help make the state better for youth everywhere.”



Future Leaders and Contributors With High Aspirations

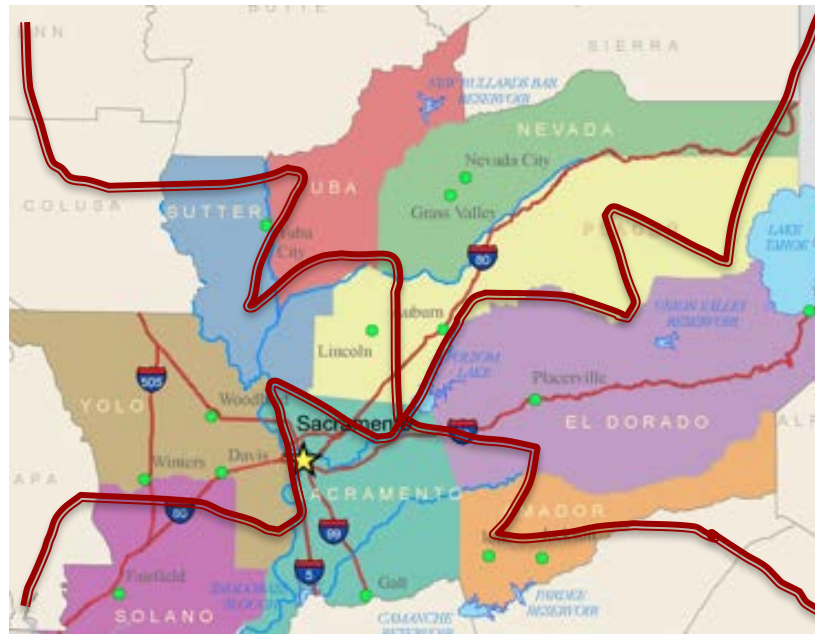
Assets/ Change Agents Now

Pipeline to Youth Success



Fragmentation Cuts Against Success

“Relationships aren’t being built
in communities because
institutions are siloed...”



...We need up and coming leaders...
bring them together, develop relationships
...build a stronger network across the region.”
(Director, Non-Profit Organization)

Patchwork Region

“Well you can’t describe the region as a whole. The region includes pockets of poverty, pockets of intense wealth...We had a patchwork of political subdivisions ...that result in inequitable allocations of resources for infrastructure, schools.

For white kids from wealthy families it’s a great place to live. For children of color, particularly African Americans, it’s a miserable place to live...it’s hit or miss: it depends on where you live.”

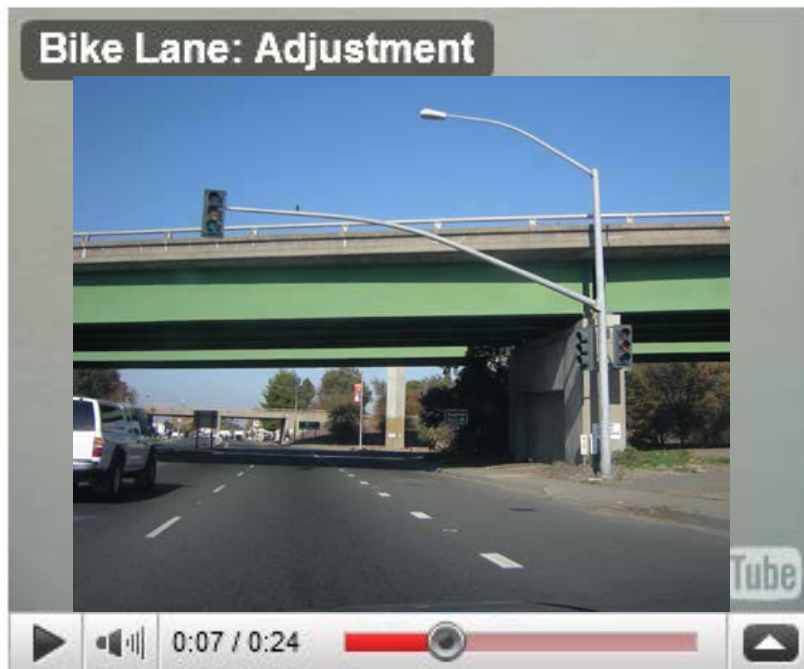
-- Regional Legal Advocate

Youth Stuck in Place

"This relate to my life by the fact that transportation [is] useful in life like going to school, mall, and etc..."

-Hmong Women's Heritage Association/ YIF

SacTown Heroes:
Youth Voices for Change



The bike lane on Jefferson Blvd. makes me feel like I'm going to get hit by a truck!

"There has to be transportation. Our kids, a lot of them have to lie about where they're going. And it's out of basic necessity..."

- Rainbow 916/ YIF

Youth populations that do not have reliable transportation are excluded... I would even venture to say that these are the youth that need the services most.

