



- The purpose of this meeting was to have more discussion about opportunities for action related to employability for young men of color age 16 – 25, particularly those in re – entry.
- Discussion started around the need to build foundational skills/documents that are applicable to all types of employment. This included interest in working, attitude, willingness, and ensuring that a person has access to foundational identification documents. This led to a listing of all providers of job readiness/training in Trenton. It was expressed that many of the organizations working in this area do not trust each other and feel a sense of competition because of the way funding is distributed to the non – profits. This ultimately does not allow them to be as effective collectively, as there is an intentional culture of working in isolation.
- A gap was identified in understanding today’s youth and what they are interested in doing and/or how they philosophically approach work. Many youth are focused on creating and sustaining their own businesses rather than being trained to be someone else’s employee. It was specifically mentioned that opportunity needs to be created around interests. This also lends itself to apprenticeships as thought of traditionally and non – traditionally (example given was of sound engineer).
- A need was expressed for consolidated information regarding employability (job training) services available in Trenton. It was suggested that this consolidated information be available in an existing space that is heavily trafficked by locals – City of Trenton website and Trenton Public Schools website were mentioned as possibilities.
- Another gap was identified of Trenton being a non – profit dominated city that lacks strong connections to private employment just outside of the city and public employment within the city. There is a need for private and public entities to be at these discussions and help everyone understand what a person needs to be employed by them. It was felt that there has never been a large scale consolidated outreach along these lines to say our people are here – give them a shot at your company. This is two – fold: we must both make those connections and ensure they are meaningful by supporting partners with resources to ensure mutually beneficial experiences.
- Other observations:
 - It was suggested that Capital City My Brother’s Keeper should address re – entry separately from employability for young men age 16 – 25. This is possible, but will remain focused on employability for young men in re – entry aged 16 – 25.
 - The perspective of business owners was not present at this session. We will hold another session geared toward chambers of commerce and trade associations. This will allow all of us to have a fuller perspective of employability for young men and have substantial policy related discussions.
- These major discussion points led to the following action items. People working on these action items are asked to develop a plan of action defining what they are going to do, how they are going to do it, by when, and how they are going to track their success.



- Elijah Dixon – Create a focus group of creators to discuss what employability means for creators and to develop a better understanding of what career opportunities are available in the creative industry. Co – collaborators: John Burns, Dan Fatton, Bill Harris, Ishiya Hayes
- Sam Frisby – Build external relationships with major companies in Mercer County to connect them to organizations providing job training services to encourage companies to interview those who have completed training to improve their chances of getting hired. Co – collaborators: Ayo Johnson – Richardson, Dan Fatton, Carter Patterson, Adam Porroni, John Burns
- Adam Porroni – Build database of all available job training services available for placement on the City of Trenton website and Trenton Public School District website. Co – collaborator: Ayo Johnson – Richardson
- Adam Porroni – Survey and database all high school students and young adults to determine what careers they are actually interested in. Co – collaborators: Ishiya Hayes, John Burns, Bill Harris, Algernon Ward, Jaime Lennon
- Algernon Ward – Decode civil service job descriptions to help job training organizations develop and provide skill development based on job descriptions for high demand jobs. Co – collaborators: Sam Frisby, Perry Shaw
- Sam Frisby – Get organizations to commit to hiring summer interns that have graduated from job readiness programs. This will be done in conjunction with an existing summer employment initiative. Co – collaborators: Jerry Harris, Bonniwell Graham, Dan Fatton