



NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP  
FOR *Student Success*

# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE  
NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION

In early 2023, the National Partnership for Student Success (NPSS) launched a competitive RFP process for the Community Collaboration Challenge stipend/microgrant competition (made possible by the New York Life Foundation) in which representatives from 120 public agencies and nonprofit organizations applied for the Challenge. All applications underwent a rigorous screening process with review from NPSS Hub leaders and education and youth development experts.

While initially planning to grant 10-12 awards, we ultimately chose 21 organizations or agencies in communities in 19 different states to support them in hosting community connector events to bring diverse stakeholders together, identify assets and challenges, and set goals for implementing, improving, or expanding high-impact student supports for young people in their communities.

**21** AWARDEES

**19** STATES

**120+** APPLICANTS

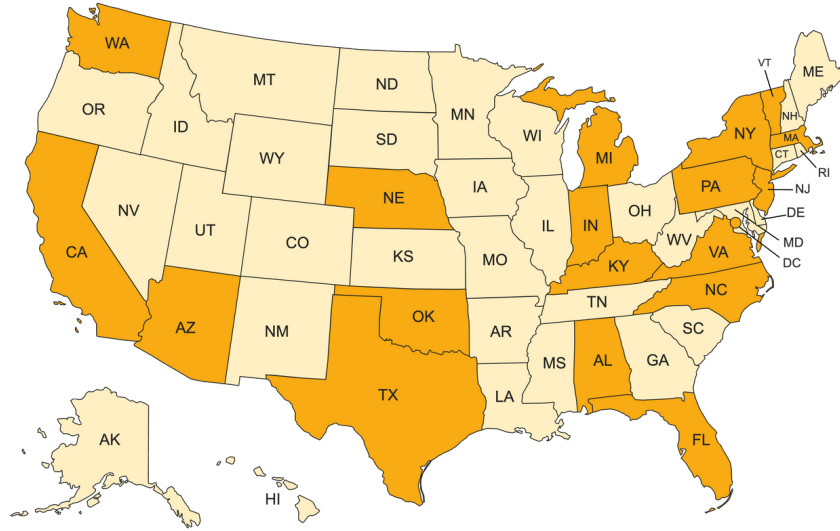
**1400+** ATTENDEES

**\$105K** IN AWARDS



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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE - OUTCOMES



STATE	PROGRAM CITY	ORGANIZATION
AL	Birmingham	Birmingham Education Foundation
AZ	Tempe	Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College
CA	San Jose	Innovate Public Schools — San Jose
DC	Washington	George Washington University
FL	Opa-locka	The Carrie Meek Foundation, Inc.
IN	Merrillville	Coastes Inc.
KY	Hazard	Teach for America Appalachia
MA	Boston	Boston Partners in Education
MI	Muskegon	Boys & Girls Club of Muskegon Lakeshore
NC	Elizabeth City	Elizabeth City - Pasquotank County Schools

NC	Greensboro	SHIELD Mentor Program
NE	Omaha	MENTOR Nebraska
NJ	Bridgeton	Hopeloft
NY	Buffalo	City Year Buffalo
OK	Tulsa	Growing Together
PA	Philadelphia	PHENND
TX	Pearland	HYPE Freedom School, Inc
TX	Cleburne	East Cleburne Community Center
VA	Glen Allen	Richmond Urban Collective
VT	Burlington	MENTOR Vermont
WA	Lynwood	Homage Senior Services



# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

## KEY INSIGHTS:

We were able to reach a large audience with 21+ events hosted, with several reaching in over 100 attendees ensuring impact in the thousands. All five NPSS support areas were covered across these events, some more focused on only one or two areas and some covering all five support areas. Anchoring this work in communities created much needed space and place for various organizations, voices, and stakeholders to come together and the need for collaboration was clear across numerous awardee experiences. Below are some quotes from Community Collaboration Challenge award recipients about the impact of their events.

“Given the success of the event in meeting our key objectives, there is a strong desire to hold more convenings of this nature, either virtually or in-person, to continue the conversations that were started during the symposium.”

“There was a collective sense that we can better support young Vermonters as a collective network than alone.”

“Teachers and community educators are eager to connect and collaborate.”

“We must strengthen the connection between schools/teachers and students’ families at home. The more we understand and address what students are facing when they leave campus, the better we can address the full scope of their needs.”