-- Galt Adult Ally

Youth Out of Place

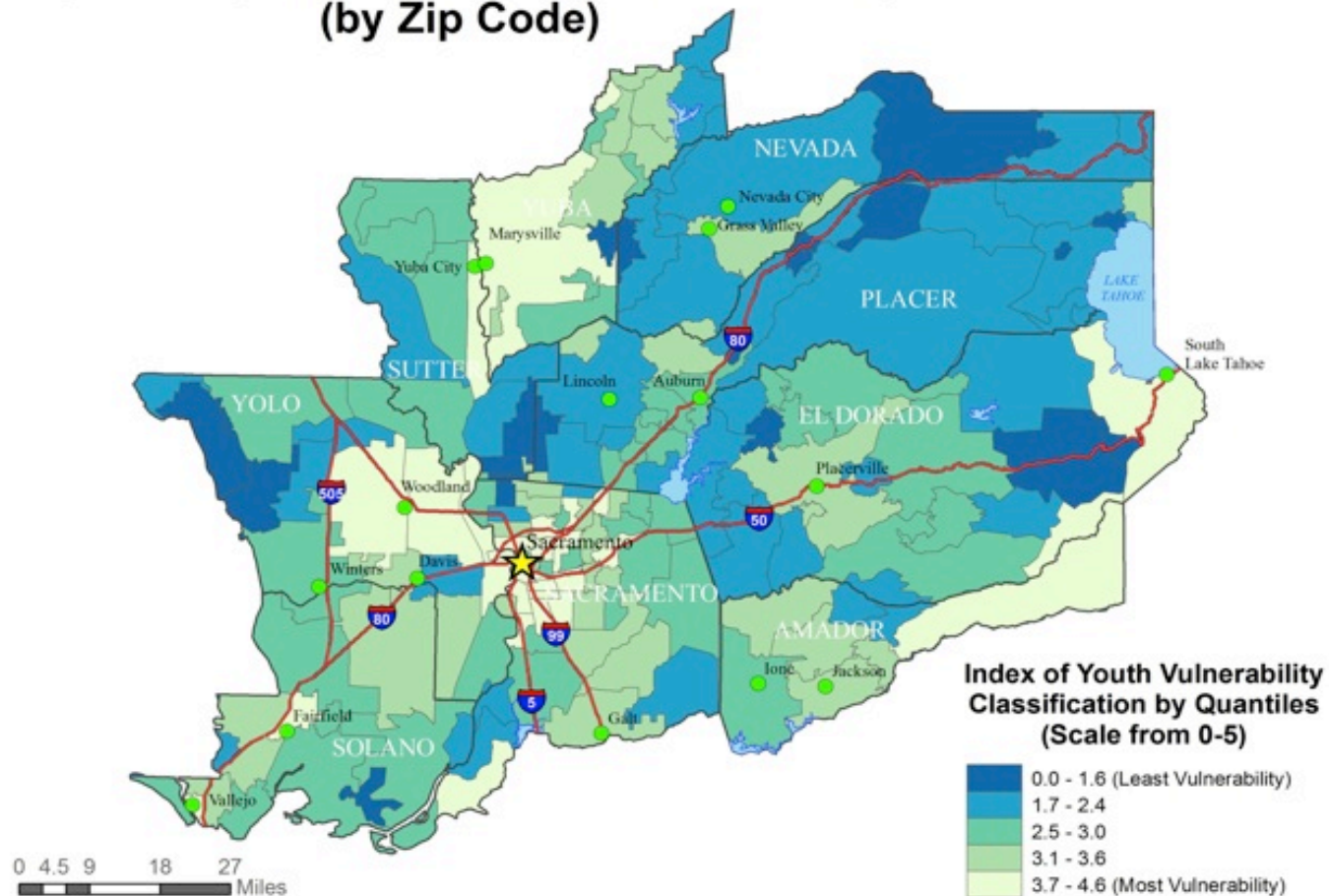
“People would look at you like, ‘all you know is the streets’ or basically, ‘all you know is how to sell drugs’. If they know you’re from a certain area or if they know you didn’t finish school they automatically think you’ve grown up in a bad place.”

--"Angelique"

Youth Vulnerability: “It depends where you live”

Lighter colors = Higher vulnerability in urban core and rural edges

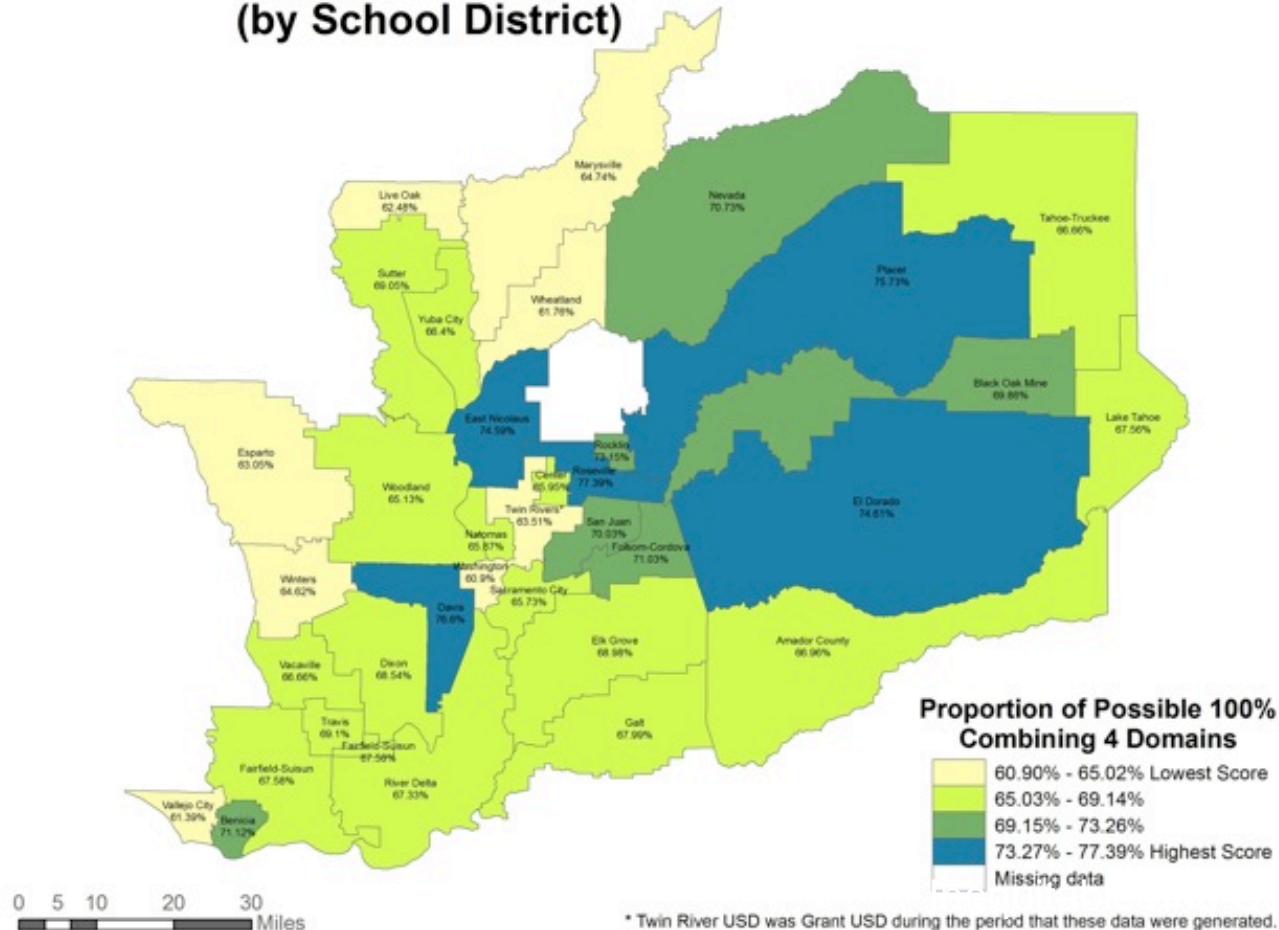
**Capital Region Index of Youth Vulnerability
(by Zip Code)**



