

The EdRedesign Lab | Results For America | StriveTogether
Letter of Invitation to Join
City Accelerator Community of Practice Pilot Program

February 1, 2026

Dear [City Leader] and [PBP Leader]

StriveTogether, The EdRedesign Lab at Harvard Graduate School of Education (EdRedesign), and Results for America would like to invite you to participate in the piloting of a **City Accelerator Community of Practice** because of your commitment to working across sectors with place-based partnerships to improve economic mobility outcomes in your community.

City Accelerator participants believe there is a need and opportunity to embed place-based partnerships in the delivery of local government services to support the scaling and acceleration of cradle-to-career (C2C) outcomes across cities, counties, and regions. Over the previous decade, we have seen a generation of flagship federal place-based policies that have invested in civic infrastructure to drive C2C outcomes (Choice Neighborhoods, Promise Neighborhoods, Full-Service Community Schools, etc.) along with states who have adopted place based strategies (i.e., ENOUGH Act in Maryland). And now more than ever there are efforts taking place at the city and county level that stand poised to become the next wave of exemplar public policies and public-private partnerships that will improve cradle-to-career outcomes for their communities.

The City Accelerator creates a community of practice and learning community for national partners to support local leaders and place-based partners to deliver on their local objectives to improve economic mobility outcomes for children and families in their communities.

This community of practice will be layered in two groups over the course of two years, starting in January of 2026, and occur in two phases.

- Phase 1: January 2026 to June 2026—Plan/Project definition and development
- Phase 2: July 2026 to December 2027—Project implementation

One group of communities are currently engaged with or have formalized projects and deliverables based on enacted policy that are ready to be implemented. Another group of communities pairs local public sector leaders with their place-based partnership to develop or build a project that will shift policy in support of economic mobility outcomes, but these communities are not yet in the implementation phase.

Based on conversations with your local StriveTogether network member, they have identified the following as a shared project for partnership and inclusion in the City Accelerator Community of Practice:

(Check one) ☐ Implement Policy
☒ Develop Policy Project

For documentation, please describe the nature of the policy/project and the outcomes you wish to achieve in a few sentences here:

[Network member inserts project description in a few sentences here]

StriveTogether, Results for America, and EdRedesign along with other national organizations are committed to support this community of practice by:

- Supporting PBPs and government partners in identifying their needs to successfully implement or develop their projects and providing technical assistance in support of implementation
- Hosting and facilitating monthly meetings, convening in-person meetings, and holding the container for accountability
- Covering costs associated with travel for network members and public sector leaders

By choosing to participate in the City Accelerator Community of Practice Pilot Program, both the place-based partnership and public sector leaders are committing to the following:

- Dedicating staff to a project team made up of a named lead from BOTH the PBP and City, who have been dedicated to devote the necessary time and energy to accomplish our policy goals as described above. They are charged with providing support for any assistance we receive from Strive Together, Results for America, and Harvard EdRedesign and will participate on regular calls and complete the necessary activities to implement our desired policy. A core project team of 2 staff and 2 support staff is recommended
- Committing to making a good faith effort to attend monthly community of practice calls or project team calls and attend two in person, all day convenings at the following:
 - StriveTogether Policy Summit, June 8 or 9, in Washington DC (2027 TBD)
 - StriveTogether National Convening, September 28th or 29, in Baltimore (2027 TBD)
- Inform all department directors on a regular basis about the priority of this work and that departments will be asked to assist in the effort, and when called upon to do so, that this is a priority of City Leadership. The City project lead will commit to briefing City leadership on the progress being made to achieve their state goal
- The City commits to working with the StriveTogether network member as the core partner for this project throughout the project timeline. Separation from the StriveTogether network member void participation in the City Accelerator Community of Practice Pilot Program
- To work together as needed to move their desired outcomes and project forward

If you agree to participate, please have the Executive Director of the place-based partnership and the Chief Elected Official of the local government partner (or their authorized agent- City Manager/Chief of Staff) sign below and return this letter to Shannon Powell, Director of Local Policy at StriveTogether at powells@strivetgether.org by [Insert Date]. Once received, you receive an invitation to a virtual introductory meeting to be held [insert date and time]

Public Official:

(Mayor/County Exec/City Admin or Manager)

StriveTogether Network:

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

StriveTogether, Results for America, and EdRedesign are grateful for your consideration to join the City Accelerator Community of Practice and we look forward to supporting your communities over the coming months and years.

