

ENGAGING OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

A PATHWAY TO POTENTIAL

MACAE 2022



INTRODUCTIONS

PRESENTER:

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College Access
Network

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WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

Explore

Participants will explore the problem of disconnected youth through research and focus group feedback.

Discuss

Participants will discuss the collective impact process utilized to develop strategies and a program for engaging opportunity youth.

Discuss

Participants will discuss lessons learned and how to apply those to their own community experience.

DEFINING OPPORTUNITY YOUTH & THE PROBLEM OF DISCONNECTION

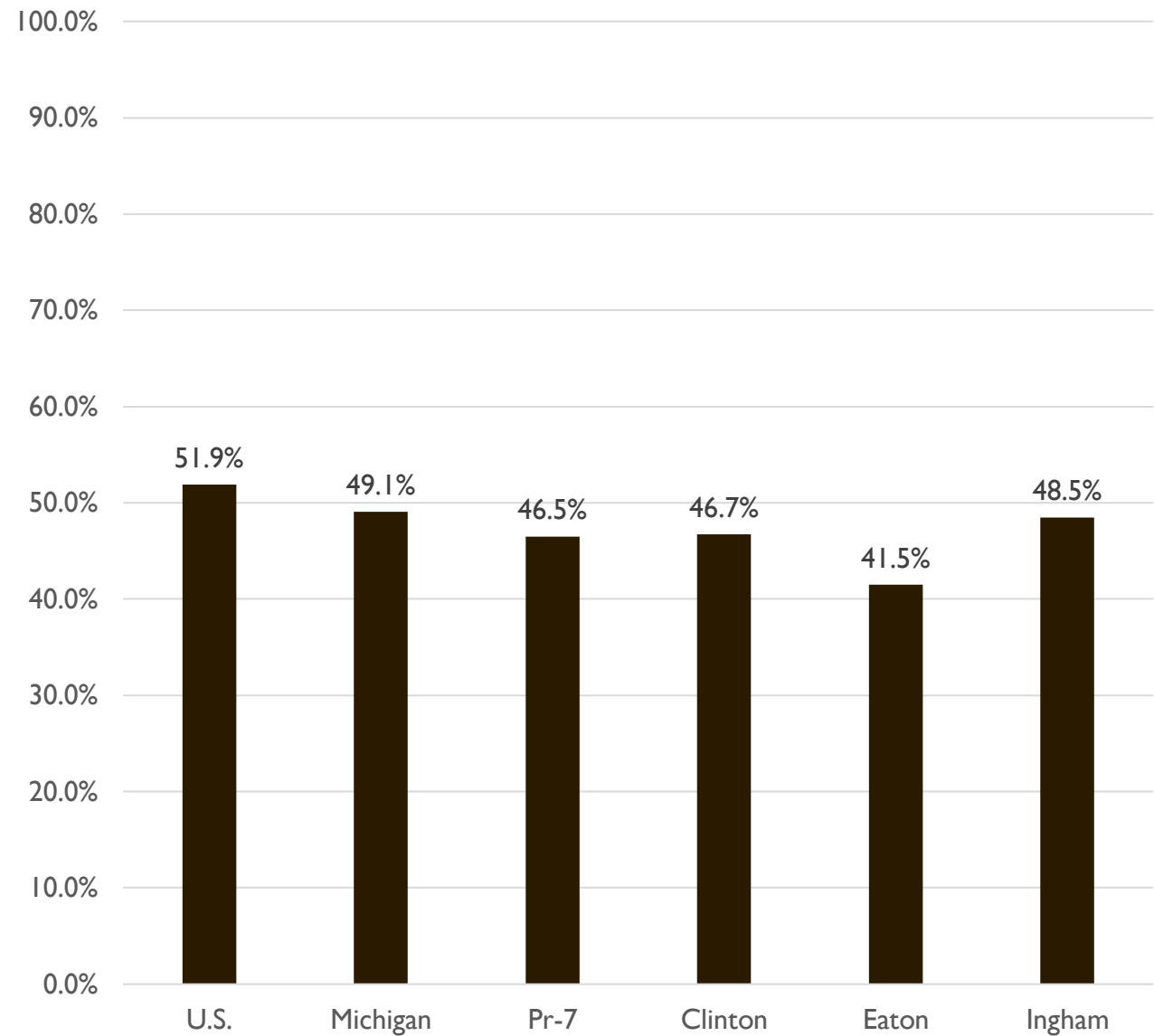
One in every seven Michigan residents age 16 to 19 are neither working nor enrolled in school, creating a "disconnected" population of young adults.
(Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2021 County Health Rankings)

Ingham County's rate of disconnected youth is 4% of young adults. The rate of disconnection is higher among African-American, Hispanic, and Native American young adults. Eaton County's rate is 8%.

