

New Jersey's Opportunity

Presentation to

COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY GRANTMAKERS

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Opportunity Youth (OY) are characterized by:

Defining features:

- Not in school
- Not in work
- Over-aged (16-21)
- Under-credited/
off-track for graduation

Typical qualities:

- High Poverty
- Gang-Related
- Court-Involved
- Parents themselves
- Homeless

History of School Failure:

- High Absenteeism
- Behavior Challenges
- Poor Academic Performance

Yet Opportunity Youth represent
society's greatest untapped asset
which we can leverage to everyone's benefit.

Opportunity Youth

Search documents and file names for text



5,252,896*

YOUTH
BETWEEN 16-24

Represents 13.2
Percent of All US
Youth Aged 16-24



118,177 *

YOUTH
BETWEEN 16-24

Represents 11.4
Percent of All
New Jersey Youth
Aged 16-24



Estimated
8,195**

YOUTH
BETWEEN 16-24

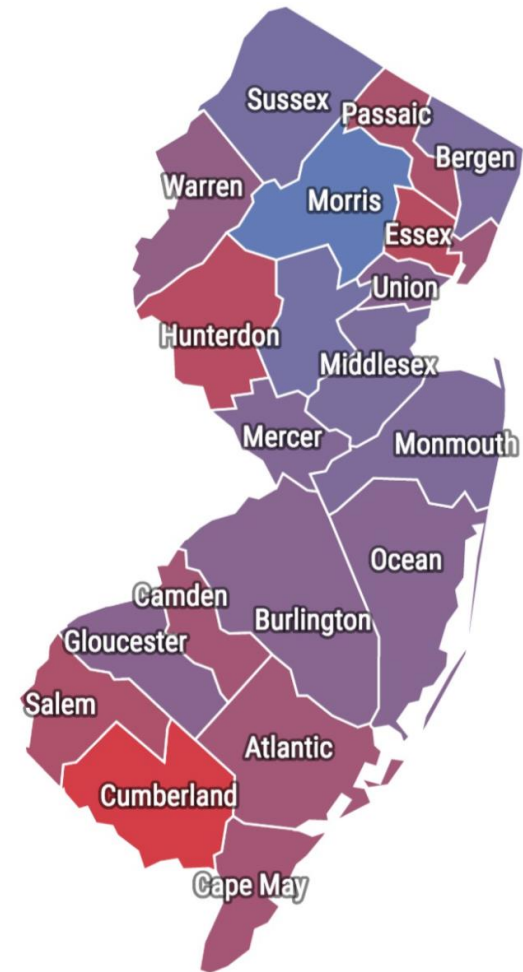
Represents 19.3
Percent of All
Newark Youth
Aged 16-24

* Source: Opportunity Youth Index:<http://opportunityindex.org/#4.00/40.00/-97.00/>

Opportunity Youth by County

Percent of County and State Opportunity Youth *

Atlantic	14.8	Middlesex	9.9
Bergen	9.8	Monmouth	10.1
Burlington	11.4	Morris	6.6
Camden	15	Ocean	11.3
Cape May	15.1	Passaic	16
Cumberland	21.2	Salem	16.6
Essex	17.5	Somerset	8.9
Gloucester	11.6	Sussex	9.2
Hudson	14.2	Union	11.6
Hunterdon	17.4	Warren	12.8
Mercer	10.7	New Jersey	11.4

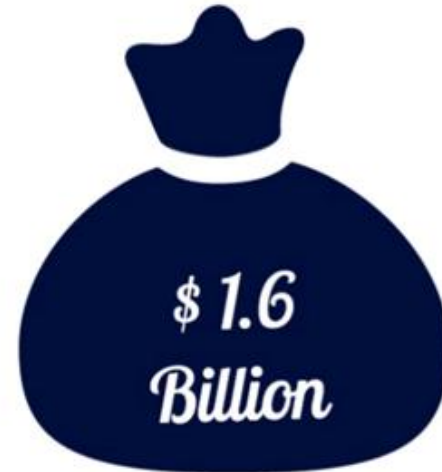


* Source: Opportunity Youth Index: <http://opportunityindex.org/#4.00/40.00/-97.00/>

