



P/PV

Public/Private Ventures

Disconnected and High Risk Youth: Investing in
Infrastructure, Best-Practice and Evaluation
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P/PV Overview

Public/Private Ventures is a national leader in creating and strengthening programs that improve lives in low-income communities. We do this by seeking out and designing innovative programs, rigorously testing them, and promoting the ones proven to work.



Lessons Learned

- Invest in infrastructure that supports high quality programming and strong implementation
- Programs should be based on proven strategies and best practices
- Investments in evaluation should be relevant and deliberate

Invest in Infrastructure that Supports High Quality Programming and Strong Implementation

- Critical facets of infrastructure include but are not limited to:
 - Focused and intentional strategies
 - Continuous program improvement systems
 - Coordination and collaboration
 - Staff and volunteer training

The Youth Violence Reduction Partnership: Outcomes

- Significant reductions in youth homicides
- Youth homicide rate trends more favorably after the initiation of YVRP

YVRP Strategic Investments

- Focused and intentional strategy
 - Built on existing systems
 - Targeted goals
- Coordination and collaboration
- Continuous program improvement

Programs Should be Based on Proven Strategies and Best Practice

- While proven strategies are important tools, other approaches, if based on best practice, should also be considered

- Best practices include:
 - Accountability
 - Give youth voice and choice
 - Supportive adults who can connect youth with resources
 - Neighborhood/Community based
 - Firmly connect education/training to employment
 - Form cohorts of peers and offer incentives
 - Attend to factors that affect learning and employment

Ready4Work: Outcomes

- Recidivism rates for adult R4W participants were 40 to 50 percent lower than the national average reported by the Bureau of Justice Statistics:
 - **Ready4Work:** 2.5% returned to prison with a new offense within 6 months of release; 6.9% within 1 year
 - **Bureau of Justice Statistics:** 5% have returned within 6 months of release; 10.4% within 1 year

Ready4Work Best Practices

- Attend to factors that affect learning and employment
- Supportive Relationships
 - Mentoring
 - Staff
- Neighborhood/Community Based
 - Run by FCBO in participants' communities
- Accountability

Investments in Evaluation Should be Relevant and Deliberate

- Assess realistic/meaningful outcomes and benchmarks
- Focus on program improvement as well as program impact
 - Match the developmental stage of the program
 - Allow adequate time
 - Provide timely feedback

Big Brothers Big Sisters: Outcomes

- Less likely to initiate drug or alcohol use
- Less likely to hit
- Improvements on indicators of school success
- Better relationships with their families and peers

Big Brothers Big Sisters : Investment in Evaluation

- Match the developmental stage of the program
 - Early implementation studies
- Focus on program improvement as well as program impact
 - Study of relationship formation gave information about what it takes to develop high quality relationships
 - Training study highlighted the importance of volunteer training and screening
- Assess realistic/meaningful outcomes and benchmarks
 - Used program theory to identify outcomes



Value of Implementing These Lessons

- Maximizes Program Quality
- Improves Outcomes for Participants
- Results in Cost Effective Spending

