

# ASPEN FORUM FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE  
Forum for Community Solutions

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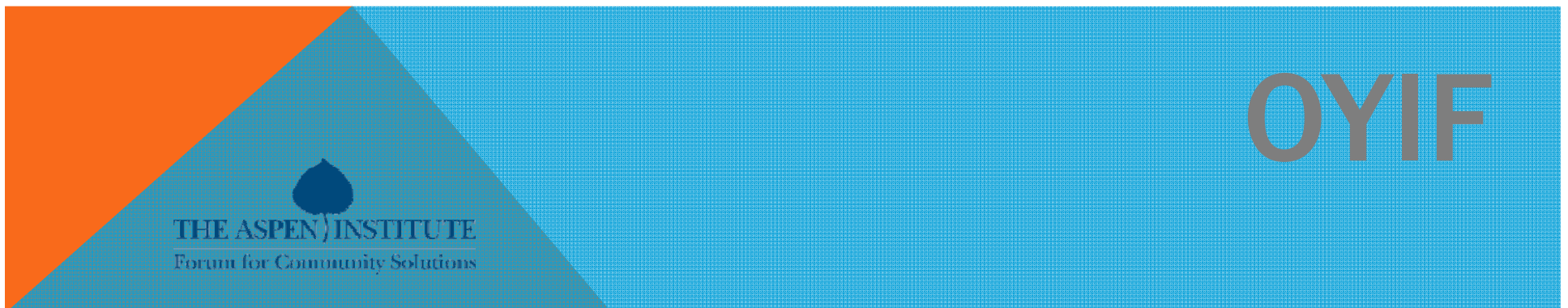
- AFCS was launched in 2012
- Born out of the White House Council for Community Solutions
- The Forum's mission is to support community collaboration – including collective impact – that enables communities to effectively address their most pressing challenges.