Youth Well-being: "It depends where you live"

Lighter colors = Lower well-being in urban core and rural edges

**Capital Region Index of Youth Well-Being
(by School District)**



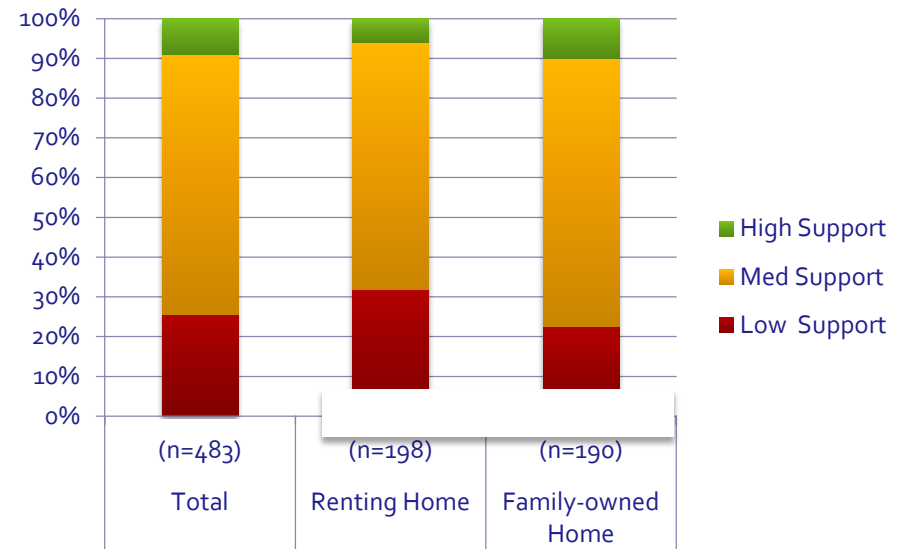
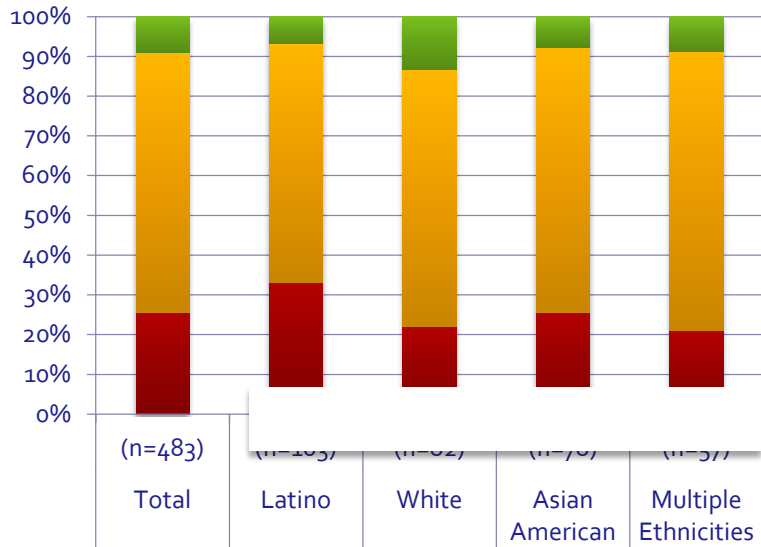
Squandering Our Regional Legacy?

- 3467 young people entered foster care;
 - 3812 teens gave birth;
 - 4932 juvenile felony arrests;
 - 7798 youth left high school without graduating;
 - 12,136 young people ages 16-19 out of school and work;
 - 52,935 children raised in households in poverty
- 23% graduate with complete A-G (compared to 37% statewide)
 - 39% enter CA public higher ed. (compared to 55% statewide)



Uneven Support For Early Teens

- Few youth surveyed experience high levels of support
- Youth of color & low-income youth report lower-levels of support