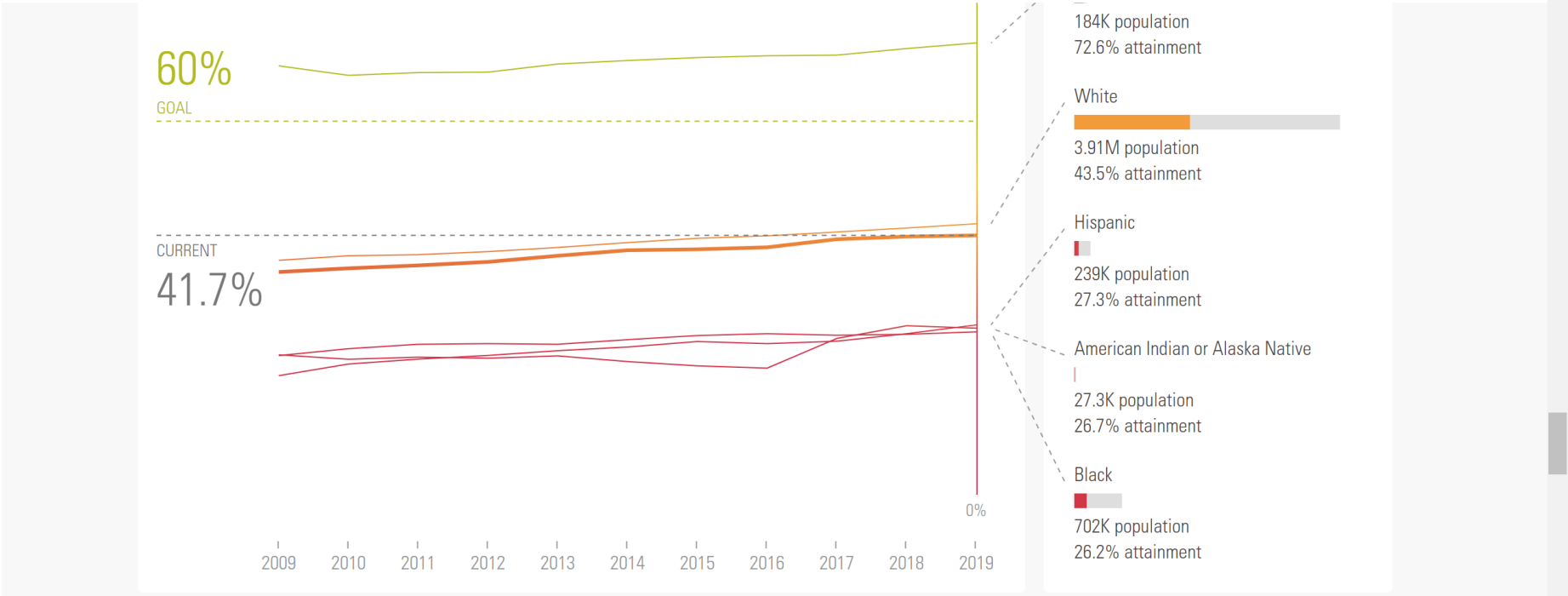
These youth are referred to as **Opportunity Youth** because of their untapped potential and social and economic **opportunity**.

