



# THE SUMMIT FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH

## Life & Workforce Readiness

Youth today are entering one of the strongest labor markets in a half-century amid an ongoing, decade-long national economic expansion. Despite this, many U.S. employers say that their biggest obstacle is a lack of qualified candidates with essential skills. As of November 2021, there were 6.8 million Americans out of work and employers struggling to fill more than 10.6 million jobs. Employers have the capacity to hire but encounter a challenge in finding new workers with the skills for work success.

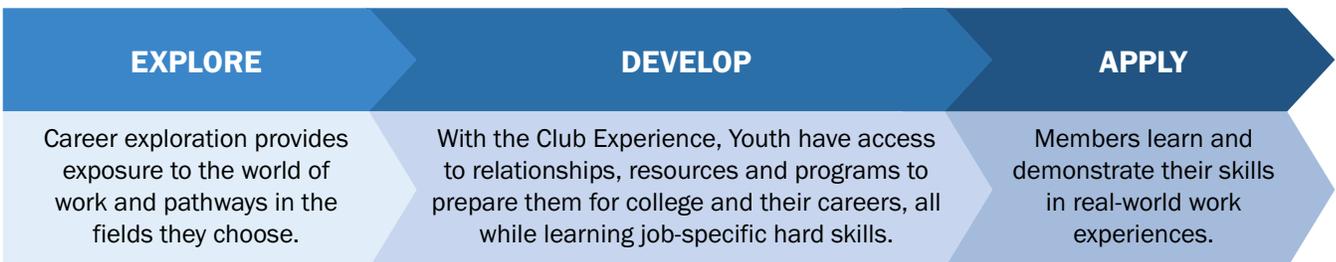
### The State of America's Youth and Workforce Readiness

Young people increasingly report feeling ill-prepared for work and without the confidence to prosper on the job. Research shows:

- **77%** of youth now are concerned about having the access and capabilities necessary to secure a job.
- Only **20-45%** of youth report having essential skills in empathy and making decisions.
- **60%** of businesses report greater difficulty in finding job candidates who demonstrate essential, employable competencies than in finding those with technical capabilities alone.

### Our Approach to Workforce Readiness

At Boys & Girls Clubs of America, we believe that every young person can build a successful career. BGCA's Workforce Readiness Strategy harnesses an **Explore, Develop** and **Apply** Framework to help young people explore their interests, develop skills and apply their knowledge through work-based experiences and certifications. Whether a young person dreams of trade school, college, military service or diving straight into their career, Boys & Girls Clubs are equipping kids and teens with the tools they need to thrive now and in the future.



- **90%** of alumni feel that they have the skills needed to be successful in a job.
- **93%** of alumni report that they can express thoughts and ideas clearly.
- **The #1 Club experience** teens say they need to keep them coming back to their Club is career preparation and the skills, resources and plans needed to secure a first job.

By focusing on workforce readiness, Clubs help youth shape themselves into tomorrow's scientists, doctors, nurses, civic leaders, teachers, engineers, programmers, entrepreneurs and innovators in industries as yet unimagined.

If you are interested in learning more about the Summit for America's Youth or registering for the event, please visit <http://say.bgca.org>.