
👉 Shelby County YPAR Newsletter 3, 🍂 9/27/2023

4 messages

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To: [email list]

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Welcome to the third Shelby County Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) Pilot weekly newsletter. It's also the last newsletter for September 2023 and the first newsletter for Fall 2023. This edition contains an update on researcher hiring and training and an ask for your help in building out a list of Opportunity Youth support resources offered by organizations in Shelby County. You'll also get to meet another one of our Local Research Coordinators, Keauna Cheers!

👉 👉 Researcher Hiring Update 👉 👉

Our three Local Research Coordinating organizations are hard at work, **interviewing the more than 40 young adults who applied to be researchers!** To learn more about the candidates [download this PDF that provides an overview of the applicants.](#)

Our neighborhood organizations are focusing on the communities they serve: Beyond Educating is taking the Frayser area and RESPECT the Haven is hiring in and around Whitehaven. Our third Local Research Coordinator, The Collective Blueprint, is interviewing candidates from across the Memphis - Shelby County area. By the end of the week, each Local Research Coordinating organization will select their team of four researchers. We will also identify potential alternate researchers whom we can engage if one of the twelve core researchers becomes unavailable. Alternates will complete onboarding and training alongside the core researchers.

Anyone who isn't selected will be encouraged to participate in the research as a participant. There may also be opportunities for them to help in other ways once our research plans become more solidified.

👤 Kick-off & Researcher Training 👤

Next week, to keep the momentum going once all the researchers are in place, we will be kicking off the project with an in-person event on Wednesday night. The goal of the evening is to bring everyone together to learn more about YPAR, the project, and everyone involved in the event. That includes a welcome from Selby County Mayor Lee Harris and a number of hands-on activities.

Training then starts on Tuesday, October 10th. The four classes will be taught by our wonderful partners from the [Network for the Development of Children of African Descent \(NdCAD\)](#).

While we would love to have everyone at both the kickoff and the training, we are limiting attendance in order to keep everything focused on the researchers and getting them prepared for the work. All of the training sessions will be recorded and made available, along with the training materials, to members of the Shelby County Youth and Education Subcommittee. More details on this will be in next week's newsletter.

In the meantime, there is a really important way to get involved with this project...

👉 Contribute to the list of community support resources 👉

We want to use our researchers' engagements with other Opportunity Youth as an opportunity to (re)connect participants with the support services they need. To help with that we are compiling a list of the different services offered by organizations across Shelby County. The list of resources will also help connect our researchers with the services they need as well.

If your organization offers services to help support OY and their families in Shelby County, please fill out [this short form](#).

And if you know of an organization that offers services that isn't receiving this email, PLEASE forward this request to them!

👋 Meet Local Research Coordinator Keuana Cheers 👋



A native of Tennessee, Keuana Cheers believes that great education means giving children and youth the tools to be empowered, self-advocates, and the authors of their own lives. An educator with more than 18 years of experience, she currently serves as a Gifted Educator and Founder/Executive Director of Beyond Educating Foundation. Established in 2018, the Beyond Educating Foundation desires to enhance the academic experience by helping to enrich learning, cultivate understanding, expand perspectives, and develop a global vision for children, families, and communities.

Keuana has presented at DuBois Charter School New Teacher Orientation, District Learning Day for Shelby County Schools, and is a Teach Plus Policy Fellow. She's also a member of the Professional Learning Coach Leadership team and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Keuana was awarded Memphis City Beautiful Grant Writer, Recipient of The Margaret B. McKissick Larry Outstanding Female Educator of the Month, and "Irreplaceable" Teacher- Level 5 Educator.

Comments or Questions?

We want to hear from you! If you have any questions or comments about how the project is going, please reach out to Matt Bernius, mbernius@codeforamerica.org. We'd also LOVE feedback on how to improve future newsletters!

And, if you know anyone who you think would like to receive updates about this exciting project, please have them reach out to us to get added to our mailing list!

👁️ Be on the lookout for the next update a week from now! 👁️

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