

# Mentoring Youth for Leadership Overview



## When our youth thrive, our cities thrive.

Leadership Foundations (LF) has a commitment to serving our youngest and most vulnerable citizens. Since 2015, LF has provided caring, consistent mentors to youth at-risk of contact with the juvenile justice system in over 30 cities, **impacting over 2,000 kids each year.**

Mentoring Youth for Leadership builds upon the strengths of young people, to help kids see themselves as leaders- capable of healthy personal decision-making, positively influencing their peers, and making a difference in their communities. Youth participating in the Initiative see **significant results in their grades, improved relationships with parents, and increase in prosocial behaviors**- to include 49% of youth showing an increase in leadership skills. And while these young people face significant challenges, less than 1% had contact with the justice system after enrolling in the program.

One study estimates that the human potential lost as a result of the educational achievement gap is the economic equivalent of a permanent national recession. By preparing youth for college and careers, mentoring helps develop the future workplace talent pipeline. **Investing in Mentoring Youth for Leadership is an investment in the future of a young person as well as the very future of our cities.**

## Youth With A Mentor Are:



**130%**

more likely to  
hold leadership  
positions.



**55%**

more likely to be  
enrolled in  
college.



**78%**

more likely to  
volunteer  
regularly.

# MYL National Summit

After convening over 50 leaders from across the country in 2023, we saw first-hand the value of regular in-person events. The Summit went beyond what our monthly digital convenings can offer, bringing a dynamic and immersive experience that provided opportunity for experiential learning along with genuine relationship and community building. The impact has lasted far beyond the gathering, with leaders equipped to go back and transfer this learning into their cities.



## Summit & Network Reach

- 50+ Leaders from  
24 Organizations that serve:
- 2,000+ youth
  - 550+ adult mentors



## Summit Content

Research Backed Training  
Leadership Development  
Peer Sharing  
Innovation Sessions  
Financial Counseling



Mentor and mentee in Jackson, Mississippi

We have a commitment to developing leadership in MYL network staff who lead our programs. This group is largely made up of first time leaders, with the majority of them being female or people of color, groups that often don't receive this type of investment. Some studies have shown that up to 60% of these leaders did not receive any training before transitioning into their leadership role. We address this gap through targeted leadership development opportunities at the Summit on top of our ongoing training and coaching.



MYL Leadership Team at 2023 MYL Summit



## Leadership Focus

- 92% developed leadership skills via LF's support  
54% want more leadership development training