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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** Alabama

**Organization:** Birmingham Education  
Foundation

**Support Areas:** Tutors, Mentors, Student  
Success Coaches

**Event Date:** 08/31/23

**Number of Attendees:** 105

## EVENT INSIGHTS:

During the Birmingham Education Foundation's first-ever Ed Day at Hayes K-8 School, community providers from various organizations that focus on providing NPSS aligned supports to students participated in a partner fair where parents, guardians, students, and teachers learned about student support resources available in their community. The event also featured a conversation with the Ed Team about the key takeaways and data gathered during the 2022-2023 Engagement Campaign with Hayes K-8, following the launch of their wrap-around service program, the Education Innovation Initiative (EII). "Parents at Hayes have a deep desire to stay engaged, but the school does not provide those opportunities, and the Hayes/Ed partnership is crucial to sustaining parent engagement."



# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** Arizona

**Organization:** The Next Education Workforce™ Initiative at Arizona State University's Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College

**Support Areas:** Tutors, Mentors, Student Success Coaches, Post-Secondary Transition Coaches, Wraparound/Integrated Student Support Coordinators

**Event Date:** 11/01/23

**Number of Attendees:** 49

## EVENT INSIGHTS:

The Community Collaboration Summit was planned in collaboration with local community leaders from diverse fields including educators, district leaders, tribal leaders, and community educators from businesses, community organizations, and local Yuma industries. Attendees shared their excitement and interest in making this an annual event to bring together local champions of community-to-school partnerships. This event was just a starting point for a shared interest in connecting and bringing together Yuma community members interested in amplifying efforts to connect more community educators to support students and teachers. “Teachers and community educators are eager to connect and collaborate.”





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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** California

**Organization:** Innovate Public Schools — San Jose

**Support Areas:** Tutors, Mentors

**Event Date:** 12/07

**Number of Attendees:** 69

## EVENT INSIGHTS:

Innovate’s Tutoring Campaign Celebration was part of their larger, statewide strategy to make no-cost, high-quality tutoring accessible to Black, Brown, and low-income students to address the compounding impact of pandemic learning loss with the event serving as a connector to help the public understand findings from Year 1 of the pilot run by the San Jose Public Library. The event enabled Innovate Public Schools to build the capacity of parent leaders, the Library, service providers, elected officials, and the general public with concrete quantitative and qualitative data and evidence that can make a compelling case for the need for public dollars to be allocated to providing no-cost, high-quality tutoring to San Jose students, thereby helping to increase these supports. “While there are areas for improvement for the pilot (including around data collection), the findings from Year 1 signal that high-quality tutoring WORKS.”





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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** Washington, DC

**Organization:** George Washington University’s Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service

**Support Areas:** Tutors

**Event Date:** 9/12/2023

**Number of Attendees:** 75



## **EVENT INSIGHTS:**

“Partnering to Sustain High-Impact Tutoring: A Sharing and Working Meeting” brought together representatives from higher education institutions, community

tutoring providers, District of Columbia Public Schools, the Office of the State Superintendent for Education, and philanthropic organizations to engage in a series of panels and discussions related to expanding, improving, and funding evidence-based high-impact tutoring programs. Panels engaged experts and exemplars to demonstrate the quantitative and qualitative impact, discuss best practices and barriers, and consider the sustainability of these programs moving forward. Deputy Secretary of Education Cindy Marten provided remarks emphasizing the importance of these programs on student achievement. Local attendees expressed their interest in continuing to develop these partnerships in order to support student achievement in DC. “The importance of intentional partnerships between organizations was highlighted; exemplar programs described multi-faceted partnerships as critical to address challenges and tackle all aspects of program delivery including design, implementation, tutor recruitment, training, curriculum, and data collection and assessment.”



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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** Florida

**Organization:** The Carrie Meek Foundation, Inc.

**Support Areas:** Tutors, Mentors, Student Success Coaches

**Event Date:** 10/27/23

**Number of Attendees:** 75

## EVENT INSIGHTS:

The Florida City Student Success Summit, hosted by the Carrie Meek Foundation, convened nonprofit leaders, government officials, parents, youth, and education advocates who care about developing a holistic support and service delivery network for students. The Summit's highlight was the opening plenary discussion, where participants connected directly with leaders impacting student success outcomes in Florida City. "We must strengthen the connection between schools/teachers and students' families at home. The more we understand and address what students face when they leave campus, the better we can address the full scope of their needs."





# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE - OUTCOMES

State: Indiana

Organization: Coates Inc.

Support Areas: Post-Secondary Transition Coaches

Event Date: 10/21/23

Number of Attendees: 58

## EVENT INSIGHTS:

The goal of this event was to facilitate and encourage meaningful partnerships to help students in northwest Indiana make informed career choices and begin conversations about expanding internship and career exposure events to more students in the community. This critical work will be sustained through the continued work of members of the community collaborative and its focus on the state of Indiana's goal of at least 60% of Hoosiers completing a quality credential. "The youth in the community want to be heard and placed into spaces that allow them to plan for their peers."