Opportunity Youth Burden



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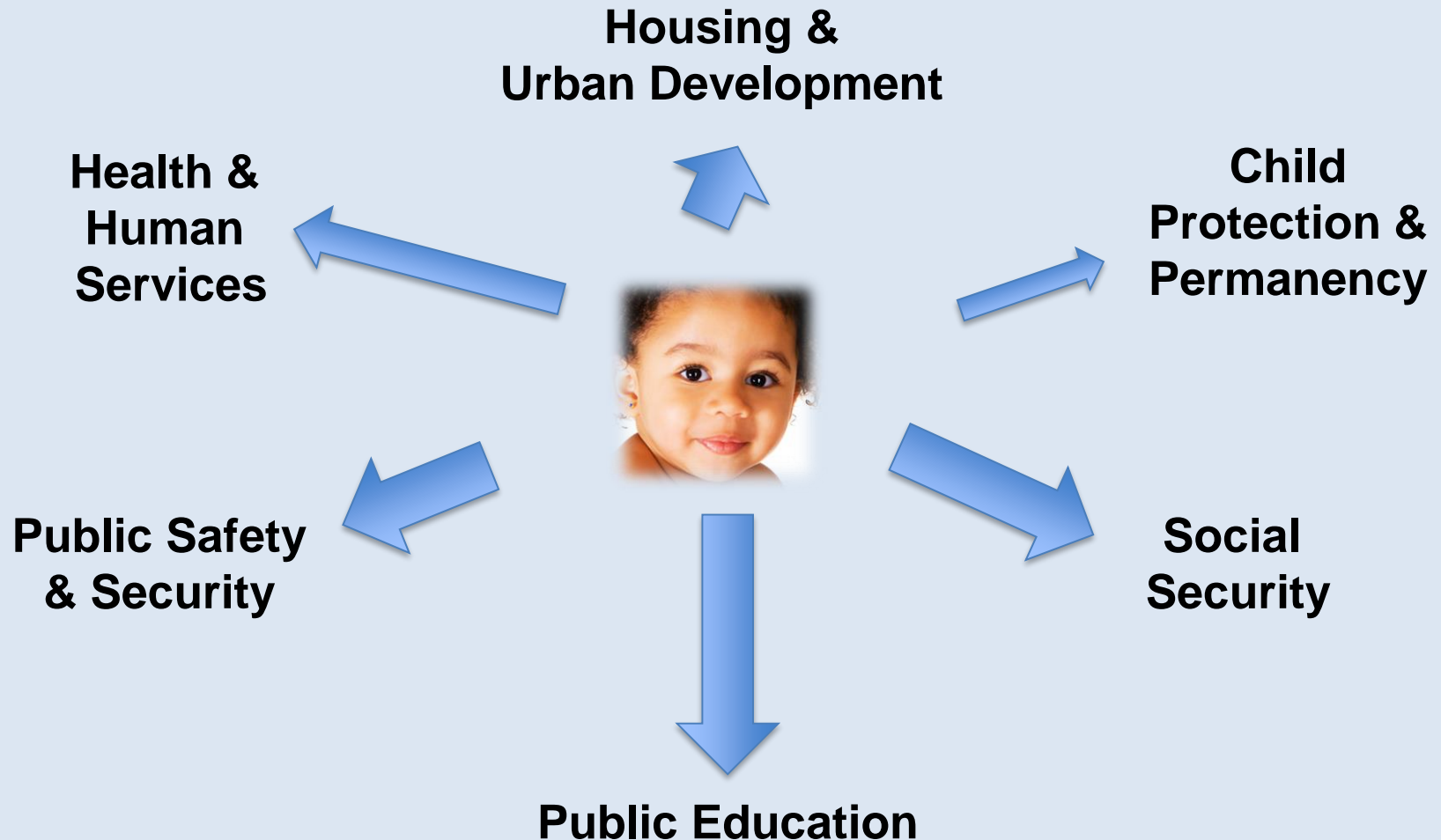
**New Jersey's estimated
118,177 Opportunity
Youth***

**Represent \$1.6
Billion Fiscal Burden
to Society****

* Source: Opportunity Youth Index <http://opportunityindex.org/#5.00/40.058/-74.406/>

** Based on National Estimates by Economist Clive Belfield who calculated that opportunity youth impose a fiscal burden of \$13,900 per youth on society

Multiple public agencies have touched OY from birth



Why have these systems collectively failed?

- Failure to adapt/innovate
- Lack of clear collective goals
- Lack of coordination
- Incomplete data that is not shared
- Poor hand-off/transitions
- Lack of incentive to leverage revenue
- Who are these offices accountable to?

Analysis of Public Systems

The Question:

“What helps professionals make the best judgments possible to protect a vulnerable child?”

The analysis outlined how the system had become over-bureaucratized and focused on compliance rather than the welfare and safety of children.

In other words, the system was working in service of itself rather than its “clients”.