Sincerely,

Josh Davis
VP of Policy and Partnerships, StiveTogether

Crump, Clifton

From: Vincent Lyles <vlyles@milwaukeeesucceeds.org>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 9:14 AM
To: Mahan, Steven
Cc: Crump, Clifton; Catina Harwell-Young
Subject: Opportunity to Boost the City's Youth Engagement

Good morning, Steve, I hope this note finds you doing well. Milwaukee Succeeds (MKES) is part of a national network called Strive Together (ST). ST has partnered with Results for America, a national think tank to organize an opportunity for Strive Partners and local government officials to learn from one another through a *Community of Practice* model. Each group has a project or two they are trying to develop and or expand upon. I thought what you and Ald Perez are trying to do to engage more Milwaukee youth could be a great opportunity to learn from other municipal leaders and other NGO's about how they have expanded their relationships and learn to work more effectively together on efforts to improve their communities. As noted in the materials, there are no costs other than time, both for the "practice sessions" and the opportunities to come together as a larger cohort. MKES/Greater Milwaukee Foundation would be prepared to financially support this effort, if necessary, so that both parties gain information and knowledge we can share within Emerging Youth Achievement Advisory Council (EYAAC) and more importantly across the community. Please review the attachment and let me know, how you would like to proceed, Clifton Crump (I assume) and I would be point on moving this project forward.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zgl5KZGsjpRvwMXS94MoEdDXraADlZyRyw2WkuQMc20/edit?usp=sharing_eil&invite=CKOI3o4G&ts=69a1c0ad&sh=J9o8b1XWNtHoG4ZS&ca=1

Crump, Clifton

From: Vincent Lyles <vlyles@milwaukeesucceeds.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 8:59 AM
To: Crump, Clifton
Subject: Youth Voice & City Partnership Opportunity Milwaukee Succeeds + City Accelerator Community of Practice Pilot Program.

Any update from Steve? I have called and left a message twice, thanks.

Milwaukee Succeeds seeks to partner with the Milwaukee Common Council President's Office and the Emerging Youth Council to strengthen youth engagement in City governance. This opportunity aligns with the Council President's priorities around community participation, shared leadership, and advancing equitable outcomes for Milwaukee's young people.

Background

Young people consistently express a desire to influence decisions that affect their education, safety, employment, and neighborhoods. However, formal pathways for youth voice within City government remain limited. Milwaukee Succeeds aims to work with the City to:

- Improve collaboration between the City and youth-serving organizations
- Establish structured opportunities for youth to serve on City committees, task forces, and councils
- Support youth influence over public resource allocation to improve outcomes for Milwaukee's youth

Participation in the **City Accelerator Community of Practice Pilot Program**, offered by **StriveTogether** and **Results for America**, provides national support, tools, and peer learning to help Milwaukee develop sustainable, youth-centered governance practices.

Opportunity

Through the Pilot Program, Milwaukee Succeeds and the City of Milwaukee will receive:

- Guidance from national partners (StriveTogether, Results for America, Harvard EdRedesign)
- A peer community of cities advancing youth voice in policy
- Support to integrate youth perspectives into budget, policy, and program decisions
- Two in-person convenings:
 - StriveTogether Policy Summit – June 8 or 9 (2027 TBD), Washington, D.C.
 - StriveTogether National Convening – September 28 or 29 (2027 TBD), Baltimore

Commitments Requested of the City

The Common Council President's Office, along with the City administration, would commit to:

