

Oakland-Alameda County Alliance for Boys and Men of Color

California Alliance for Boys and Men of Color

The Alliance for Boys and Men of Color includes change agents from across the state of California who are committed to improving the life chances of California's boys and young men of color. The Alliance includes youth, community organizations, foundations, and systems leaders from education, public health, law enforcement and economic development. The Alliance is active at the local and state levels, with a particular focus on Oakland, Los Angeles, and Fresno.

Alliance for Boys and Men of Color Goals

The Alliance is working to ensure that California's boys and young men of color are:

- ▶ Are physically and mentally healthy;
- ▶ Live in safe neighborhoods;
- ▶ Succeed in school and work; and
- ▶ Possess the knowledge, skills, and leadership capacity to contribute to communities, and the state's social and economic well being.

Oakland –Alameda County Alliance for Boys and Men of Color

The Boys and Men of Color work in **Oakland** is focused on convening Oakland and Alameda County public systems and non-profit leaders to develop their support and an action agenda for working together to achieve the goals of the Boys and Men of Color (BMoC) Initiative.

Oakland –Alameda County Boys and Men of Color Goals

Goals for Oakland Boys and Men of Color include significantly improving:

- ▶ Educational outcomes including academic performance, graduation and readiness for careers and/or post-secondary education;
- ▶ Participation in the labor force in "high quality" jobs and careers; and
- ▶ Utilization of a fully-integrated "health home" that improves health outcomes.

Public Systems Leadership Table:

The Public Systems Leadership Table is comprised of Alameda County and City of Oakland public systems leaders and TCE staff. This table will implement several projects throughout the span of the BMoC initiative. The first project is focusing on supporting 100% graduation for all BMoC in Oakland through support for full service community schools. Objectives of this project include:

- ▶ 95+% attendance for all students
- ▶ Meaningful internship or paid employment for all high school students
- ▶ 100% access and appropriate use of health care and social services by OUSD students

Oakland –Alameda County Boys and Men of Color Partners:

Systems Leaders

- ▶ Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
- ▶ Alameda County Probation Department
- ▶ Alameda County Social Services Agency
- ▶ Oakland Unified School District
- ▶ Oakland Human Services Department
- ▶ Oakland Police Department
- ▶ Oakland Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Oakland Community Partners

- ▶ Allen Temple Baptist Church
- ▶ Asian Pacific Islander Youth Promoting Advocacy (APAYL)
- ▶ East Bay Asian Youth Center
- ▶ East Oakland Building Healthy Communities
- ▶ Black Organizing Project
- ▶ Ella Baker Center
- ▶ Intertribal Friendship House
- ▶ Oakland Community Organizations
- ▶ Oakland Schools Foundation
- ▶ Street Level Health Project
- ▶ The Unity Council
- ▶ The Mentoring Center
- ▶ Village-Connect
- ▶ Youth Uprising
- ▶ Youth Alive

Regional Convener

- ▶ Urban Strategies Council

The California Endowment Staff

Statewide Partners

- ▶ Fenton Communications
- ▶ Movement Strategy Center
- ▶ PolicyLink
- ▶ Warren Institute

In addition to high school graduation, the Leadership Table is working on inter-agency data sharing; a BMoC portfolio highlighting evidence-based policies, practices and programs to improve outcomes for BMoC; development of a system of individualized education and wellness plans for boys of color; and economic and workforce development programs.

Community Partners' Table:

The Oakland Boys and Men of Color Community Partners' Table is composed of nonprofits and faith groups committed to improving life outcomes for African American, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Native BMoC in **Oakland**. The table has identified several opportunities for action in Oakland in the areas of:

Education

- ▶ Implementing Full Service Community Schools as vehicles for improving education and health outcomes for boys of color
- ▶ Reducing school push-out, drop-out and suspension by reforming discipline policies and practices to emphasize restorative justice practices, trauma-informed interventions and culturally appropriate youth development programs

Criminal and Juvenile Justice

- ▶ Advocating for criminal and juvenile justice reform under California's criminal justice realignment laws (AB109)

Workforce Development and Employment

- ▶ Leveraging public employment and procurement policies to create business and job opportunities for boys and men of color
- ▶ Creating quality employment for BMoC through creation of alternative business models which build community wealth and ownership
- ▶ Linking economic development projects to requirements for job creation for BMoC

In addition to the collective work, partners also conduct individual organizational work related to boys and men of color. Examples include: the Unity Council has implemented a mentoring program for Latino males to increase their access to and usage of health care services through school-based health clinics; the Oakland Unified School District has implemented Manhood Development Programs for African American male students at several middle and high schools; Alameda County Health Care Services Agency has implemented an Emergency Medical Technician Program, drawing from youth involved in the juvenile justice system, which guarantees employment with the local EMT provider upon completion of the program and state certification.

Joining Community Partners and Public Systems:

In addition to coordinated work that each of the BMoC tables engages in, the Initiative looks forward to joint projects and efforts. The first such effort is joint work on a community communication plan to more effectively communicate within public systems and organizations, across communities of colors, and to the public and policy makers the importance of improving the outcomes for BMoC and to actively contribute to changing the narrative around BMoC to include stories about their many successes and contributions to family, community and society.

Urban Strategies Council's Role:

To support our public systems and community partners to build a local, regional and statewide network of organizations and individuals committed to improving outcomes for BMoC through policy advocacy and systems reform.

For more information contact Alicia Olivarez, Program Associate, Urban Strategies Council at (510) 893-1379 or alicio@urbanstrategies.org or visit <http://www.urbanstrategies.org/bmoc/bmoc.php>