ENOUGH IS KNOWN FOR ACTION

READY TO EMPLOY, EDUCATE, AND SUPPORT YOUTH

Brandeis University
THE CENTER FOR YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES — Making Knowledge Productive for 30+ Years

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration, Division of Youth Services
Waiting on the World to Change
The number of children 0-17 (73.7M) living in poverty continues to rise (16.1M or 1 in 4)
In 2007, the % of children whose parents had secure employment was **lowest since 1996** & % living in poverty was **highest since 1998**

-America’s Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2010
The percentage of children in food-insecure households was the highest since monitoring began and the housing foreclosure crisis has threatened ... fundamental safety and health of so many

-America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2010
Nearly 1 in 7 18-19 year olds are disconnected from school and work and 6.7 million 16-24 year olds are disconnected from both education and work
For the **first time in more than 30 years**, mental health conditions have displaced physical illnesses as the top five disabilities in US children.
1 out of every 4 children in the US will experience a traumatic event before age sixteen, and many of these children will develop traumatic stress.

An epidemic of anti-gay harassment & violence in schools and cyberspace has made traditional education a risky business for lesbian and gay youth (LGBTQ)
In 2008-2009, 7.7% of US children younger than 18 years had a disability that limited usual activity, which is a 4-fold increase in the prevalence of childhood activity limitations since 1960.

(Slomski, 2012)
Among those with disabilities who are employed, few are working full-time or nearly full-time, acquiring company-paid benefits and/or earning a living wage

(Mank, 2007)
30% of high school freshmen do not graduate in four years.
For African American and Hispanic students, on time graduation is even worse – a 50:50 proposition
One in four high school graduates attend college and only about half of those who start will finish.
Your odds of staying in school and later getting a good job improve greatly if you have a job as a student.

Teen employment rates plummeted to lowest levels in 60 years (~33%)
45% of U.S. employers say a lack of skills is the main reason for entry-level vacancies and caused “significant problems in terms of costs, quality and time”
Reducing the youth unemployment rate by 1% adds $75B to the global economy

- Muhtar Kent, CEO Coca Cola Company
The European Union plans to expand its youth employment initiatives, *setting aside about $8B* over the next 7 years to finance work programs.
Persistent achievement gaps facing our country impose “the economic equivalent of a permanent national recession”

(The Economic Impact of the Achievement Gap in America’s Schools, McKinsey and Company)
This is a **prescription for economic decline**

- President Barack Obama

In the long run, the only solution to the economic crisis is to **educate our way out of it**

- Secretary of Education Arne Duncan