

Every year, I plant sunflowers seeds of all different varieties by the sidewalk and then delight as families and influencers take picture after picture at all times of the day right outside our house. I do nothing but sprinkle the seeds and hope. This year though, the sunflowers are half the height. The drought has taken a toll. I should have turned the soil, fertilized. I should have dragged the hoses and watered. Hindsight is 20/20.

But, it doesn't escape me that we are still in the midst of the moment with young people and the pandemic. We can change the material conditions right now and change the trajectory of their growth. We can fertilize, we can mulch. There is still time for the young people *right now*. Working with young people, they can choose their own growth trajectory!

### **'23 Opportunity Youth Recovery Act**

It should come as no surprise, but the big picture thinkers are plentiful in our network. We held an initial (and well attended!) meeting with some partners to discuss the effectiveness and strategy about coalescing around one platform. And we decided to keep exploring! Reach out to Kristy or Matt Norris, Director of Policy for Youthprise: [matt@youthprise.org](mailto:matt@youthprise.org).

- If you want to engage *as an organization* to shape and support the work, sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/r/V9TT3tY6Qr>

Naturally, we cannot move forward on this without youth leadership to identify the priorities. We will be launching the **2023 Legislative OYN Policy Fellows**. We are thinking we will have three different phases—this opens up more opportunities for young people, as well as starting with a short commitment. Summer Session is 10 hours/ \$25/hour. Connect with Quincy with questions.

- Young people can apply here! **Priority given to those who apply by August 5.** <https://forms.office.com/r/tX8n6wEuwU>
  - **All “opportunity” youth are invited to apply!** We listed orgs that have their logos on our website as “official” members. You are still able to sign up as an “official” member—just sign up [here!](#)

## **Fostering Education**

We keep stumbling upon pockets of people that do not know, but the Fostering Independence Grants should not be Minnesota's best kept secret! **Young people who have been in foster care after the age of 13 (even if they returned to their families) have access to the free postsecondary up to the age of 27!** It really is that amazing. Life changing. And you should be saying it to everyone you have conversations with and connecting with every young person in your life. You can read more about it here:

<https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=2491>

DHS and OHE will be hosting a program FOR FOSTERS to get their questions answered on August 3 from 4-6. Please join if that is YOU and share widely! Click [HERE](#) for more info.

*Early reports in our work with DHS is that we are seeing double the amount of young people applying for postsecondary!* But there is WAY more young people that could be taking advantage of this benefit—so keep talking about this!

Augsburg University is still recruiting for their [Augsburg Family Scholars Program](#), one of the private institutions participating in the Fostering Independence Grants. So think of a young person who may benefit!

Our Fostering Education sprint is working hard to connect with the young people who fit that category that were put on academic suspension at Minneapolis College. We are reaching out to over 300 young people to let them know that the game has changed and welcome them back to school with new support. We are holding reframed workshops on August 2 & 16. Wish us luck!

## **Direct Cash Transfers as an Intervention to Lead to Housing Stability**

Quincy has facilitated four design workshops with about *60 young people* with lived experience of homelessness and one more workshop to go at Oasis for Youth in Bloomington on August 2. (Still time for young people with lived experience to sign up to participate [here](#).) Youth researchers will be aggregating and identifying the themes to bring back to smaller groups of young people to finalize the model that we will be using in Hennepin County.

Kristy is leading two adult-partner listening sessions. Feel free to join in! Young people with lived experience are designing the model, but we will be laying the context provided by practitioners and “old” leaders next to the design for young people to consider. [Share the flier](#) with your colleagues and [sign up here](#).

## **Recap Action Steps to Mulch Our Gardens!**

- 1) Engage in Policy Work. Your Org or have a few conversations with some young people who may need a push to get engaged and invite them to apply to be a Fellow!
- 2) Talk to three different unexpected people about the Fostering Independent Grants. Free College for Fostering Young Adults.... Up to age 27!

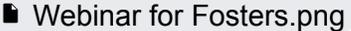
- 3) [Share the flier](#) on engaging in the Listening Sessions on the Trust Youth direct cash transfer pilot.

## Upcoming Events

### For Young People

7/29 @ 12:30-2:30 P.M @ The Minneapolis Events Center.: THIS FRIDAY: Bridgemakers, Minnesota Justice Research Center, The Link and Youthlink: FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: Addressing Race-Based Policing in Minneapolis  
<https://www.facebook.com/Youthprise/photos/a.249947775088702/5202642939819136>

7/29 @ 3 PM-10 PM: Bridgemakers National Youth Leadership Summit:  
 Register here: [bit.ly/bmnyls](http://bit.ly/bmnyls) More info here: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CgSc-GdAzc7/>

8/3 @ 4 PM: Webinar FOR FOSTERS about the NEW FREE POSTSECONDARY (College & Trade Schools!) Get your questions answered here! 

8/2: @ 12-4 PM at Oasis for Youth: Design Workshop for Direct Cash Transfers Project. Must have experience in homelessness. Register here:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e48a9ae28a4f9c25-direct>

### For “The Olds”

8/4: 8:30-Noon: Right Track Bus Tour: Come learn about the power of Right Track with the unique experience to visit some of our internship sites, hear from interns & employers, learn about the program impact, hear from elected officials, as well as learn how you can make an impact! Connect with Angie Tillges, [Angie.Tillges@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Angie.Tillges@ci.stpaul.mn.us) for more information or to attend.

### Listening Sessions for the Trust Youth Direct Cash Transfer Pilot

Register Here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e48a9ae28a4f9c25-direct1>

- 8/16 @ 9-11 a.m. *This is reserved for practitioners who work directly with young people.*
- 8/18 @ 3:30-5:30 p.m.

### Upcoming Steering Committee Dates

<b>July</b>		
28	Noon-2:30 p.m.; National Partners	Session 2: Vision of Results
29	10-Noon; Twin Cities Steering Committee	Results Statements
<b>August</b>		
18	Noon-2:30 p.m.; National Partners	Session 3: Foundation Building Blocks



With much love and growth,  
Kristy & Quincy

PS Yes, Kristy did grow that tomato heart in her garden in the midst of this drought.

PPS. If you are also mourning the end of July, take a listen to this song that has been on repeat for Kristy:

<https://genius.com/Crying-day-care-choir-july-lyrics>