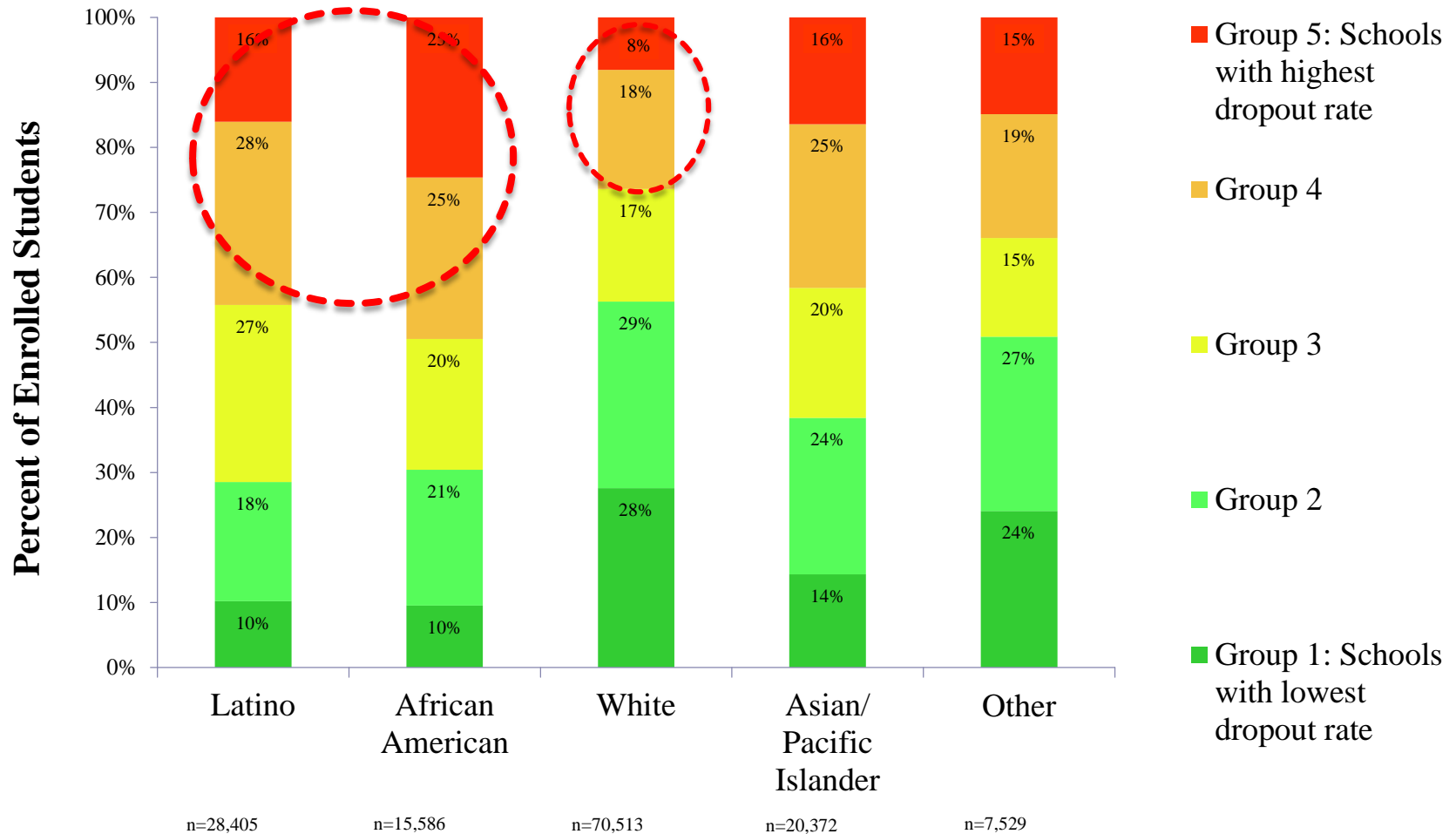


Youth Experiences of Support to Explore Future Work and Education (Age 12-14)