1. Designating Project Staff

- A City lead and a Milwaukee Succeeds lead
- Core team: 2 primary staff + 2 support staff

2. Engagement & Participation

- Attend monthly community of practice calls and in-person convenings
- Collaborate actively with Milwaukee Succeeds throughout the project timeline

3. Internal Communication & Coordination

- Regular briefings for City leadership and department directors
- Ensure departments understand expectations and contribute when needed

4. Sustained Partnership

- Commitment to work with Milwaukee Succeeds as the core partner for the duration of the pilot program

Why This Matters for the Common Council

This opportunity supports Council leadership by:

- Elevating authentic youth voice in policymaking
- Strengthening public trust and civic participation
- Aligning City systems with youth needs and aspirations
- Advancing equitable governance and long-term youth outcomes
- Supporting the Council President's commitment to community-driven decision-making

Next Steps

Milwaukee Succeeds requests a conversation with the Council President's Office to:

- Confirm interest in participating
- Identify a City project lead
- Align on goals, timelines, and coordination across departments

City Accelerator Kick-off Agenda

StriveTogether June Policy Summit | June 10 – 12, 2026

City Accelerator Goals

- Support PBPs and government partners in identifying a cradle-to-career outcome to prioritize and scale across the city / jurisdiction.
 - Support PBPs and government partners in establishing working agreements, a co-governance model, and a strategy to scale priority C2C outcomes across their city.
 - Support PBPs and government partners in identifying and leveraging key funding streams that will support their strategies.
 - Build the capacity of local governments partnering with PBPs to fund, implement, and scale evidence-based C2C strategies.
 - Establish a community of practice that allows PBPs, government partners, and national partners to test and learn how backbone and government relationships can accelerate the achievement of cradle to career outcomes.
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Results for the Day:

- Participants are joined in the goal of City Accelerator.
- Participants learn about each others' work and identify opportunities for shared learning.
- Participants have the opportunity to shape the work and direction of the City Accelerator through December 2027.

Session 1

10:45am – 12:45pm ET

Time	Topic
10:45 – 10:55am ET 10 min	Opening & Framing <u>Result:</u> Participants are grounded in the day and know what to expect.
10:55 – 11:45am ET 50 min	Cohort Conversations <u>Result:</u> Participants are joined into their cohorts and have the opportunity to share and hear about their work from peers. Each participants will have 6 minutes to share their work, followed by 2 minutes for the group to ask clarifying questions: • Introduce yourself and your peers • What is the focus of your work through the City Accelerator? Who is your focus population and what outcome are you trying to change? • Who are the key stakeholders you are working with? That you need to establish relationships with? • What resources (staffing, funding, technical assistance, etc.) have you secured to advance this work? • What are some opportunities you see that can support your efforts?

	What are some barriers or challenges (political, technical capacity, resourcing, etc.) you are facing that can hinder progress? Group discussion
11:45am – 12pm ET 15 min	Large Group Share-out <u>Result:</u> The full City Accelerator group is aware of each cohort's focus area.
12 – 12:40pm ET 40 min	Team Reflection <u>Result:</u> Participants have an opportunity to co-design the work of the City Accelerator together.
12:40 – 12:45pm ET 5 min	Close out Session 1

Break for lunch

12:45 – 2:00pm ET

Session 2

2:00 – 4:00pm ET

Time	Topic
2 – 2:10pm ET 10 min	Welcome & open session
2:10 – 2:55pm ET 45 min	Peer Presentation: ImpactTulsa & the Role of a Backbone <u>Result:</u> Participants hear a real life example of work from one of their peers and have the opportunity to think about how lessons apply to their own work.
2:55 – 3:50pm ET 55 min	Theory of Change Workshop <u>Result:</u> By the end of ToC workshop, each partnership will have: - One shared priority outcome or project result. - A PBP theory of action. - A government theory of action. - One alignment gap or role clarity issue to resolve. - One 90-day joint test of change.
3:50 – 4pm ET 10 min	Close-out