



## Youth Change Network

A Program of Operation REACH's  
Gulfsouth Youth Action Corps

The Youth Change Network is a part of the Gulfsouth Youth Action Corps, a program of Operation REACH, Inc. (ORI), a national nonprofit organization, founded in 1999, that engages, empowers and inspires children, youth and families through innovative community-based learning opportunities. Since 2006, through the Gulfsouth Youth Action Corps and the Gulfsouth Youth Action Fund, Operation REACH has engaged more than 12,000 youth, empowered more than 150 AmeriCorps members in service, and provided more than \$500,000 in awards and grants to support community-focused youth leadership across the South.

### WHAT IS THE *Youth Change Network* (YCN)?

To expand on its success,

Operation REACH is launching the Youth Change Network (YCN), an innovative initiative sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Foundation for the Mid South, and the Corporation for National

and Community Service. The Youth Change Network is designed to build a movement of progressive youth-serving organizations that are promoting community-focused youth leadership across the South.

The YCN is intended to create institutional change within the southern region by building the capacity of small to mid-size youth-serving organizations to empower youth to work for social justice and transform communities. Members of the Youth Change Network will gain support in elevating, cultivating, and celebrating youth leadership in the sector.



## THE GOALS OF THE YOUTH CHANGE NETWORK ARE TO:

1. Lead a paradigm shift from “youth-serving” to youth-led and youth-driven service delivery models.
2. Increase philanthropic investment in youth leadership and youth-inspired social innovations in the American South.
3. Build capacity and support networks of progressive youth organizations that are cultivating in youth the ideals of activism and service.
4. Build resilient communities where youth can live, learn, lead thrive and grow.

## Who should join the YCN?

Through the Youth Change Network, Operation REACH seeks to partner with progressive youth organizations that:

1. Philosophically believe in youth engagement rather than “youth under surveillance.”
2. See youth as leaders of today.
3. Under-gird programs with innovative assets-based approaches that tap into the natural brilliance, interests, optimism and creativity of youth.
4. Conceptualize programs with a youth-centered approach and with significant input and steering from youth in the ideation process.

## Why join the YCN?

The Youth Change Network offers your organization the opportunity to become affiliated with a national movement for building youth leadership across the South. Membership in the YCN is free, and the benefits include:

- Networking opportunities with youth-focused grantmakers and other progressive youth-serving organizations through regional conventions and online discussion forums
- Capacity-building support for innovation and increasing the scale and impact of youth programs and initiatives, including opportunities to receive AmeriCorps volunteers, funding, and training
- Access to research, annual surveys, and white papers on youth-focused grantmaking across the southern region
- Subscription to Innovations for Growth and Change, our monthly newsletter focused on helping social entrepreneurs and emerging youth groups increase the scale and impact of their work.
- National exposure and marketing, including affiliation with a national movement for youth leadership





# Youth Change Network

## *Membership Application*

Organization Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Name of Primary Contact

Title/Position

E-mail Address

Phone

Mission Statement:

Description of Programs/Activities:

Target Population (e.g., urban youth ages 13-25):

Number of Youth Served Annually

Total operating budget for current fiscal year \$