

Cities Addressing Basic Needs to Promote Postsecondary and Workforce Success



City Overview



- **Denver:**
- **San Diego & Chula Vista:**
- **Philadelphia:**
- **Richmond:**
- **Rochester:**
- **Oakland**

Big-picture Take-aways



While each city's work and partnerships are unique, there are some general commonalities.

- In addition to the impacts of COVID, cities are managing natural disasters, ongoing unrest related to police brutality, and layoffs in cities and institutions. Despite these challenges, cities remain engaged with us.
- We've expanded our idea of basic needs.
- Most institutions are experiencing enrollment declines, in part due to income losses as well as basic needs. Cities are prioritizing keeping students connected. 'drop back, not drop out.'
- Cities are exploring and implementing technology solutions to help them connect students to services and resources but have also identified the importance of the human touch.
- Cities have appreciated the data and in-depth conversations with LinkedIn. It has helped to give them a better sense of the direction of their economies in uncertain times.

COVID Impacts



COVID (and other serious issues) have significantly constrained city capacity in general, and specifically in their ability to engage in ‘big picture thinking’.

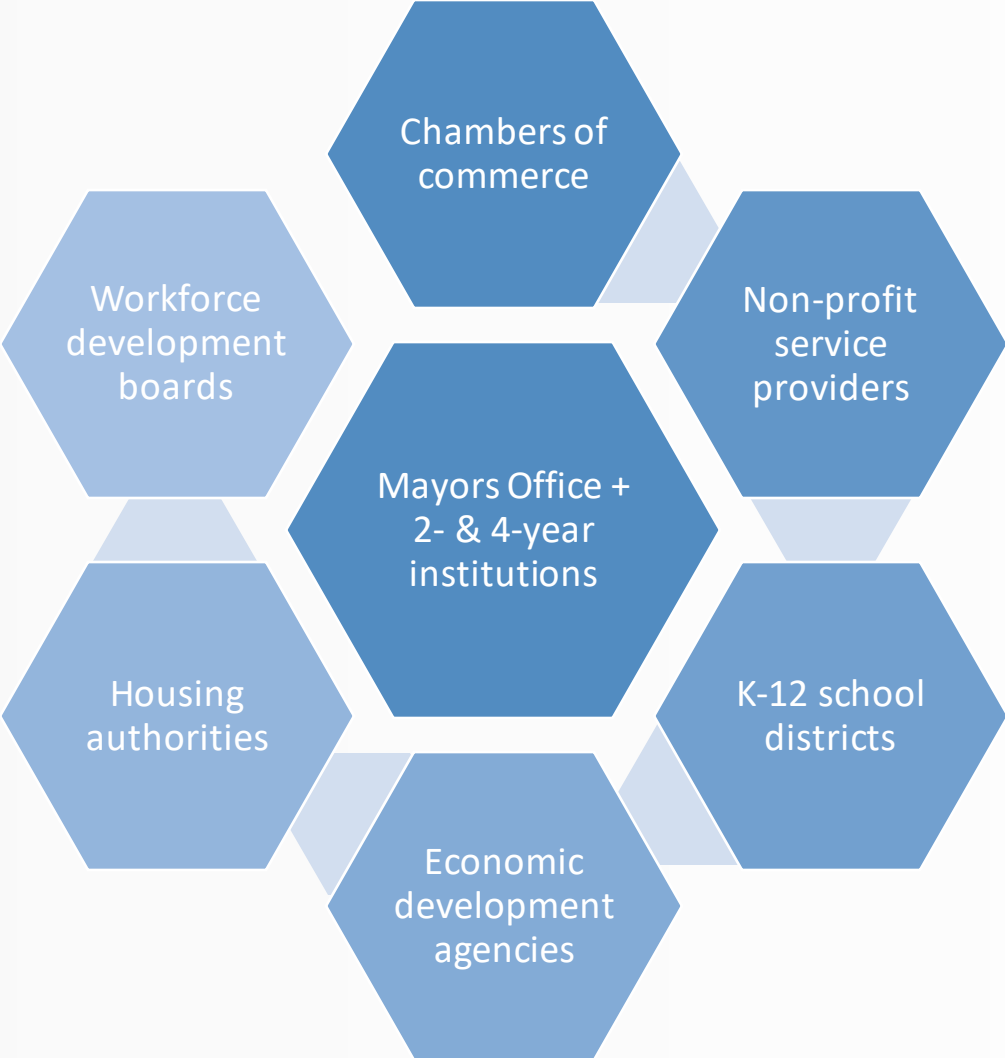
On our end, things can move so fast in cities that it is harder for us to keep our finger on the pulse of things.

However, cities are just as engaged, interested and eager for support.

- **Cities have expanded their partnerships and teams engaged in this work,**
- **Several cities shared that our calls are one of the only spaces they have to come together and talk in a more strategic way. Others are working and meeting ‘offline’ consistently.**

On the positive side, we don’t have to sell stakeholders on the importance of this work.

City Multi-Sector Partnerships



Racial Equity



- While achieving equitable outcomes for low-income communities and disadvantaged students of color was a founding principle of YEF, racial equity is also an NLC-wide priority. Internally, REAL is deploying additional training and resources for all NLC staff on this topic
- Equity is top-of-mind for cities today. We've built it into our TA, and in the data conversations we've had. We've also been in direct contact with REAL about this cohort and helped facilitate connections to their resources. We've brought in other partners, including Policy Link.

Program Collaboration



- Stronger alignment and collaboration across YEF is one of our focuses as well, and an area for growth. We've set up several cross-team Learning Culture Working Groups to help change culture and identify best practices and content connections. Our team has made presentations about this work to several NLC teams and affinity groups and continues to identify project overlaps.

Key Challenges & Systems Perspectives



- At the macro level, further financial aid for cities, institutions, and for individuals is critical. Cities have been inventive and thoughtful, but more is needed to move the needle (or prevent the needle from moving backwards). Budget cuts and layoffs are already happening in some cities. This will have downstream impacts on NLC's finances as well.
- COVID has layered on significant additional work on top of existing deliverables as we work to support cities during a very challenging time.