



Performance Partnership Pilots (P3) for Disconnected Youth National Evaluation

SUMMARY

In 2015, the Chief Evaluation Office (CEO) partnered with the Employment and Training Administration to fund contractors Mathematica and Social Policy Research to conduct the Performance Partnership Pilots (P3) for Disconnected Youth National Evaluation. The goal of the study is to identify and document the extent to which the P3 initiative increased coordination across federal agencies and programs to allow local communities the flexibilities they need to support disconnected youth.

To promote a more integrated system of federal, state, local, and tribal services for disconnected youth, Congress authorized the P3 initiative under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. It allowed up to ten grantee organizations and their partners, together called “pilots,” to waive regulations, such as spending and performance requirements, and gain coordinated access to the discretionary funds of five federal agencies. In 2015, the federal agencies participating in P3 awarded nine pilots for Cohort 1. Since its inception, six more pilots were established for two additional cohorts. CEO has [previously published various reports and issue briefs from this evaluation](#).

The Department of Labor-funded study is a requirement of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and a result of the annual process to determine the Department’s research priorities for the upcoming year. It contributes to the labor evidence base to inform [employment and training](#) programs and policies and addresses Department strategic goals and priorities.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Findings from the implementation study

- All pilots brought together **multiple partners across different youth-serving agencies, including health providers, housing agencies, education providers, and workforce agencies.**
- Of the 13 pilots with approved Federal waivers, 10 reported using at least one waiver in three general ways: **To serve a broader population of youth, to serve a focal population of youth flexibly, or to reduce administrative burden.**
- Pilots reported that **understanding, trust, and buy-in may have shaped their use of the flexibilities granted through the waivers.** Three pilots reported that they did not need their granted waivers to implement their services.





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- All pilots used P3 as an opportunity to provide enhanced services to a focal population of disconnected youth. The implementation study identified three service approaches.
 - **Case management.** Youth received individualized case management to help them navigate and connect to community resources.
 - **Case management plus services.** Youth received individualized case management and participated in or received the same set of services designed for P3 youth.
 - **Program service model.** Youth participated in the same set of activities specific to P3 to achieve common goals related to education or employment.
- The evaluation team found **additional guidance and technical assistance in focused areas could support efforts to capitalize on allowed flexibilities and prepare for systems change.**

In **Supporting Disconnected Youth During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Experiences from the Field** researchers found that **providers adapted recruitment, intake, and case management practices, increasingly relied on virtual modes, and confronted challenges recruiting youth and meeting identified needs due to pandemic-related disruptions.** Yet, respondents reported that youth remained engaged and that they plan to continue or scale some of the adaptations they implemented.

In **Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth (P3): Sustaining Systems Change Efforts and Coordinated Services for Youth** researchers found that the two pilots that identified systems change as a primary goal of their P3 pilots at the outset were able to sustain their efforts beyond the pilot. The Los Angeles, California pilot developed a strategic plan that would guide the system for serving disconnected youth in the future and the lead pilot agency in Broward County, Florida leveraged P3 to build an integrated data system for local youth-serving agencies to reduce manual data collection, improve accuracy, and provide secure access to information.

Operating a Youth Homelessness Prevention Program: A Case Study from the P3 Pilot in Sacramento, California focuses on lessons learned and considerations for youth homelessness prevention and intervention programs. When considering implementing a similar program for homeless youth, researchers recommend organizations:

- Plan for intensive case management to help youth address multiple barriers and retain housing.





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- Identify key staff at the public housing authority to be the point of contact for the intervention.
- Develop relationships with landlords to increase their knowledge about homeless youth set-aside Housing Choice Vouchers and accompanying services.
- Work across the community's housing and youth service and advocacy organizations to best meet youths' needs.
- Understand the local housing market to help youth navigate their options.

[SEE FULL STUDY](#)

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