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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** Kentucky

**Organization:** Teach For America Appalachia

**Support Areas:** Tutors, Student Success Coaches, Post-Secondary Transition Coaches

**Event Date:** 10/20/2023

**Number of Attendees:** 19

## **EVENT INSIGHTS:**

The 2X Hub Symposium brought together school leaders from the 2X Collaborative, professors from a local community college, Teach For America Appalachia fellows, and other stakeholders. The overarching goal of the event was to foster meaningful

collaboration amongst the attendees, specifically the school leaders, centered around the impact goal that by 2030 twice as many students in Appalachian communities reach educational milestones, indicating they are on a path to economic mobility and a future filled with possibility. “Given the event's success in meeting our key objectives, there is a strong desire to hold more convenings of this nature, either virtually or in-person, to continue the conversations that were started during the symposium.”





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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** Massachusetts

**Organization:** Boston Partners in Education

**Support Areas:** Tutors, Mentors, Student Success Coaches, Post-Secondary Transition Coaches, Wraparound/ Integrated Student Support Coordinators

**Event Date:** 10/06/23

**Number of Attendees:** 61

## **EVENT INSIGHTS:**

This gathering of Boston Public Schools staff, leadership, families, and nonprofit partners at the central office of BPS included a fair of school partners so that attendees could understand how they support students and schools, remarks from district leadership, and workshops

about mentoring and equitable literacy and how to get involved in supporting students in and out of the classroom. “By providing more opportunities for these constituents to learn more about how to effectively support children, either formally or informally, the better we will be able to mobilize our community to increase student success.”





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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE - OUTCOMES

State: Michigan

Organization: Boys & Girls Club of Muskegon Lakeshore

Support Areas: Tutors, Mentors

Event Date: 9/26/23

Number of Attendees: 7

## EVENT INSIGHTS:

The Boys & Girls Club of Muskegon Lakeshore held a Youth Livability Lab, connecting organizations, schools, churches, community members, and youth. Teams were formed to complete “100 Day Challenges” to make an impact in 100 days, strengthening the connection between students and schools, giving students a voice in their

communities, and creating the space and place for students to have an impact on their educational needs. Key relationships were formed which will help increase student supports available to students in this community. “We want to support youth and young adults to tell us what matters to you, and support you in 100 day challenges led by youth.”





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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** North Carolina

**Organization:** Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County schools

**Support Areas:** Tutors, Mentors, Student Success Coaches

**Event Dates:** 7/10-7/11/23 | 07/27/2023

**Number of Attendees:** 130 | 25

## **EVENT INSIGHTS:**

This two day event included a student panel, breakout sessions, and stakeholder feedback sessions. Participants drafted vision statements to help guide authors of the strategic plan and smaller groups were formed to begin crafting the plan based on district data and stakeholder feedback. The remainder of the funds were formed to begin crafting the plan

based on district data and stakeholder feedback. The remainder of the funds were used on further meetings related to planning where district leadership met to draft the vision and mission for the new strategic plan, addressing how to help improve student academic performance. “We came to an understanding that we have to reimagine education. Education does not look the same for each child. There must be multiple paths available for students.”



# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** North Carolina

**Organization:** SHIELD Mentor Program

**Support Areas:** Mentors

**Event Date:** 10/28/23

**Number of Attendees:** 28

## EVENT INSIGHTS:

The "Catalyzing Pathways: Youth Mentorship Evolution Beyond the Pandemic" event, facilitated by the SHIELD Mentor Program, was a transformative initiative designed to reshape the mentorship landscape in the face of unprecedented

challenges. The event served as a dynamic opportunity to catalyze collaboration, bridge perspectives, and forge meaningful connections among diverse stakeholders and in so doing enabled key relationships to be formed which are necessary for increasing NPSS student support. “Building confidence and fostering a growth mindset, recognizing the significance of collaboration among service providers, and acknowledging the complexity of the issues at hand are foundational.”



# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

State: Nebraska

Organization: MENTOR Nebraska

Support Areas: Mentors

Event Date: 10/07/23

Number of Attendees: 40

## EVENT INSIGHTS:

The goal of this event was to uplift the community, especially mentoring programs and schools, to support LGBTQIA2S+ youth in Omaha. It was important to have the youth voice embedded into the design of the event, so planning included 4 LGBTQIA2S+ youth.

