AASA is centered on work that drives systems change and increases equity. We are committed to equity in educational opportunities and outcomes, reducing racial disparities, and aiding and assisting those youth most in-need. Our work supports superintendents and school system leaders to drive meaningful systems change by improving and redesigning the policies, practices, and structures in education and strengthening ties between K-12 systems, post-secondary, and career.

Dan Domenech, Executive Director
Sharon Adams-Taylor, Assoc. Executive Director
Kayla Jackson, Project Director
Bryan Joffe, Project Director
AASA and DOL: Apprenticeship Partners

http://aasacentral.org/youthapprenticeships/
Opportunity Youth Need Enhanced Supports

4.6 million youth are neither in school nor working. About half are living in poverty.
Job Corps Scholars

**BIGGEST SUCCESSES SO FAR**

What are grantees seeing in terms of early wins and laying the groundwork for success

**SHARED LEARNING FROM THE COMMUNITY**

What are grantees learning from each other?
AASA and Opportunity Youth

OUR COMMITMENT TO SERVING THE MOST VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE

SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD

AASA’s work includes connecting youth to CHIP and Medicaid, feeding hungry children, and supporting their health, mental health, and well-being.

EQUITY AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

AASA works on racial disparities, juvenile justice, and the school to prison pipeline to try and dismantle racially oppressive systems and ensure that all youth have access and opportunity.
AASA Partnerships

LEVERAGING THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

FORUM FOR YOUTH INVESTMENT

AASA partners with the Forum for Youth Investment and the Opportunity Youth Network with a goal to reduce the number of Opportunity Youth by 1 million every five years.

ASSOC. OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

AASA and AACC continually look to strengthen ties and connections between K-12 systems and higher education counterparts to enhance workforce development and academic success.

NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER

AASA works with the National Juvenile Defender Center and school leaders to eliminate the school to prison pipeline and reduce the consequences of juvenile involvement.

HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

Univ. of Michigan - school safety
UCLA - mental health
Howard University and Univ. of Southern California - students in urban communities
Univ. of Maryland - mental health

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND

AASA has a long history partnering with CDF to ensure every child has what they need to thrive and reach their full potential.

YOUTH BUILD

AASA is beginning a partnership with YouthBuild to help identify young people as they leave the K-12 system in need of assistance and supports.
Strategies for Success

**Connecting to K-12 Systems to Reach 16-20 Year Olds**

AASA works with K-12 system leaders and community partners to serve and support younger opportunity youth.

**Engaging Stakeholders**

Tend the ecosystem—elevating youth voice, connecting to employers, serving families, leveraging community colleges, and ensuring stackable credentials.

**Sustainability and Systems Change**

Building enhanced systems and structures that create sustainable partnerships, connections and pipelines to and for opportunity youth.
JCS Discussion

Is your program connected to the school districts that serve opportunity youth in your area?
Is this program going to be sustained after the grant?
What are the barriers you’re working to overcome?
What do you see as the two/three interventions most needed for programmatic success?
COVID impacts?
Questions for AASA?
Call to Action

Connect with AASA and local school leaders in your community, engage your stakeholders, and create sustainable structures to identify, recruit, and retain.

Contact bjoffe@aasa.org