



# What is a Bright Spot?

Communities are seeking ways to re-engage youth, ignite learning, and support social and emotional well-being. These have always been the goals of the character grantees of the Bechtel Foundation. And, now their efforts—and those of similar organizations in communities across the nation—are being collected, examined and amplified to fuel scale and spread at unprecedented rates.

## A bright spot solution will meet several criteria

- **Provide access and opportunity for young people to learn, grow, thrive, and engage**
- **Address racial and income inequities with both services and systemic solutions**
- **Address health and safety requirements**
- **Include at least two cross-sector partners, which may include schools, afterschool and summer programs, nature-based experiential education, sports and play-focused organizations, parks and recreation departments, museums and science centers, libraries, health-focused organizations, juvenile justice and more**
- **Draw on multiple funding sources**

Realistically we know that no database project will be perfect or capture everything. In 2020 we have an opportunity for rapid innovation and a need to fail forward to support in any way possible. Our goal is to capture what we can, make it available to practitioners and policymakers and continue to amplify solutions so that more children and youth will benefit.

With an unwavering focus on youth potential, **the Readiness Projects** advance work informed by science and grounded in practice, supporting adults in all settings and systems across the diverse youth fields. The Forum for Youth Investment, the National Urban League, and the American Institutes for Research have united to devote time, resources, and perspectives to stimulate equity-driven solutions and policies.

As leader and influencers in education, out-of-school time, social justice, brain science and more, the Readiness Project provides an ideal home base to both collect bright spots and amplify them through broad and deep communications channels.

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## Design & Development

Initial funding was provided by the SD Bechtel Jr. Foundation to launch the database. Ongoing support is being sought to collect and disseminate Bright Spots moving forward.

An advisory committee helped shape the criteria and define the sources including representatives from:

**The Readiness Projects**

**Afterschool Alliance**

**Boys and Girls Clubs of America**

**California Afterschool Network**

**CALSAC**

**Coaching Corps**

**FowlerHoffman**

**National AfterSchool Association**

**National Public Education Support Fund**

**National Urban League**

**National YMCA**