DEGREE ATTAINMENT (CERTIFICATE+) RATES AMONG RESIDENTS 25-64

SOURCE: LUMINA
FOUNDATION'S 2021 "A
STRONGER NATION"

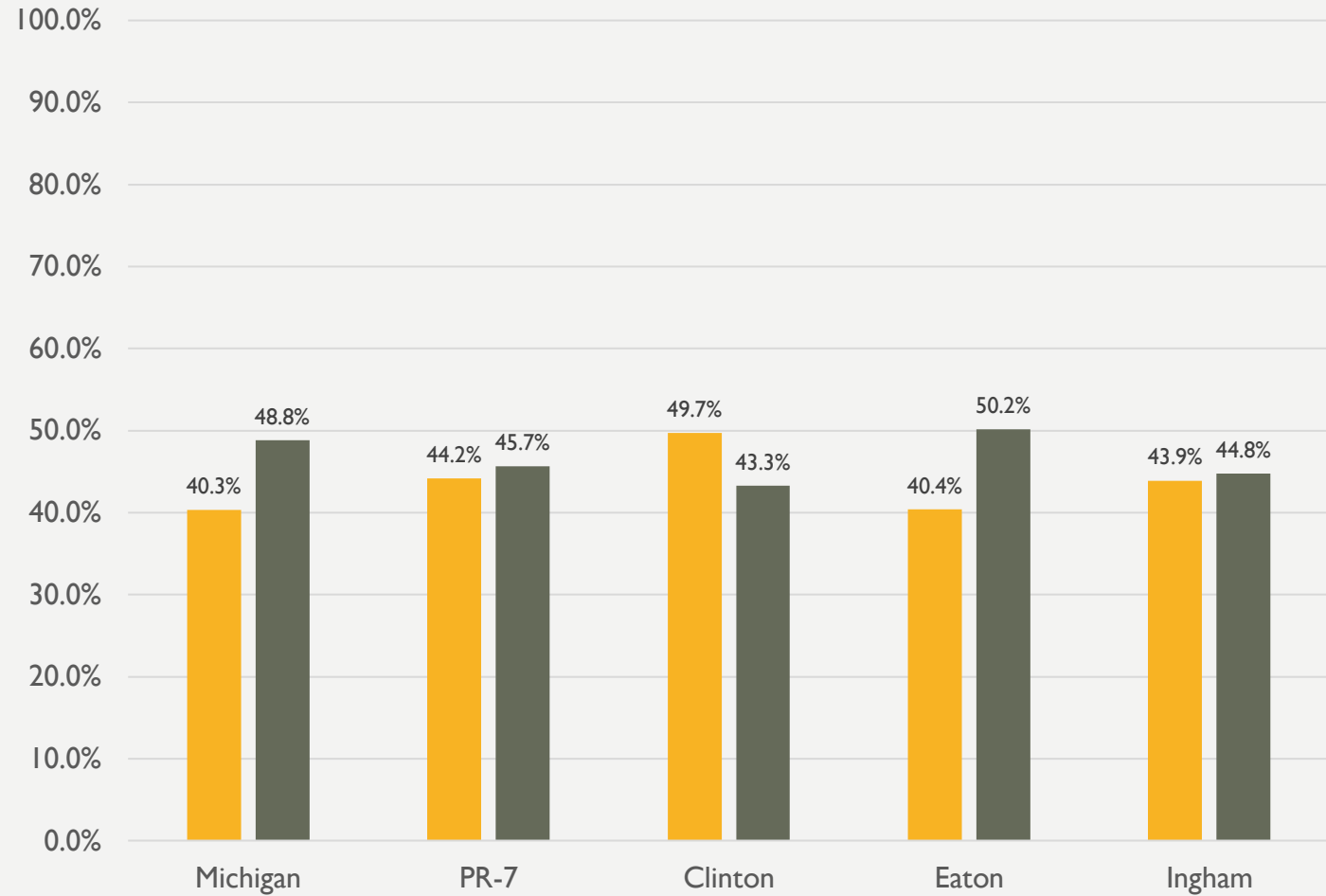


Progress for **Michigan** ▼
15 of 83 counties in Michigan are currently above the state average for attainment.
See All Insights >



