Youth Master Plan

John Randolph Foundation

Prenatal to Age 25
Strategically Investing in Hopewell Youth Prenatally to Age 25

- **Prenatal to Age 5**
  - Start strong with access to:
    - High quality early care and education
    - Information and support for parents/caregivers
    - Health care

- **Ages 6-12**
  - Continue support with access to:
    - Quality after-school care
    - Mentoring and tutoring programs
    - Recreational activities through sports and cultural/performing arts

- **Ages 13-18**
  - During adolescence, provide access to:
    - Mentoring and tutoring programs
    - Youth employment and skill-building programs
    - Places and ways to be socially-connected, including community service programs

- **Ages 19-25**
  - During transition into adulthood, provide access to:
    - Job opportunities
    - Job skills training
    - Job shadowing/mentoring
### Goal 1: Every Young Person in Hopewell Will Be Academically Successful and Career Ready

**Strategy:** Enhance and support academic success and career readiness from birth to age 25

**Recommended Actions**

- Endorse and support the efforts of Smart Beginnings to increase availability of and access to high quality early care and education programs
- Support efforts to provide parents and other caregivers with information and skills needed to foster healthy brain development and early literacy in the critical first years
- Support efforts that increase academic success and on-time high school graduation rates for K-12 students, including tutoring, reading, and homework help
- Support efforts that increase access to post-secondary education and career readiness
- Convene partners, including the business community, to provide internships, apprenticeships, youth entrepreneurship and workforce skills development for high school students and young adults
- Convene partners to identify ways to address and reduce barriers to students transitioning successfully from high school to higher education and/or careers

### Goal 2: Every Young Person in Hopewell Will Be Socially, Emotionally and Physically Healthy

**Strategy:** Support efforts that increase the availability of and access to services and programs that foster healthy physical, emotional and social development prenatally through age 25

**Recommended Actions**

- Support programs and resources for health promotion and prevention, including basic needs such as food, prenatal care, nutrition education, fitness, children’s behavior, mental health, etc.
- Support social activities for families with young children to connect and access resources
- Support mentoring programs and services for K-12 students
- Support efforts to engage middle and high school students in community service projects
- Support efforts to provide safe indoor and outdoor spaces for middle and high school youth to gather for both formal and informal activities

### Goal 3: Every Young Person in Hopewell Will Have Access to High Quality Programs

**Strategy:** Provide opportunities for increasing access to and quality of youth programs

**Recommended Actions**

- Convene providers of youth programs and services to foster coordination, collaboration and idea generation
- Host community conversations with stakeholders (parents, youth, program providers and other community members) to identify compelling community needs, act on key opportunities, and promote awareness of programs, events, resources, etc.
- Leverage internal and external resources to address needs and reduce barriers to participation, including use of space at John Randolph Foundation for community meetings, workspace and youth programs
- Identify and glean external funding/resources to support youth programs and logistical needs, such as space and transportation
- Initiate larger efforts to formalize partnerships with other funders, businesses, educational institutions, Smart Beginnings, and other key organizations
- Encourage best practices in evaluation of programs and incentivize collective impact evaluation practices to document outcomes
The Voices of 2000 Hopewell Community Members Contribute to the Plan

How the Plan Was Drafted: Input from Adults and Teens

A survey was distributed to adults in the Hopewell Community to contribute to the plan. To glean input directly from youth themselves, and to engage them in the process from the beginning, youth advisory councils were formed at Carver G. Woodson Middle School and Hopewell High School. Youth Advisory Council members contributed to the design of a process, and ultimately a survey of their fellow students at each location.

652 Middle School Student Surveys
- YAC contributed questions and designed a data collection plan
- Survey was taken online at school

276 High School Student Surveys
- YAC adopted questions from middle school
- YAC members administered paper surveys during lunch at school

1210 Adult Surveys
- 96 Surveys were received online via emailed link
- 1114 Paper surveys were completed and entered into the online Qualtrics survey system

Results of the survey data were compiled and presented at two public forums and used as background information for facilitated dialogues on two key questions.

- What are the top 3 programs that should be available in Hopewell?
- What is needed to make these happen?

Participants at the public forums sat at roundtables and worked in small groups to address these questions. They reported their answers on flip charts and posted them around the room. Results of these two public forums are also included in this report.
Results of the Survey Data

Top Needs for Children Ages 5 and Younger

- Child care: 534 responses
- Health care: 388 responses
- Help with children's behavior: 384 responses
- Organized social activities: 363 responses
- Parenting skills and support: 333 responses
- Preschool: 302 responses
- Exercise/physical activity: 310 responses
- Dental care: 302 responses
- Developmental disabilities info: 257 responses
- Child development info: 221 responses
- Other: 30 responses

Top Needs for Children Ages 6-12

- After-school care: 524 responses
- Mentoring programs: 523 responses
- Tutoring/Homework/Reading help: 437 responses
- Sports & recreation programs/fitness camps/dance: 318 responses
- Cultural or Performing Arts: 312 responses
- Safe space outdoors: 306 responses
- Safe space indoors: 285 responses
- Summer camp programs: 229 responses
- Family-Based programs/Parenting groups: 204 responses
- Clubs/Scouts: 146 responses
- Don't know: 41 responses
- Other (please fill in): 16 responses
Needs Identified at Public Forums

Since the adults were asked about top needs for youth ages 13 to 18, which generally covers middle and high school ages, a comparison of the top four needs identified by each group is presented.

Overlap in Needs and Wants Identified in Surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Middle School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mentoring</td>
<td>Safe space indoors</td>
<td>Cultural/Performing arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth employment programs</td>
<td>Safe space outdoors</td>
<td>Summer camps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutoring/Homework/Reading help</td>
<td>Summer camps</td>
<td>Teen leadership programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community service programs</td>
<td>Tutoring/Homework/Reading help</td>
<td>Sports/Fitness/Dance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It should be noted that both adults and high school students indicated a need for tutoring and homework help. The high school and middle school students both reported a desire for summer camp opportunities. The public forum participants heard the survey responses and worked in groups to identify the top needs for each age group. Mentoring, youth employment/college prep and community service were named in the adult surveys and public forums as key needs.
To plan programs that will be useful and utilized the middle and high school students were asked what makes them participate or want to participate in a program. The top four responses to this question are presented.

What Makes You Want to Participate in Programs?

**Middle School**
1. The activities are fun.
2. It looks good on my college application/resume.
3. I want to hang out with friends.
4. I learn or practice skills through the activity offered.

**High School**
1. It looks good on my college application/resume.
2. The activities are fun.
3. I want to hang out with friends.
4. I learn or practice skills through the activity offered.
Barriers to Participation
To identify barriers in an effort to plan, both adults and teen respondents were asked why they would not or do not participate in programs. The responses are presented. Notice they had the same top 6 responses.

**Middle School**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I’m too busy</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rather relax</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not interested</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family commitments</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost too much</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent won’t let me</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t feel safe</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**High School**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too busy</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rather relax or hang…</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not interested</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family commitment</td>
<td>57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost too much</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent won’t let me</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t feel safe</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Adult Responses Regarding Barriers to Participation**
Notice that transportation and too busy were listed in the top 4 here and with middle and high school surveys.