Attendees identified ways mentoring programs and schools can make mentoring feel more accessible to LGBTQIA2S+ youth and the kinds of barriers that need to be overcome to make that happen. MENTOR Nebraska will offer cost-free technical assistance to any mentoring program that wishes to incorporate these changes into their programming. “Learnings included valuable insights into creating mentorship programs that emphasize the importance of flexibility, inclusivity, and empowering mentees in the mentorship dynamic.”





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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** New Jersey

**Organization:** Hopeloft

**Support Areas:** Tutors, Mentors, Student Success Coaches, Post-Secondary Transition Coaches, Wraparound/Integrated Student Support Coordinators

**Event Date:** 10/20-10/21/2023

**Number of Attendees:** 35

## EVENT INSIGHTS:

This two-day event served as the kickoff to the "Community as a Campus Collaboration." The purpose of the convening was to kick-off a formal collaborative that includes multiple partners including the City of Bridgeton, Rowan College of South Jersey, area schools, the Prosecutor's Office, AmeriCorps, United Advocacy Group, Give Back, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and several other partners to map out a plan for a city-wide campaign to enroll youth into area programs, opportunities, and services for youth.

The event culminated in a commitment to enter into formal agreements between the partners; to adopt a collective impact framework; and to meet six times a year to progress the effort. "We can do better as a community to nurture program participants into program leaders through the development of a formal leadership training program."







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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** New York

**Organization:** City Year Buffalo

**Support Areas:** Tutors, Mentors, Student Success Coaches, Post-Secondary Transition Coaches, Wraparound/ Integrated Student Support Coordinators

**Event Date:** 10/27/23

**Number of Attendees:** 65

## **EVENT INSIGHTS:**

City Year Buffalo hosted Building your Educational Equity Toolkit, a social-emotional-based conference. The day featured an overview of how City Year effectively utilizes student success coaches as near-peer mentors with the students they serve in their partner schools. City Year Buffalo established a partnership

with SUNY Erie Community College in hosting and planning the event, and are continuing the partnership through recruitment efforts for their AmeriCorps program, increasing NPSS student support. "One of the most valuable parts of the conference was being able to hear from so many different professionals in the industry."



# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** Oklahoma

**Organization:** Growing Together

**Support Areas:** Tutors, Mentors, Student Success Coaches, Wraparound/  
Integrated Student Support Coordinators

**Event Date:** 9/27/23

**Number of Attendees:** 150

## **EVENT INSIGHTS:**

This event brought together partners connected to four schools, all of which are in the process of becoming full-service community schools. The event served three primary purposes: to provide youth-serving organizations an opportunity to connect and build synergy around common goals and challenges; to inform community members about the community



school strategy, particularly the collaborative leadership component, and to unite partners around common needs for data sharing and using data-driven collaborative decision making, enabling more student supports to be delivered to the community. “Multiple partners identified a goal to better collaborate with city-wide leaders of data strategies related to equitable youth outcomes.”



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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** Pennsylvania

**Organization:** PHENND

**Support Areas:** Post-Secondary Transition Coaches

**Event Date:** 06/01/23 | 10/23/23

**Number of Attendees:** 90, 77

## EVENT INSIGHTS:

PHENND's K-16 Partnership Network, in partnership with the School District of Philadelphia, explored ways in which school-based partners are providing support to high school students in this era of lingering effects of the pandemic, gun violence, political polarization, and other external challenges. Attendees at the day-long convening included representatives from schools, community-based organizations, city government, state financial aid agencies, higher education and more. The second connector event, the PHENND Fall Institute on Partnerships for Post-secondary success focused on post-secondary readiness and student success coaching for students in the School District of Philadelphia (SDP). Presenters shared important information on how to access school district data and reports, models of current successful partnerships and how the District's Office of Pathways to Graduation is working to position students for college and career success. "Working across programs and collectives to ensure that students have what they need to meet Pennsylvania's new graduation requirements, particularly those involving externships, internships and work experiences."



# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** Texas

**Organization:** HYPE Freedom School, Inc.

**Support Areas:** Tutors, Mentors, Student Success Coaches, Post-Secondary Transition Coaches, Wraparound/ Integrated Student Support Coordinators

**Event Date:** 9/26/2023

**Number of Attendees:** 42

## EVENT INSIGHTS:

This connector event included a presentation on the history and background of HYPE Freedom Schools Program, the CDF model, and HYPE, and was followed by a cooperative group activity discussion that covered the Iceberg Framework and Principles of Mental Models (patterns and trends that contribute to underlying or system structures) and a presentation on the barriers and facilitators to student success including risk and protective factors (ACES and PACES). The event created a shared focus and commitment among participants to youth outcomes which can be advanced with NPSS supports. “The perspective of the needs of students differs from organization to organization based on the lens that they are working through.”