6 YEAR COLLEGE ATTAINMENT RATE FOR CLASS OF 2014 BASED ON COUNTY AND REGION

Source: MI School Data

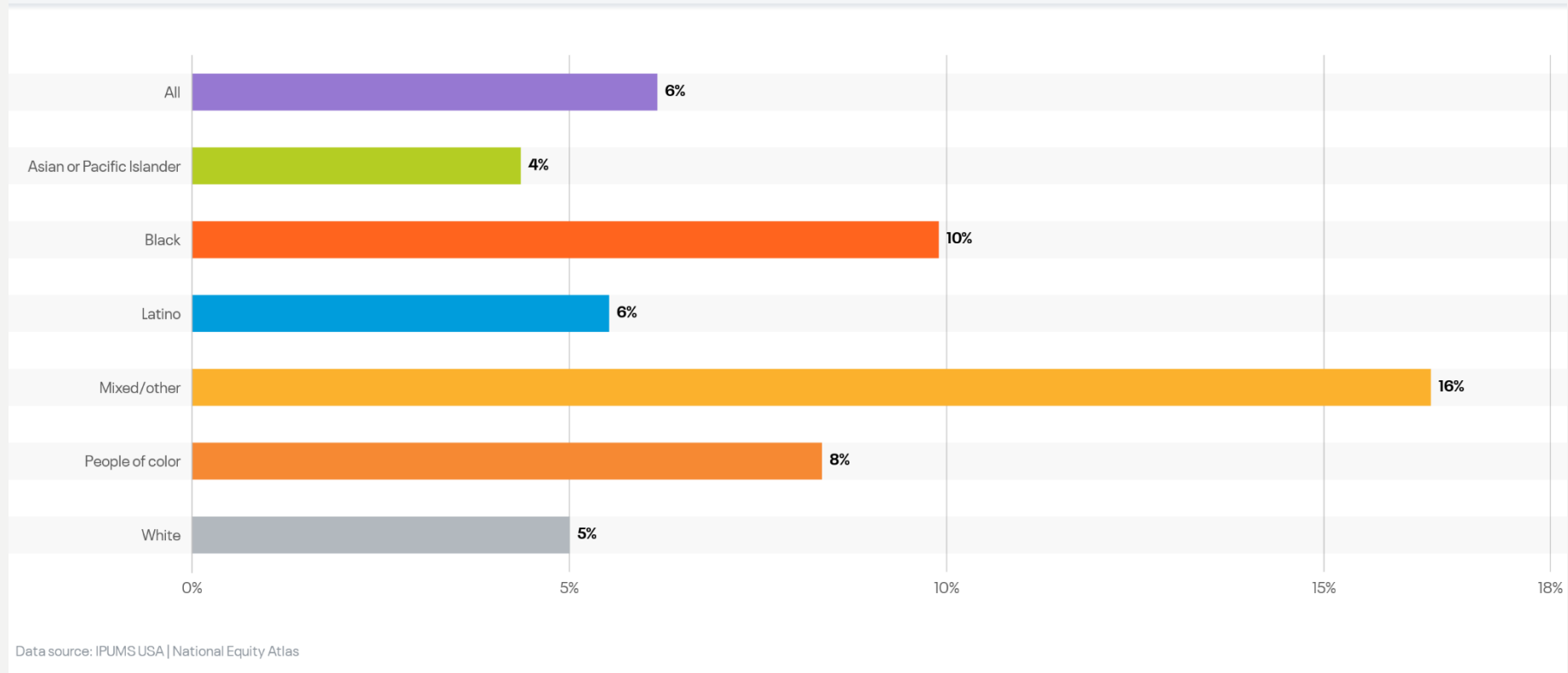


■ Degree (certificate +) after 6 years ■ No Longer Enrolled or No Record of College Enrollment



OPPORTUNITY YOUTH IN CAPITAL AREA

Percent of 16 to 24 year olds not working or in school by race/ethnicity: Ingham, MI; Year: 2019



COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORKS

- Community collaboratives dedicated to increasing postsecondary attainment among first generation and underrepresented populations
- Partners include K-12s, Higher Education, Business & Industry, Philanthropy, Government, Nonprofits,
- Part of the Michigan College Access Network



STRUCTURE: COLLECTIVE IMPACT

CapCAN Board: Determines priorities

PPI Action Team:

- Systems : Review data, policy, systems
- Program Partners: Review process and referral protocol

22 community partners engaged to provide wrap around or direct services if the participant is eligible

PATHWAY TO POTENTIAL INITIATIVE (PPI)

- ❖ **Purpose:** To provide a dedicated college and career coach for young adults to step back into the educational process. Through the aid of a “coach,” young adults have the opportunity to get connected with post-secondary institutions and explore career opportunities.
- ❖ PPI coordinates across pathways, systems and sectors to create open doors for disconnected youth in education, human services, and the workforce.