REACH Youth Survey
Fall 2009

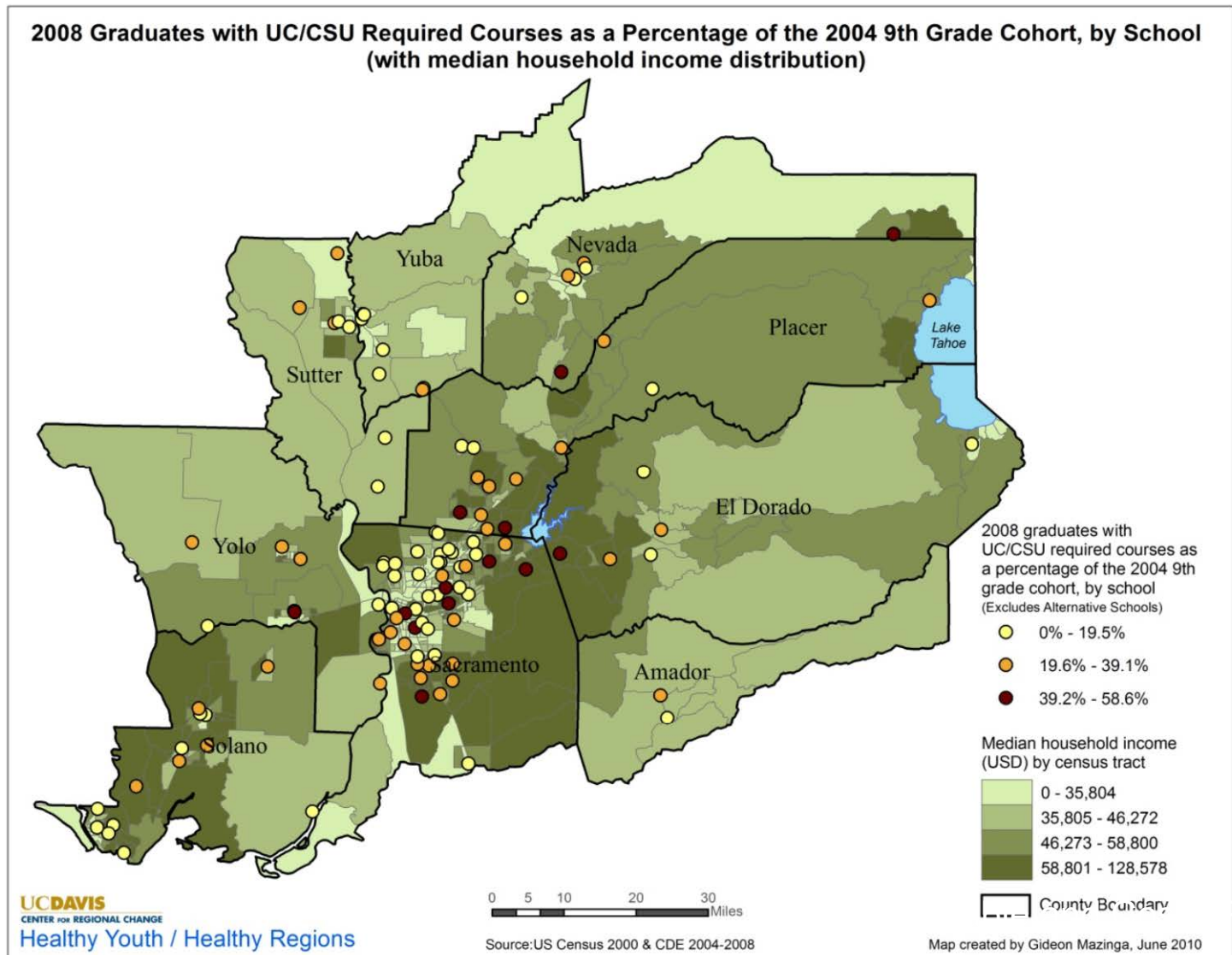
Uneven School Environments

Many Latinos & African-Americans attend schools with highest-drop-out rates



Uneven College Preparation

Students in lower income areas have lower A-G completion



Drop Out or Push/Pull Out?



“**Dao**”, who moved to south Sacramento with her family from Laos via Thailand, describes the racist comments of peers and adults as early factors in a trajectory that led her to leave school without graduating in eleventh grade.

While some teachers encouraged him, “**Sema’j**,” a young African American man, also felt pushed to leave by staff who communicated that he would not graduate even if he passed his classes. “I didn’t understand how many credits you needed to have, I didn’t understand none of that.”

Regional Costs of School Dropout

For EACH school-year cohort with current graduation rates:

- \$215 million lost annual earnings
- \$ 2.6 billion lost lifetime earnings

If region cut dropout rate in half: life-time savings for EACH cohort:

- \$240 million direct fiscal savings to local/state governments
- \$1.2 billion in social cost savings