Source:

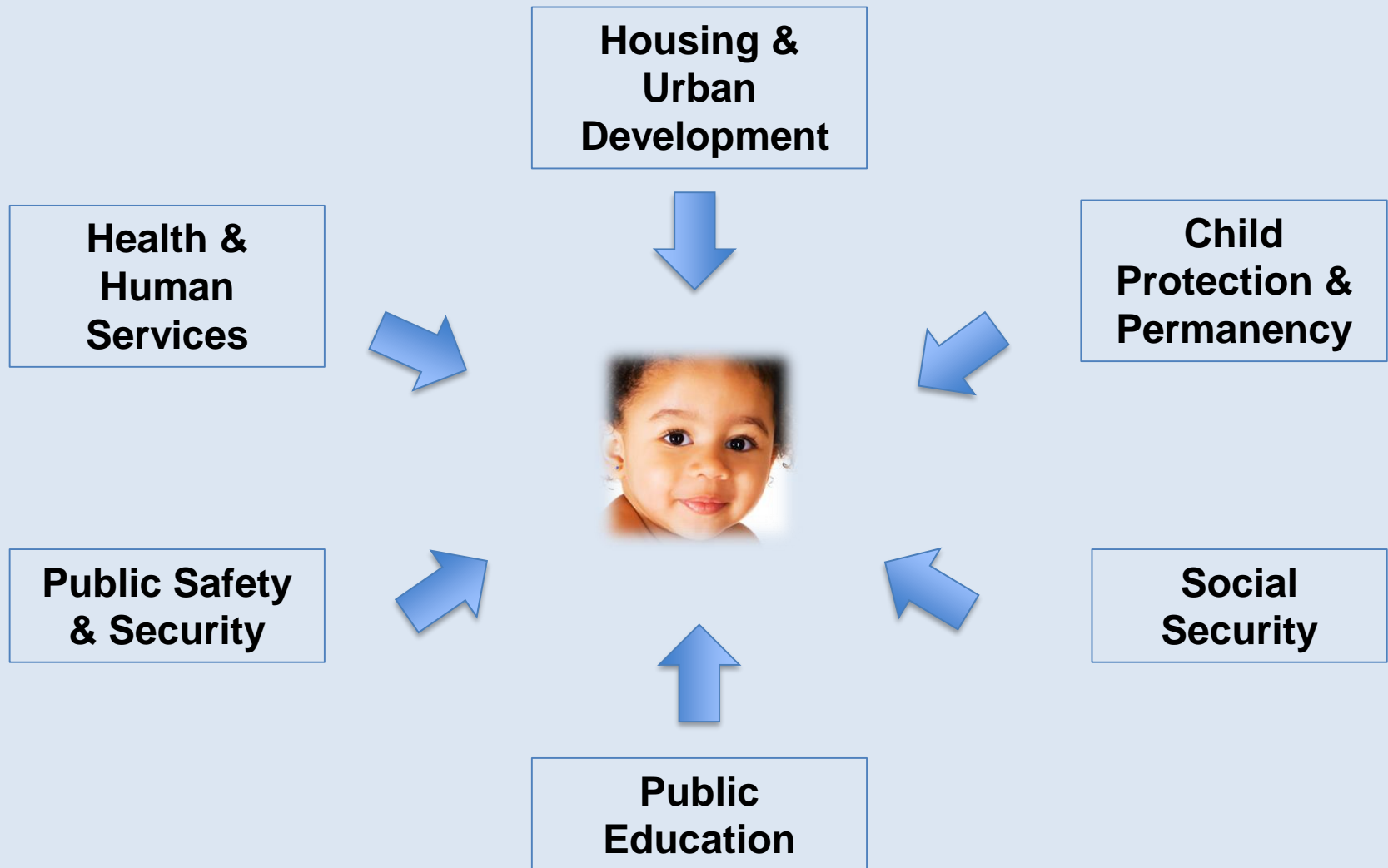
The Munro Review of Child protection in England
(Systems Analysis 2010; Final Report 2011 a,b)

Pathways to disconnection

Responses from questions posed during focus groups led by Rutgers Cornwall Institute:

- **Lack of caring adults**
- **School discipline process**
- **Personal challenges:** “ I left for life issues. I was on the verge of graduating but had some financial issues at home I needed to work out and started to miss school. I just never went back...”
- **General safety concerns**

(Ideal) Collective Impact



How could philanthropy help?

Incent innovation in public sector through:

- Development of risk capital pools to support long-term work (5 - 10 years)
- Ensure there is a seat for public agencies with a pathway to accessing public revenue over time
- Push for strategic and operational alignment and innovation vs. mere “collaboration” among grantees
- Seek evidence through funding more research and evaluation