SOLUTION: TARGETED COLLEGE AND CAREER COACHING

**Pathway to Potential
College, Career, Ready.**

**FREE Virtual college and career coaching
now available for young adults 16-25 in
Ingham and Eaton counties.**

No GED or diploma required!

**Contact capitalareacan@gmail.com or
call 517-203-5011 to schedule your free
appointment today!**



ELEMENTS OF COLLEGE AND CAREER COACHING



YOUNG ADULT VOICES

❖ Conducted 2 focus groups

- Prospective participants
- Actual participants

❖ Exit Interviews with 5 participants

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- A desire to continue their education beyond high school.
- A lack of knowledge about how to continue their education or find a career.
- An interest in exploring careers and understanding how much education was needed to get them there.
- A lack of understanding about financial aid or the process to get funding for college.
- A need for more help than they are currently getting.
- A recommendation to utilize word of mouth and social media to get the word out about the PPI initiative.
- An interest in participating in a program to access free college and career coaching.
- Knowledge or experience with college advising in high school.

OUTCOMES OF COLLEGE AND CAREER COACH

Intake assessment with 45 young adults, 27 were females and 17 were males.

47% identified as African American, 34% as Caucasian, 13% Hispanic, and 4% were Sudanese refugees. Sixty-six percent of the participants were between the ages of 18-20 years.

Active caseload of 19 from the 31 initial intake of eligibility.

Met at coffee shops, the library, a church, nonprofit and school buildings, and in their homes.

375 contacts with participants totaling 638.5 hours. The average contact was 1.7 hours with each participant averaging 8 contacts (in-person and texting)

Hosted seven skills-based workshops on career exploration, FAFSA, workplace habits, conducting a job search

Developed a resource toolkit on college and career exploration

27 participants referred to other services including MI Works, MI Rehab, CMH

OUTCOMES OF PARTICIPANTS

Eight participants who completed the career exploration module on Career Cruising determined they had changed their career interests from high school.

One participant obtained a full-time job.

Eleven young adults have achieved employment

One participant did a job shadow with an archeologist because of her interest in the career.

Thirteen participants have enrolled in a post-secondary degree or credential during the program period.

LESSONS LEARNED

Each participant identified their personal barriers in the in-take and assessment process that were impeding them from achieving full employment or college attainment.

- Each participant had two or more identified barriers.
- Including transportation, family challenges, young parents needing child care, homelessness or transitioning out of foster care

The coach encountered many students who have mental health concerns that are preventing them from moving forward.

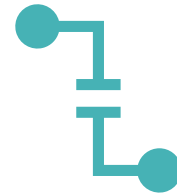
- Need to collaborate with CMH.
- Focus on Trauma Informed Care

Six of the participants experienced an unexpected closure of their cyber charter school.

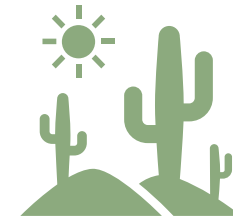
CHALLENGES OF WORKING WITH DISCONNECTED YOUTH




Very difficult to locate in a community.



Disconnected from resources. They require multiple community resources working together for support.