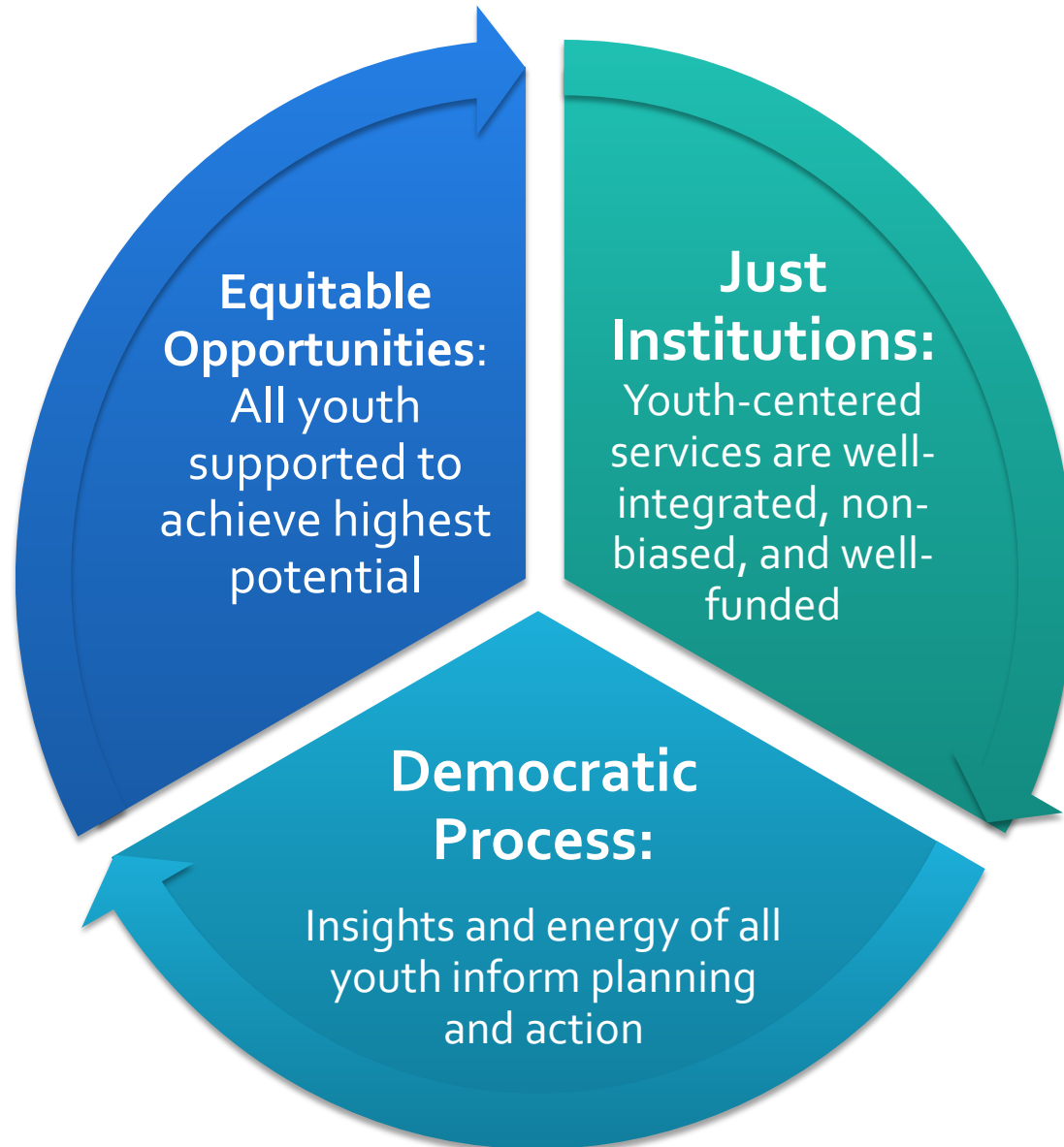


Based on 2007-2008 academic year data

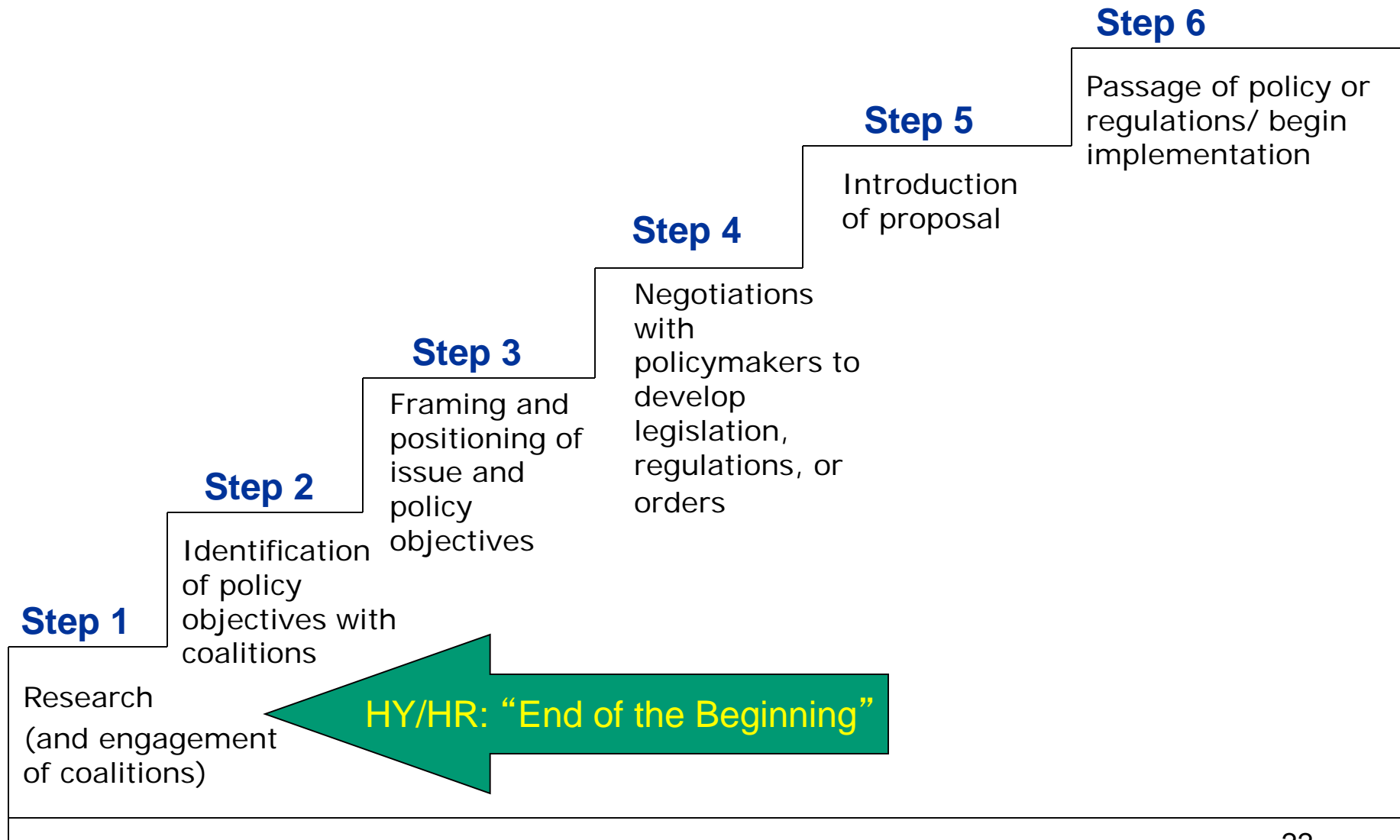
Move Youth From Margin To Center



Vision for Regional Action



Ladder for Achieving Policy and other Change



ACTION!

A. Build on Regional Assets

- Youth
 - *"If I don't attempt to change the community, who will?" – Youth, Valley Hi SRO*
- Families
 - *"Aunt Mary knows what's needed ... That's the only way we're ever going to be effective, is empowering people in their own community." -- Youth Advocate*
- Networks
 - Ethnic/cultural networks, faith, professional associations, chambers of commerce
- Institutions
 - K-12, higher education, businesses, banks, health care, media, arts, planning, philanthropy, places of worship, advocacy, social service, sports

ACTION!

