


# Changing the Odds Retreats



**Honest conversations  
on equity and readiness.**

**Targeted energy toward  
real solutions.**

**Changing the Odds Retreats are a “dinner and a day” format combining the best engagement strategies with extensive experience bringing leaders together to change how they do business for young people.**

We know these conversations are not easy to have, but they are critical for the young people we care about. The Forum’s commitment is to meet community leaders where they are while helping them decide what it will take to move forward together. This is why we have developed a tested, adaptable way for ready communities to not only safely start these discussions but gain enough traction so that they can’t safely stop them.

In the course of 10 planned hours on-site, communities will receive:

- A formal keynote presentation by Forum senior staff,
- A facilitated youth (and families) panel discussion,
- Intimate breakfast or dinner conversation with key leaders,
- Selected content immersion (such as SEL and readiness, quality practices, your community’s equity story),
- Guided small group exploration,
- Joint planning led by a neutral facilitator (e.g. development of 3 month timeline with assignments), and

- Ample time for discussion throughout the two days of convenings.

## WHO THE RETREATS ARE FOR

Changing the Odds Retreats are for groups of leaders with the commitment, capacity and conviction to change the odds for young people in their community. These groups of leaders can represent nonprofits, government, businesses, advocates, education, faith organizations, health and other areas.

## WHAT YOU GET

- A two-person team to work with you to review options and customize the agenda to your needs,
- A customized Changing the Odds presentation deck created for your use after the event,
- A written recommendations memo and detailed notes from the convenings, and
- A check-in call three months after the event.

## WHAT WE COVER

The initial, formal presentation is on the general topic

of changing the odds for all young people. Measuring opportunity gaps is an important step toward improving youth outcomes, but identifying the gaps and knowing how to close them are two very different things.

It's too easy to look at gap data and think we understand the problem.

To better understand how to close these gaps, we need to think through and explore:

- Equality vs Equity
- Access vs Quality
- Completion vs Readiness

From there, the remaining time during the retreat can focus on content-driven, community learning discussions from a broad menu including the following:

- **Readiness and Equity:** A discussion that will help you highlight the systemic but sometimes hidden inequities in the environments where youth spend their time.
- **Sharpening Your Outcomes:** A discussion on how to get clear about the social and emotional outcomes that are critical to youth success, including exposure to tools and resources to infuse SEL into your practices.
- **Program & Systems Quality:** An exploration of lessons on quality improvement system design, effective performance data, and lower stakes accountability. The David P. Weikart Center, a technical assistance center of the Forum, is a field leader in at-scale performance-based accountability systems for OST programs and other settings.
- **Targeting Your Interventions:** A discussion on working with specific populations (e.g. Foster Care, Homeless and Opportunity Youth) and systems.
- **Finding Public Dollars to Support Your Work:** A discussion about comprehensive funding strategies to help communities secure resources for children and youth, including how to fund current public and private funding streams, align them for maximum impact, evaluate the effectiveness of these investments and generate new dedicated funding streams. We can engage you in a discussion about how you would approach these four levers, and provide you with practical resources to guide your community's conversation.



### THE FORMAT

Be prepared to work! The retreats are intense and all participants are expected to actively engage in all conversations. Two to three of the previously mentioned topics can be covered in detail. There will be large group work, small team discussions, reflection time and plenty of time to think through application.

### THE FACULTY

**Karen Pittman**, Co-Founder, President and CEO, The Forum for Youth Investment

**Merita Irby**, Managing Partner, Big Picture Approach Consulting; Co-Founder & Executive Vice President, The Forum for Youth Investment

**Priscilla Little**, Big Picture Approach Consultant, The Forum for Youth Investment

**Larry Pasti**, Senior Director, Big Picture Approach Consulting, The Forum for Youth Investment

**Alicia Wilson-Ahlstrom**, Director, Field Research, The Forum for Youth Investment

**Sara Matthew**, Senior Policy Associate, The Forum for Youth Investment

### PRICING

Pricing for all of the services and time outlined above is \$10,000 plus economy travel.

### READY TO LEARN MORE?

Feel free to contact Ian Faigley, Director of Outreach & Engagement, at 202-207-3334 or [ian@forumfyi.org](mailto:ian@forumfyi.org).

