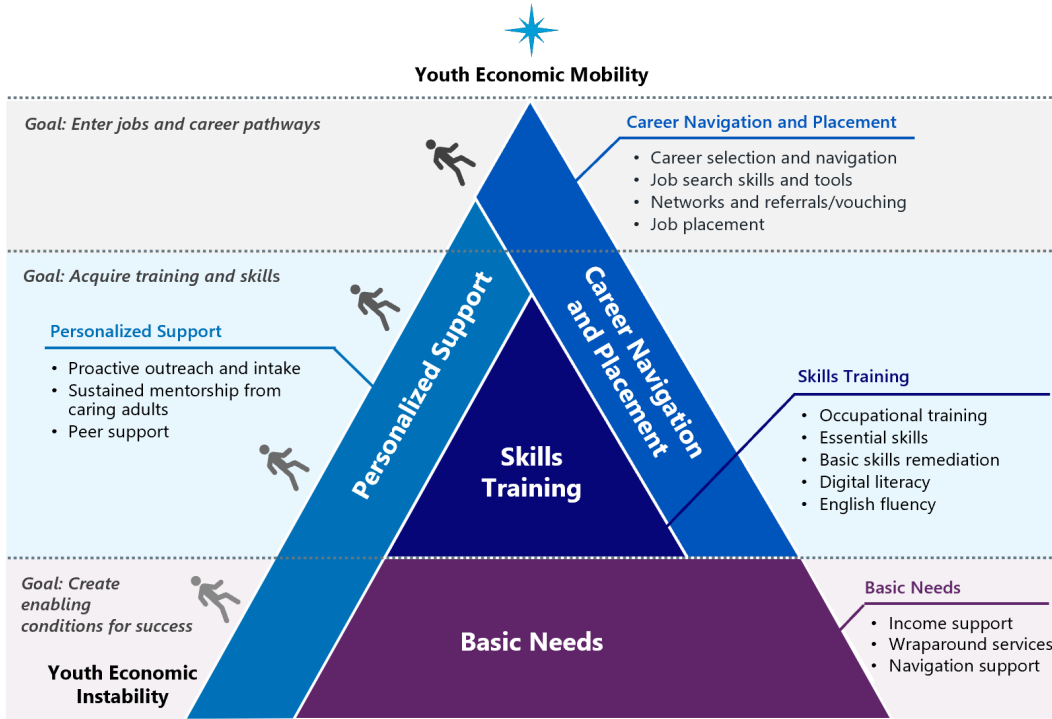


Snapshot: A Blueprint to Accelerate Economic Opportunity for All Youth

Why now? AI and changing skills needs are complicating youth access to work and opportunity. While block grants may offer state and local agencies more flexibility, looming resource cuts to youth workforce and human services programs add urgency to working fast and efficiently. The team at AIR and the Brookings Institution interviewed 21 state and local innovators to identify real-time lessons on what supports matter most, what implementation strategies are critical, and how funders might accelerate impacts.

What is the North Star? • How do you get there?



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- 1 **Address critical gaps in cross-system navigation** at every stage of confusing, siloed systems.
- 2 **Connect state and local program innovators** with their peers working on service innovation and data transformation by supporting communities of practice.
- 3 **Build ecosystem-wide capacity** through investments in technical assistance, peer learning and exchange, and backbone organizations.
- 4 **Strategically coinvest in the ecosystem** by coordinating with other funders to clarify roles and align reporting and funding requirements.
- 5 **Set explicit metrics of success and fund continuous learning and evaluations** to assess progress and drive improvements.

Funder Investments to Accelerate Impact

Read the full brief: [Amin, S., Goger, A., & Yancey, C. \(2025\). A blueprint for developing economic opportunity for all youth. American Institutes for Research.](#)