B. Reframe public perception/role of youth

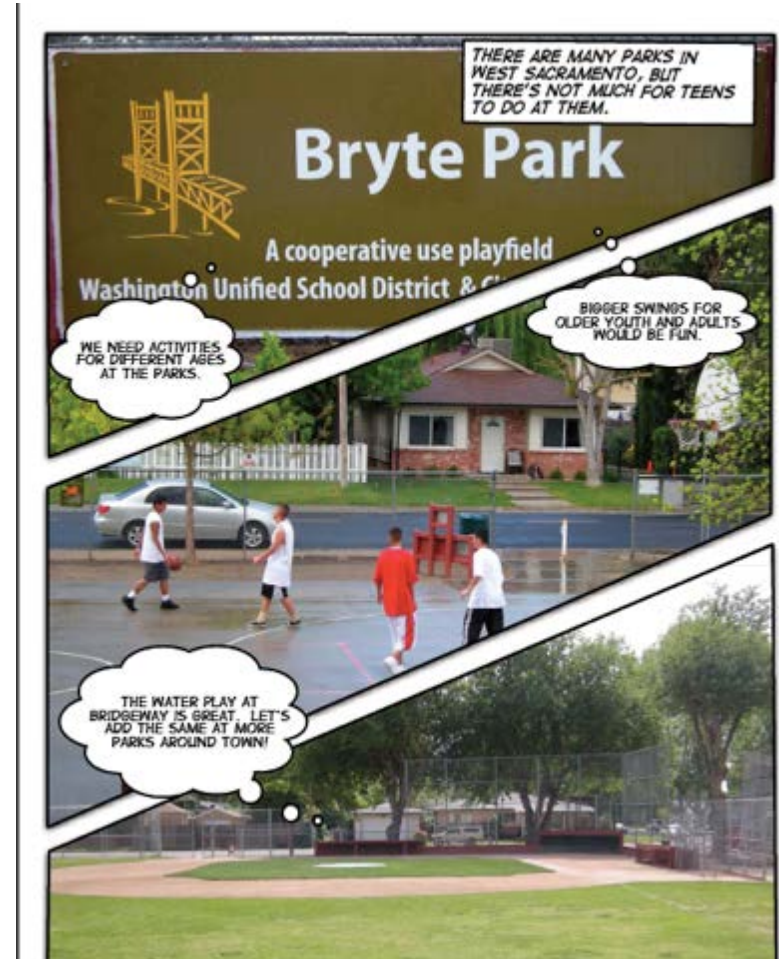
- From problems to be solved, to assets to be cherished and agents of change
- Leadership training and opportunities
- Inclusion of vulnerable youth populations



ACTION!

C. Design Youth-Friendly Places

- Places and routes that are safe, welcoming, enjoyable, and connected
- “Youth” infrastructure (parks, school grounds)
- “Non-youth” infrastructure (housing, economic development, transportation)



ACTION!

D. Improve effectiveness & accountability of existing youth funding

- Youth Budgets for strategic funding allocation (leverage not duplicate resources)
- Performance-based budgets with youth indexes as measures

E. Enhance funding and related resources

- Consider property/ sales tax for youth programming
- Outreach to business community (career academies; mentorships, sponsorships)



ACTION!

F. Develop Youth-Friendly Policies

- *Youth In All Policies*: Integrate with California's "Health In All Policies"
- *Youth Impact Assessments*: Improve policies and programs by assessing how they affect youth
- *Youth Benefits Agreements*: Model after Community Benefit Agreements
- *Support For Policy Advocacy*: Provide community voice in policy.



ACTION!

G. Develop Regional Youth Coordinating Forum

- A place for bold visions and strategies
- Forum for coordination across sectors and jurisdictions
- Build connections between grassroots, grass tips, and tree-tops
- Involve youth as leaders
- Include regional and community-driven solutions



ACTION!

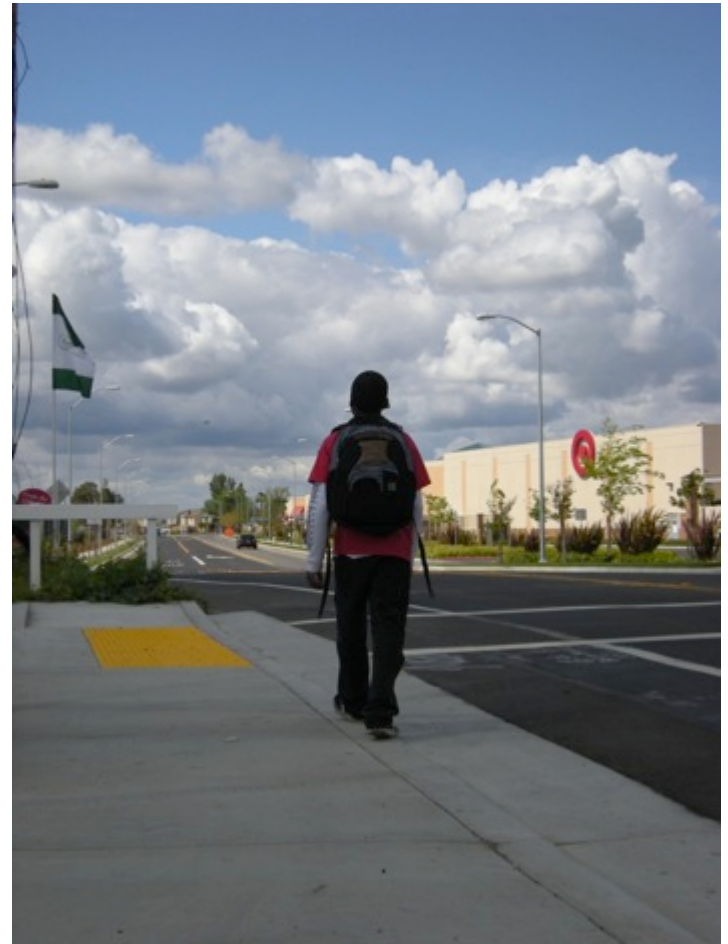
Example Coordination Efforts

- Early warning approaches across multiple systems and jurisdictions to identify struggling youth
- Reorganized systems to prevent young people from falling through the cracks, especially when they move across jurisdictions or when in crisis.
- Intensive support to redirect youth that are off-track to accessible on-ramps for success such as connecting young people with unconditional, culturally responsive mentoring.
- Policies to better support parents and other adults to serve as allies for youth

A Pathway To Regional Success

None of us are successful unless this [young] person is successful, so we need to do something to make sure that they are successful.

