



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER



FACT SHEET: My Brother's Keeper Second Anniversary

On February 27, 2014, in the East Room of the White House, President Barack Obama launched “My Brother’s Keeper” (MBK), a call to action to address persistent opportunity gaps facing boys and young men of color and ensure all young people can reach their full potential. The President’s vision found its roots in the idea that “my neighbor’s child is my child – that each of us has an obligation to give every child the same chance this country gave so many of us.” The President’s announcement encouraged candid dialogues around the country and a greater sense of responsibility among community leaders and young people themselves to put all youth in a position to thrive, regardless of their race, gender, or socioeconomic status.

Over the course of the past two years, efforts have advanced along three interdependent areas of focus based on the goals laid out in the MBK Presidential Memorandum: Place-Based State and Local Engagement (the MBK Community Challenge); Private-Sector Action (e.g. independent nonprofit, philanthropic and corporate action); and Public Policy review and reform (the work of the MBK Task Force).

Place-Based State and Local Engagement: The MBK Community Challenge

Since late September 2014, more than 200 mayors, tribal leaders, and county executives across 49 states, the District of Columbia, and 19 Tribal Nations have accepted the MBK Community Challenge (“Challenge”). These “MBK Communities” are working with leading experts in youth and community development to design and implement cradle-to-college-and-career action plans.

Within six months of accepting the Challenge, MBK Communities commit to review local public policy, host action summits, and implement their locally tailored action plans to address opportunity gaps. Local Action Summits and similar community-wide gatherings have taken place in the vast majority of these MBK Communities. More than 70 Local Action Plans have been released, and communities continue to finalize their plans.

Private-Sector Action: Business, Philanthropy, and Nonprofits

Foundations, businesses, and social enterprises have responded to the President’s call to action by taking steps to ensure that communities have the support they need, and by providing funding and advice for aligned national initiatives. More than \$500 million in non-federal grants and in-kind resources, and \$1 billion in low-interest financing via CDFIs, have been independently committed in alignment with MBK priorities. These funds include investments in safe and effective schools, mentoring programs, juvenile justice reforms and school redesign.

Policy: The Federal Response

The MBK Task Force has encouraged and tracked implementation of the recommendations outlined in the initial 90-day report issued in May 2014 (the Task Force Report). Those efforts have led to greater focus on federal investments that support evidence-based interventions. The federal government has also advanced its efforts to track quality data for boys and young men of color and their peers. The work of My Brother's Keeper is rooted in the following six milestones based on research that has identified key points on the path to adulthood that are especially predictive of later success and where interventions can have the greatest impact:

1. Entering school ready to learn
2. Reading at grade level by third grade
3. Graduating from high school ready for college and career
4. Completing postsecondary education or training
5. Successfully entering the workforce
6. Reducing violence and providing a second chance

The following are a few recent examples of MBK Task Force deliverables:

Equity in IDEA: In February, the Department of Education took a critical step toward addressing widespread disparities in the treatment of students of color with disabilities, proposing a new rule to improve equity in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

National Chronic Absenteeism Initiative: In February, the White House and the U.S. Department of Education announced two campaigns to address and eliminate chronic student absenteeism in this country: the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Success Mentors Initiative -- with 10 initial participating cities -- and a multi-million dollar Ad Council campaign to engage parents on this critical issue. These efforts are part of the federal "Every Student, Every Day" initiative, which aims to address and eliminate chronic absenteeism by at least 10 percent each year.

Rethinking School Discipline: In the summer of 2015, agencies in the MBK Task Force, led by the Department of Education, launched Rethink Discipline, a national campaign to reduce out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. The Task Force released a resource guide for superintendents, a root-cause analysis tool, visual analytics from the National Civil Rights Data Collection and hosted the White House Rethink Discipline convening for over 40 school districts working to reform existing discipline policies and practices.

Summer Opportunity Project: In February, the White House launched the Summer Opportunity Project, a multi-agency effort in partnership with the National Summer Learning Association and other collaborators, which aims to give young people access to their 'First Job,' and encourage investment in programs supporting summer meals and learning. In addition to multiple private sector commitments, such as LinkedIn's Small and Medium Business Engagement Tool, federal agencies are making significant contributions. For example, the Department of Labor announced a new \$20M funding opportunity to expand and enhance existing summer youth employment programs that lead to year-round work experience and lifetime career pathways.

Second Chance Pell Pilot Program: In July of 2015, the Departments of Education and Justice announced Second Chance Pell, a pilot program to test new models to allow incarcerated Americans to receive Pell Grants to support the pursuit of their postsecondary education.

Banning the Box in Federal Employment: In November, the President called on Congress to follow a growing number of states, cities, and private companies that have decided to "ban the box" on job applications and directed the Office of Personnel Management to take action where it can by modifying its rules to delay inquiries into criminal history until later in the hiring process.

Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program Awards to Support Public Housing Residents: In November, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in collaboration with the Department of Justice, announced it will provide \$1.75 million to aid eligible public housing residents under the age of 25 to expunge or seal their records. The National Bar Association committed to supplementing this program with 4,000 hours of pro bono legal services.