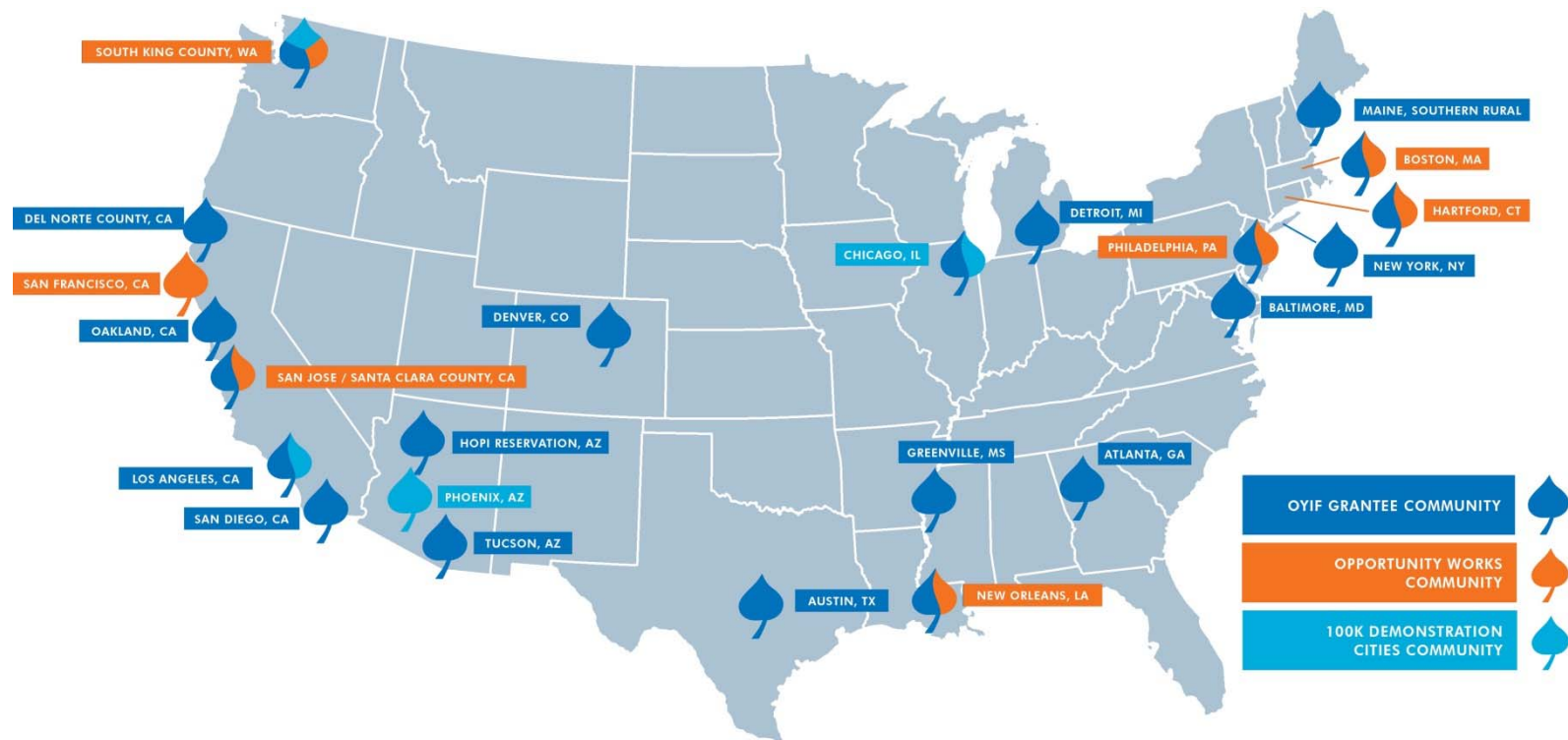
# ABOUT OYIF

- OYIF is a long-term systems change initiative that represents a network at scale of community stakeholders and partners who have proven to be deeply committed to improving outcomes for opportunity youth.
- The overall goal of the OYIF is to:

Build out and/or deepen second chance pathways at scale for  
opportunity youth



# GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD



## OUR COMMUNITIES



# OPPORTUNITY WORKS



**JOBS FOR THE FUTURE**

Opportunity Works, an initiative of Jobs for the Future, in partnership with the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund (OYIF), is building the evidence base of what works to improve the credential attainment and employment prospects of low-income opportunity youth—16 to 24 year olds, with or without high school diplomas, who are insufficiently attached to education and the workforce, with an emphasis on engaging boys and young men of color.

Opportunity Works communities are: Boston, MA; Hartford, CT; New Orleans, LA; Philadelphia, PA; San Francisco, CA; Santa Clara, CA; and South King County, WA.

<http://www.jff.org/initiatives/back-track-designs/opportunity-works>



# 100K DEMONSTRATION CITIES

Through the 100,000 Opportunities Initiative, a coalition of over 40 leading US-based companies have committed to training and hiring opportunity youth.

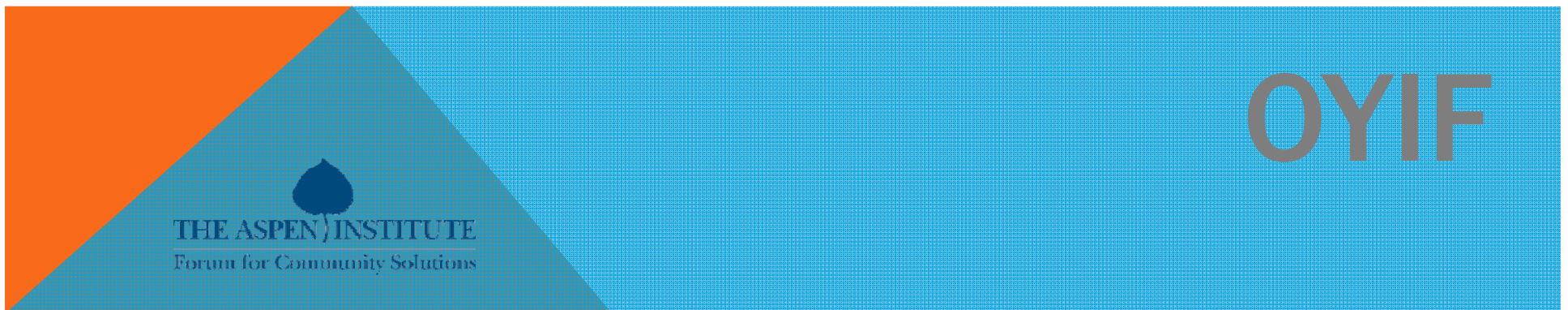
100K Demonstration Cities effort focuses on testing and scaling employer-led pathways in a subset of OYIF communities:

- Chicago/Cook County, IL
- Phoenix/Maricopa County, AZ
- Los Angeles/LA County, CA
- Seattle/King County, WA
- New Orleans, LA