-- South Sacramento Adult Ally



How can YOU get involved?

- Host customized presentations of the study to boards, networks, campaigns.
- Host/ participate in action forums to develop specific strategies informed by the study
- Other???

HY/ HR Working Papers

Full papers (10-20 pages) and 2-page Executive Summaries:

@ <http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/projects/healthy-youth-healthy-regions>

- **Race, Space and Youth Labor Market Opportunities in the Sacramento Region:** Benner, C., Mazinga, G. and Huang, G.
- **Cost of Dropouts in the Capital Region:** Benner, C., Rodriguez, G.M., Tithi, B. and Hartzog, C.
- **Challenging Assumptions, Revealing Community Cultural Wealth: Young Adult Wisdom on Hope in Hardship:** Burciaga, R. and Erbstein, N.
- **Educating for Equity: An Analysis of the Sacramento Capital Region Educational Pipeline** Breslau, J., Rodriguez, G.M., Erbstein, N., Burciaga, R. and Hartzog, C.
- **Regional Matters: Through Young People's Eyes:** Erbstein, N., Burciaga, R. and Rodriguez, G.M
- **Understanding Youth Health in the Capital Region** Geraghty, E
- **Index of Youth Vulnerability:** Geraghty, E., Erbstein, N. and Greenfield, T. (2010)
- **An Analysis of Youth Well-Being in the Capital Region:** Geraghty, E., Hartzog, C. and Erbstein,
- **The Capital Region: A Place in Progress:** London, J., Campbell, D. and Kuhns, M.
- **Methodology for Studying Healthy Youth and Healthy Regions:** London, J., Erbstein, N., Benner, C., Rios, M., Romero, M.
- **Youth Voice Matters: Toward Healthy Youth Environments:** Owens, P., Nelson, A., Perry, A. and Montgomery-Block, K.
- **Imagining the Spaces of Regional Action: Framing Youth Problems and Solutions** Rios, M., Campbell, D. and Romero, M.
- **Opportunities and Challenges for Youth Civic Engagement** Romero, M. and London, J. with Erbstein, N.

HY/ HR Resources

- **Capital Region Youth Voices Map:** Greenfield, T. @ <http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/hyhr/youthvoicesmap>
- **HY/HR Map Atlas:** Mazinga, G., Benner, C., Huang G., Greenfield, T. and Fitzgerald M.
- **HY/HR data archive** @ <http://mappingregionalchange.com/>
- **Youth Voices for Change: Opinions and Ideas for the Future of West Sacramento** (Comic book) Owens, P. (Ed.).
- **Youth Voices Curriculum Resource and Guidebook** Owens, P., Nelson, A.A., Perry, A., Montgomery-Block, K.F. and ross, j.m.
- **Youth Voices for Change** (SacTown Heroes Map) ross, j.m., Schmidt, E. and Owens, P.
http://artofregionalchange.ucdavis.edu/?page_id=38

Thank you!

Questions/Discussion?

HYHR Researchers and Staff

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- Gloria Rodriguez, School of Education, Co-PI/ Team Qualitative Co-Lead
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- Michael Rios, Landscape Architecture, Co-PI/ Team Qualitative Co-Lead
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- jesikah maria ross, Art of Regional Change
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- Michelle Kuhns, Community Development, Gideon Mazinga, CRC, Postdoctoral Fellow
- Kindra Montgomery-Block, CCSP/CRESS/School of Education
- Alyssa Nelson, Youth In Focus
- Dina Okamoto, Sociology
- Amanda Perry, Community Development, GSR
- Carol Ramirez, School of Education, Intern
- Mindy Romero, Sociology, GSR & Outreach Coordinator
- 55 Youth Action Researchers from throughout the Capital Region

HY/HR Advisors and Consultants

Project Advisors

- Edward Augustus: Children's Defense Fund,
- Debra Azrael: Harvard School of Public Health
- Gilberto Conchas: UC Irvine Department of Education
- Lyn Corbett: City of Sacramento, Office of Youth Development
- Roger Dickinson California State Assembly
- Dave Gordon: Sac County Office of Education
- Jim Keddy: The California Endowment
- Pat Fong Kushida: Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber
- Manuel Pastor: University of Southern California
- Claire Pomeroy: UC Davis Medical School
- Daniel Solorzano: UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies

Project Consultants

- Victor Rubin, Policy Link
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- Larry Wallack, Berkeley Media Studies Group
- Fred Setterberg
- Dunlevy Studio

Organizational Partners

- Galt Area Youth Coalition
- Hmong Women's Heritage
- La Familia Counseling Center
- Sacramento ACT/ Meadowview Partnership
- Sacramento Gay and Lesbian Center
- South Sacramento REACH Coalition
- Sutter/Yuba Friday Night Live
- The Met Sacramento High School
- UC Davis School of Education/ Center for Community School Partnerships
- West Sacramento Youth Resource Coalition: SacTown Heroes
- WIND Youth Services
- Woodland Coalition for Youth
- Youth In Focus

Data Sources

- Quantitative Data (The numbers)

- Secondary data on education, health, employment, civic engagement, and youth development indicators
- Spatial representations/ GIS mapping



- Qualitative Data (The stories)

- Adult Allies: 51 interviewees throughout the region
- Young adults: 16 life-course interviews throughout the region including youth-generated maps and photographs
- Institutional leaders: 60 interviewees throughout the region



- Youth-generated data (The stories/images)

- 11 youth participatory action research projects
- 55 youth ages 11-21
- Youth-produced videos, photographs, poems, digital maps