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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

State: Texas

Organization: East Cleburne Community Center

Support areas: Post-Secondary Transition Coaches, Tutors, Mentors, Student Success Coaches, Wraparound/ Integrated Student Support Coordinators

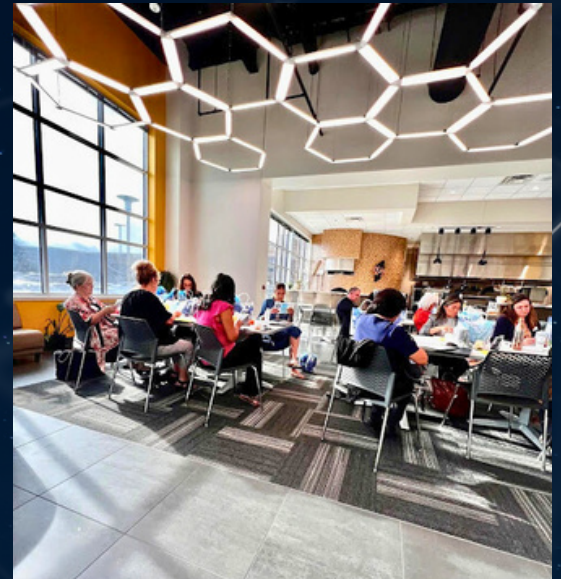
Event Date: 9/21/2023

Number of Attendees: 23

## EVENT INSIGHTS:

The East Cleburne Community Center’s Collaborative Community Leadership Conference provided an opportunity for non-profits, higher education staff, and Cleburne Independent School District's staff to come together to share community and student data as a needs assessment in order to create a plan to help low income families and students in at-risk

situations improve academic performance, mental health, chronic absenteeism, and the student drop-out rate. The goals set for the collaboration conference were met and a follow-up plan was agreed upon to expand the Cleburne Academic Achievement Now (CAAN) Program from serving just grades 3-5 to grades 6-8. Cleburne ISD agreed to provide additional facilities for the expansion of the program. “A five year strategic plan is being developed with these community leaders to implement additional expansion programs for the CAAN Program that includes a Character Development Summer Academy and a STEM Summer Camp just to mention a few.”





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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

State: Virginia

Organization: Richmond Urban Collective

Support Areas: Tutors, Mentors

Event Date: 10/03/23

Number of Attendees: 51

## EVENT INSIGHTS:

Richmond Urban Collective's Community Connect event convened members of the community, the Petersburg School Board, district staff, local colleges, and nonprofits who provide a form of student

support for public school students. Some of the key highlights included how to get technical assistance locally, how to dedupe program and funding efforts for after school and out of school youth activities, and how to access information and upcoming grant opportunities from NPSS where available. "Our goal is to continue a collaborative relationship with the Urban League of Greater Richmond to expand student support with overlap on our parent programming."





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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

State: Vermont

Organization: MENTOR Vermont

Support Areas: Mentors

Event Date: 10/18/23

Number of Attendees: 46

## EVENT INSIGHTS:

MENTOR Vermont hosted the 8th annual Vermont Mentoring Symposium. This event is the only mentoring-specific professional development opportunity in Vermont, providing a valuable opportunity for youth mentoring

professionals to come together, share knowledge, learn together, connect, and celebrate the field. MENTOR Vermont hosted a range of youth-serving individuals, including staff from the Vermont Department for Children & Families (the DCF Commissioner provided opening remarks), new mentoring program coordinators who have just joined the mentoring field, community leaders who are interested in bringing youth mentoring to their community but don't currently have a local program, elementary school staff, MENTOR Vermont board members, and state legislators, all focused on increasing supports for youth. "There was a collective sense that we can better support young Vermonters as a collective network than alone."





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# 2023 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE – OUTCOMES

**State:** Washington

**Organization:** Homage Senior Services

**Support Areas:** Tutors, Mentors

**Event Date:** 08/17/2023

**Number of Attendees:** 80

## **EVENT INSIGHTS:**

Homage helped their partner Seattle School District hold a one-day event to help attract more black volunteers to their classrooms. The school district, the city's Director of Senior services, numerous youth group programs, the state commission

on African American affairs, various advocacy group members, and others joined the event. Attendees shared they feel it is important to strengthen intergenerational supports for students in Seattle's Black community. “Many groups cross over on occasion but not often enough and many people had no idea what kind of work was happening in the community.”







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