<http://aspencommunitysolutions.org/100kopportunitiesinitiative/>

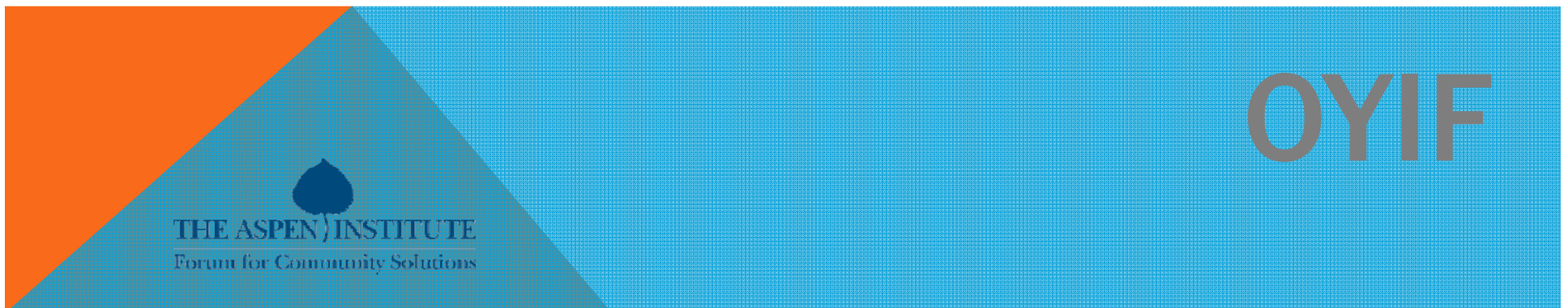
# OYIF FIVE-PART FRAMEWORK

- Strengthens the capacity of communities to collaboratively identify and implement solutions to the issue of disconnection among opportunity youth.
- Framework Areas
  - Collaborating for Impact
  - Building Effective Pathways
  - Using Data to Guide Decisions and Assess Impact
  - Leveraging Funding to Support and Sustain Innovation
  - Developing Supportive Policies



# NATIONAL LEARNING AGENDA

- OYIF designed and launched a national learning agenda and implements a learning community across OYIF, 100K, and Opportunity Works grantees
- Key Design & Implementation Partners:
  - Jobs for the Future (implementation partner)
  - Equal Measure (evaluation partner)
  - FSG
  - Harder+Company Community Research
- Learning Partners: Philanthropic partners, Forum for Youth Investment, Opportunity Youth United, Opportunity Youth Network, and more.







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<https://www.facebook.com/AspenForum>



<https://medium.com/aspen-opportunity-youth-incentive-fund>



<http://aspencommunitysolutions.org/>

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#OYIF



# The Role of the Rose Community Foundation



# Realizing the Need

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- Education - not all kids graduating and going to college
- Child and Family Development concerned about economic success of families.
- The gap, 16-24 year olds, not succeeding in school and challenged to access living wage jobs.



# OYIF - The Right Fit

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- Rose Community Foundation often convene to bring others to help us figure out solutions.
- Planning phase - convened Funders, DPS, government, and other youth serving agencies to help us develop the application, the planning process, and now the implementation.





# Incubating vs. Managing

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- Didn't have the staffing in house so started by contracting the planning phase.
- Once awarded implementation – Competitive bid for the operations role of the Backbone.
- Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce is now the backbone





# Why is the Chamber taking this on?

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- **74%** of jobs will require some sort of post-secondary certificate or degree.
- **26%** will require at least a high school diploma or GED.
- *Currently* **48%** of adults in Colorado have a two-year degree or more.



