

Building More Connected Postsecondary-to-Workforce Pathways for Young People in Atlanta

America's Promise Alliance Atlanta | Opportunity Atlas Working Concept Note - September 2026

[America's Promise Alliance Atlanta \(APA Atlanta\)](#) serves as a community infrastructure partner for Atlanta's youth-serving nonprofit ecosystem. Our community includes the CEOs and executive teams of 29 nonprofits that collectively serve nearly 300,000 young people across Metro Atlanta, the majority of whom come from communities that have historically experienced inequitable access to opportunity. APA Atlanta brings leaders together to learn, address field-level challenges, and identify opportunities for collective action. As part of a national Alliance dedicated to expanding opportunity and mobility for the next generation, our members are connected to a network of 180 leading youth-serving organizations across the country.

Within Atlanta's education ecosystem, APA Atlanta plays a distinct but complementary role by strengthening the organizations, leaders, and relationships that shape opportunity for young people. Together, our member organizations span the education-to-career continuum, providing academic, college access, workforce, and youth development programs that, through APA's convening and coordination, are better positioned to collaborate, align their efforts, and improve outcomes.

The Opportunity | Young people across Metro Atlanta are navigating an increasingly complex landscape of postsecondary education, workforce training, career pathways, and employment opportunities. While many organizations support young people across the education-to-career continuum, the information, relationships, and support needed to navigate it remain fragmented. These barriers disproportionately affect young people of color, first-generation college students, and others from communities that have historically experienced inequitable access to educational opportunity.

As a result, more than 60,000 young people across Metro Atlanta remain disconnected from school and work, underscoring the need for stronger coordination among organizations, institutions, and employers. Because no single organization spans the full education-to-career continuum, improving outcomes requires coordinated action across organizations serving young people, postsecondary institutions, and employers.

Through APA Atlanta, a shared opportunity has emerged to strengthen coordination across Atlanta's education-to-career ecosystem. Leaders identified ecosystem alignment as key to expanding access to education and career opportunities. With a strong network of partners in place, APA Atlanta is well positioned to launch **Opportunity Atlas**, a collective action pilot that will build the connective infrastructure needed to better align organizations, employers, and postsecondary partners.

The Approach | APA Atlanta will lead and coordinate the initiative by convening members and community partners to map education-to-career assets, identify opportunities to strengthen system coordination, and co-design an implementation strategy. Several APA member organizations will then test practical approaches to pathway coordination, including coordinated employer engagement, shared referrals, internship and career opportunity sharing, and improved information exchange, while APA gathers feedback to identify the strategies that create the greatest value.

Finally, APA Atlanta will share lessons learned across the Alliance, refine the model, and develop recommendations for future implementation, broader participation, sustainability, and long-term collective action.

Over the next 12 months, this work will produce five key outputs:

1. A landscape analysis and ecosystem map;
2. An inventory of ecosystem assets and partners to support greater alignment;
3. A phased implementation plan informed by participating organizations, employers, and national best practices;
4. A shared governance and coordination structure; and
5. A coordinated career navigation strategy to improve young people's access to postsecondary and workforce opportunities.

While the pilot focuses on strengthening coordination, alignment, and planning, the impact we aim to achieve is a more connected education-to-career ecosystem that helps more young people successfully navigate pathways to postsecondary education, workforce opportunities, and long-term economic mobility. By reducing barriers created by fragmented systems, this work advances equity by expanding access to opportunities for young people from communities that have historically faced barriers to economic mobility.

Partners | As the initiative's coordinating infrastructure, APA Atlanta will convene partners, facilitate shared planning, align efforts, and sustain the relationships needed to advance the work. Current partners include APA Atlanta members Achieve Atlanta, OneGoal, College AIM, 21st Century Leaders, First Tee, Emerging 100 Atlanta, Soccer in the Streets, Helping Empower Youth, and Braven. The pilot's design has also been informed by workforce leaders, including CareerRise and Raising Expectations, and APA Atlanta will continue expanding partnerships as the initiative grows.

Investment Opportunity | APA Atlanta is seeking philanthropic partners to support the Opportunity Atlas Pilot, enabling APA Atlanta to convene cross-sector partners, launch and lead the pilot, and strengthen the connective infrastructure needed to improve how Atlanta's education-to-career ecosystem connects, coordinates, and supports young people.

This work will lay the foundation for long-term collective action and a more connected system that expands equitable access to education, careers, and economic mobility.