

FINDING COMMON PURPOSE

Finding Common Purpose is a national, nonpartisan think tank reframing success that puts people first through a new social contract for the 21st century between institutions and the people they serve. The foundation for this social contract is the Pathway to Lifelong Success, from a healthy birth, to a quality education, to getting and keeping a good-paying job, and to healthy and secure aging.

Finding Common Purpose promotes and supports local efforts that are building this new social contract by bringing the public, private, and nonprofit sectors together to work with communities to meet basic needs and reduce disparities along the Pathway to Lifelong Success.

The Challenge and Opportunity

Over the past 50+ years, life outcomes along the Pathway to Lifelong Success have remained stagnant and, in some cases, have even worsened—especially when considering race, gender, and geography. No individual or family can achieve the key milestones from one stage of life to another and secure a stable, comfortable life without meeting basic needs—and sometimes people need help. Yet, the myriad nonprofits, government programs, school models, and foundations that have emerged during the same period often operate in silos, each pursuing its own “silver bullet.”

An approach is emerging that can change this. Across the United States in recent years, hundreds of initiatives that put people first have sprouted, centered on the Pathway to Lifelong Success concept. They are facilitating public, private, and nonprofit sectors working together with communities to meet basic needs, improve lives, and reduce disparities.

If we can promote and support the hundreds of initiatives advancing any part of the Pathway to Lifelong Success, we can reframe what success looks like in the 21st century and establish a new social contract that will ensure that millions more people in our communities don’t just survive, but thrive.

The Pathway to Lifelong Success



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What are Pathway to Lifelong Success Initiatives (PLSI)?

1. PLSIs focus on improving lives in one or more stages of the Pathway to Lifelong Success, and recognize the importance of meeting basic needs.
2. PLSIs seek population-level change in a specific area while reducing disparities based on race, gender, and/or geography.
3. PLSIs facilitate public, private, and nonprofit sectors working with community members.

Team

Finding Common Purpose is facilitated by Andrew Wolk, founder and former CEO of Root Cause, who has been producing a blog and podcast of the same name since early 2019. Salma Yehia is the project manager. FCP is guided by an advisory group of leaders from PLSIs across the country (see below).

2020 Goals and Progress to Date

Map and Learn: *Research, map, and learn more about PLSIs and PLS networks.*

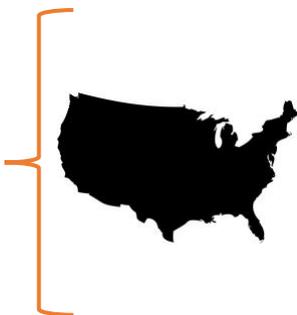
Promote and Support:

- Implement a robust system for collecting information about PLSIs and PLS networks.
- Publish an initial report on the landscape of PLSIs and PLS networks across the country.
- Test ways to support local PLSIs and PLS networks in measuring and communicating PLS outcomes and the financial sustainability of PLSIs.

338 Pathway to Lifelong Success Initiatives identified

12 Pathway to Lifelong Success Networks identified

9 Pathway to Lifelong Success Initiatives participating on Advisory Group



Mapped organizations in 45 states; interviewed 23 PLSI leaders in 14 states across the country.

1. Denver's Early Childhood Council, CO
2. Age Friendly Forsyth, NC
3. Partners for Education, KY
4. Woodlawn United, AL
5. Best Start for Kids, WA
6. Mission Graduate, NM
7. Birth to 22, FL
8. Say Yes Guilford, NC
9. First Steps Kent, MI