# Current Initiative Investments

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**Over 25 partners**

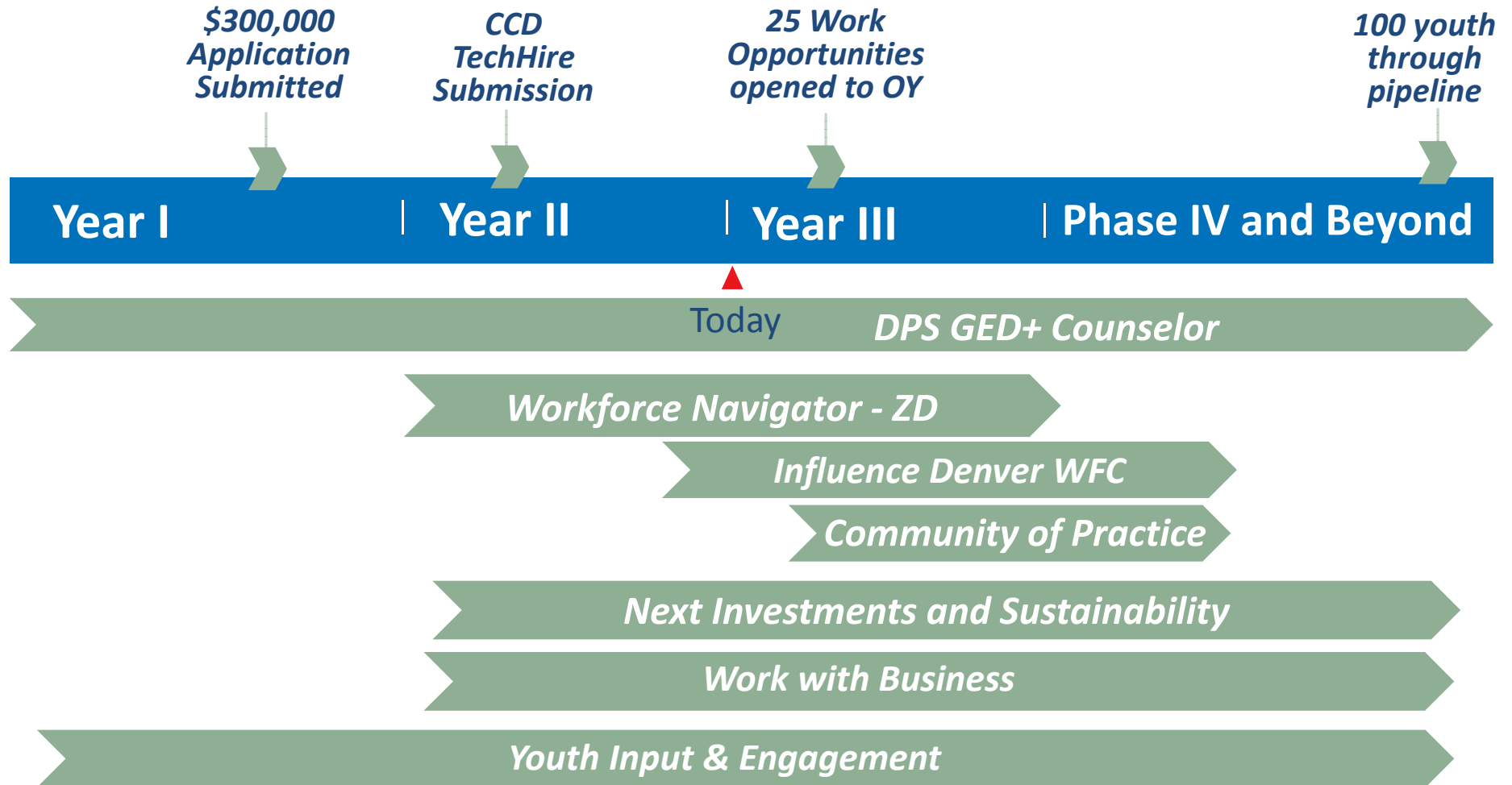
## **Current Investments**

- Emily Griffith GED+ Pilot
- Zero Dropouts – Workforce Navigator
- Chamber – Backbone & Workforce Intermediary
- WorkLife Partnerships - Post-Employment supports





# OY Timeline



DENVER  
METRO  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

# 2015-2016 Metrics

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- Emily Griffith GED+ Program - **311**
  - 77 graduates!
  - 26 placed in jobs or internships
- Workforce Coach - **67**
  - 15 re-engaged into education
  - 5 internships
  - 12 jobs



# But our work is not done – The Ask

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- Rethink your entry-level jobs.
- Mentor interns and get them resume building experiences.
- Clear pathways to higher level jobs.
- Invest with your money or your social capital and be participate in the bigger picture.



# OY Challenges

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- The Classics:
  - Transportation
  - Housing
  - Parenting - Childcare
- The ones we are learning about
  - Lack of exposure to office environments
  - Feeling like “I don’t belong there”





# Key Partners

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- DPS & Emily Griffith
- Colorado Youth for a Change – CYC
- Local Foundations – As Funders and participants
- Mile High Youth Corp
- WorkLife Partnership
- Community College of Denver
- Denver Scholarship Fund
- CO Department of Education
- Goodwill
- Mile High United Way
- CO Public Television

