

Policy & Advocacy Assessment

Intermediaries are uniquely positioned to recognize policy gaps and barriers that prevent implementation and scaling of high quality and equitable pathways initiatives. As a result, intermediaries play an important role in educating and informing policymakers. Having a clear policy agenda and supporting strategy allows intermediaries to take advantage of existing opportunities to the fullest and, when necessary, help create others through advocacy and influence.

Assess where you think your organization is in terms of building out or delivering on each function to build Pathways that positively impact Black and Latinx youth and youth experiencing poverty using the following scale. Review individual responses and/or average your response to inform strategy and next steps for your organization.

N/A	The work related to this condition or activity has not yet begun.
(1) Initiating	<p>The status of, or work related to, this condition or activity can be described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad hoc/Informal • Uncoordinated with and/or loosely connected to other activities • Occurring irregularly/inconsistently • Not operating at scale and/or having narrow/limited impact
(2) Developing	<p>The status of, or work related to, this condition or activity can be described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somewhat formalized • Partially coordinated with and/or connected to other activities • Occurring occasionally or with some regularity • Narrow/limited in scale and/or having an uneven impact
(3) Demonstrating	<p>The status of, or work related to, this condition or activity can be described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalized / Strategic • Highly coordinated with and/or tightly connected to most other activities • Occurring systematically • Operating at scale and with measurable / observable impact

Question 1:

Your organization has a mechanism, such as through staff or consultants, to regularly track local, state, and/or federal policies or policy proposals relevant to your work.

- 0 – N/A
- 1 – Initiating
- 2 – Developing
- 3 – Demonstrating

Question 2:

Your organization has a mechanism or staff capacity to assess existing or proposed local, state, and/or federal policies for their current or potential impact on racial equity, your work, and the populations and communities you serve.

- 0 – N/A
- 1 – Initiating
- 2 – Developing
- 3 – Demonstrating

Question 3:

Your organization is aware of and understands different policy coalitions, stakeholders, and political interests at work in its ecosystem that influence that policy context.

- 0 – N/A
- 1 – Initiating
- 2 – Developing
- 3 – Demonstrating

Question 4:

Your organization has a policy agenda or policy priorities list that is relevant to your work and that strives to benefit Black and Latinx youth and other communities that have not received equitable investments from the government or the private sector.

- 0 – N/A
- 1 – Initiating
- 2 – Developing
- 3 – Demonstrating

Question 5:

Your organization has a strategy to enlist and collaborate with external partners and stakeholders to understand their perspectives on policy issues, and to inform the development of your organization's policy priorities and positions, especially those that most impact Black and Latinx youth and youth experiencing poverty. Partners and external stakeholders may include youth, students, families, educators, and other community-based organizations that serve high-need communities.

- 0 – N/A
- 1 – Initiating
- 2 – Developing
- 3 – Demonstrating

Question 6:

Your organization has staff with clear understanding of effective strategies for engaging in local, state, and/or federal advocacy, and they act upon those strategies.

- 0 – N/A
- 1 – Initiating
- 2 – Developing
- 3 – Demonstrating

Question 7:

Your organization directly engages with local, state, and/or federal policymakers and elected officials (e.g., meeting in-person or virtually with elected officials, calling, emailing, writing letters, presenting oral testimonies).

- 0 – N/A
- 1 – Initiating
- 2 – Developing
- 3 – Demonstrating

Question 8:

Your organization shares lessons it learns in the field with local, state, and/or federal policymakers (e.g., developing communications strategy, leading social media campaigns, writing opinion or editorial pages).

- 0 – N/A
- 1 – Initiating
- 2 – Developing
- 3 – Demonstrating

Question 9:

Your organization is connected to, and regularly partners with, other stakeholders to advocate as a coalition for policies that advance common interests, including policies and solutions to support Black and Latinx youth and youth experiencing poverty.

- 0 – N/A
- 1 – Initiating
- 2 – Developing
- 3 – Demonstrating

Question 10:

Your organization has staff with the knowledge and skills to effectively implement or act on existing policies relevant to its role and context.

- 0 – N/A
- 1 – Initiating
- 2 – Developing
- 3 – Demonstrating

Question 11:

Your organization helps ensure that communities and partners receive, equitably distribute, and make the best use of grants available from federal, state, and local programs to ensure that vulnerable and systemically neglected populations are supported, including Black and Latinx youth and youth experiencing poverty.

- 0 – N/A
- 1 – Initiating
- 2 – Developing
- 3 – Demonstrating

Question 12:

Your organization uses its convening power to promote and create combined state plans across multiple federal programs (e.g., the Every Student Success Act, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act for the 21st Century, or the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act).

- 0 – N/A
- 1 – Initiating
- 2 – Developing
- 3 – Demonstrating