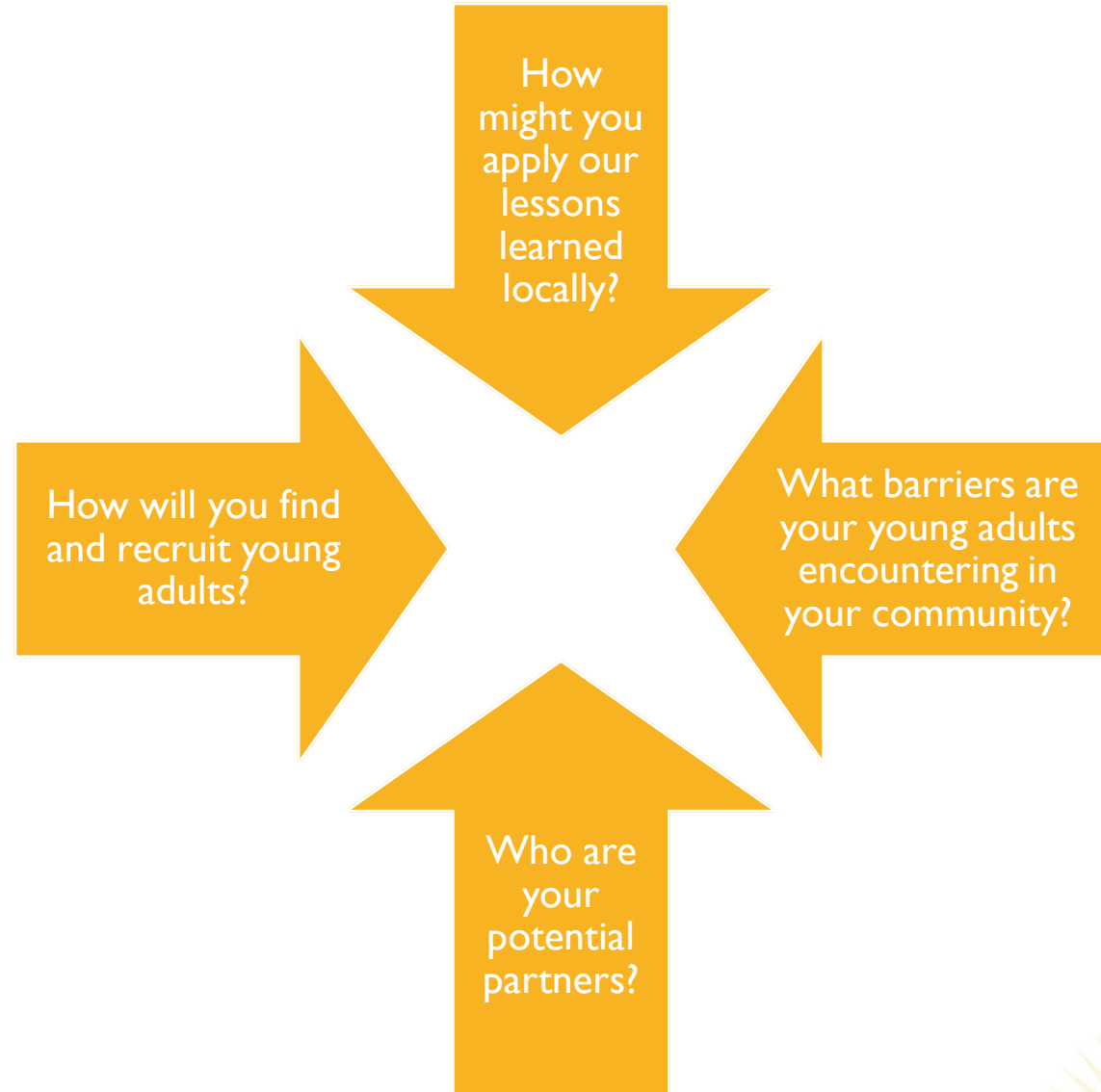
Nearly half of the young people who were recruited and completed an in-take assessment evaporated after one interaction.



WHAT RESOURCES WOULD BENEFIT OPPORTUNITY YOUTH?

[HTTPS://WWW.MENTI.COM/W65TQNEFA](https://www.menti.com/w65tqgnefa)

DISCUSSION



NATIONAL RESOURCES

- ❖ www.nationalskillscoalition.org
- ❖ www.Newamerica.org/education-policy
- ❖ The Economic Value of Opportunity Youth, <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED528650>
- ❖ Who Are Opportunity Youth, <https://aspencommunitysolutions.org/who-are-opportunity-youth/>
- ❖ Key Components of Opportunity Youth Programs, https://jfforg-prod-prime.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/Opportunity_Youth_0823161.pdf
- ❖ Bringing Students Back to the Center, <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/dropout/re-engagement-guide121914.pdf>

CONTACT US!

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517-203-5011, capitalareacan@gmail.com
- Visit our resources on our website:
<https://www.micauw.org/can/retention>
- **Listen to our #CapCANKnows
podcast:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWu9NH9VF8Q&list=PLOn6Mm7K7oKMnYxIO6yH2SkUsBurAuSXj&index=4&t=6s>