



United Way
of Central Maryland

YOUNG MEN UNITED



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS FOR YOUNG MEN OF COLOR IN GREATER BALTIMORE

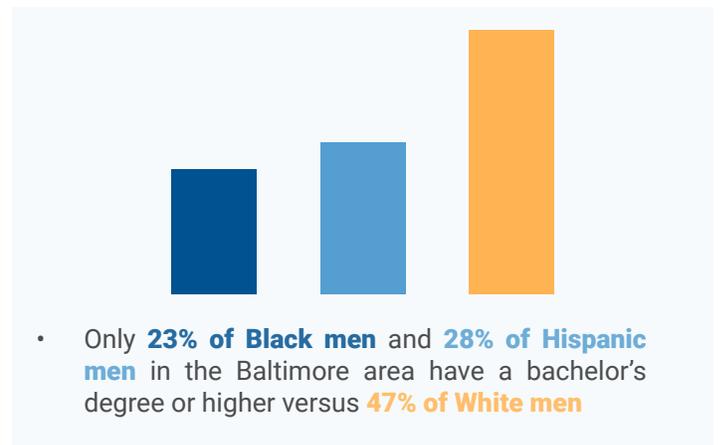
Young Men United is an innovative equity and education initiative designed to support young men of color with their educational and vocational dreams – complete high school, pursue post-secondary education and embark on fulfilling careers while closing ongoing education and earning gaps. This comprehensive program helps develop a strong pipeline of engaged leaders who excel in their careers and strengthen our workforce.

Replicating national best practices in mentoring and college readiness programming, **Young Men United** will expose young men to career opportunities they may not know about, offer supportive holistic services, and help them achieve career fulfillment and financial success.

THE CHALLENGE

Students of color – particularly males – lag their counterparts on nearly every key indicator of educational and professional attainment. As a result of systemic and institutional barriers, many of these students don't have access to the networks, supportive mentors, financial resources, post-secondary preparedness programs, and pre-professional experiences that lead to academic and career success.

- Nationally, Black men have the lowest four-year college completion rate of all groups (**only 40%**) and are the most likely to leave without a degree (**41%**)



- Only **23% of Black men** and **28% of Hispanic men** in the Baltimore area have a bachelor's degree or higher versus **47% of White men**
- College enrollment for Black men dropped **14.3%** in Spring 2021 vs Spring 2020 when Black families disproportionately suffered from illness, job loss, and financial strain during the pandemic

THE GOAL

An education equity and economic advancement initiative that will:

- Break down barriers to opportunity and access for young men of color
- Help hundreds of young men of color locally complete high school, a post-secondary higher education and enter the workforce with a meaningful career
- Create a community of young men who will support one another to realize their full potential

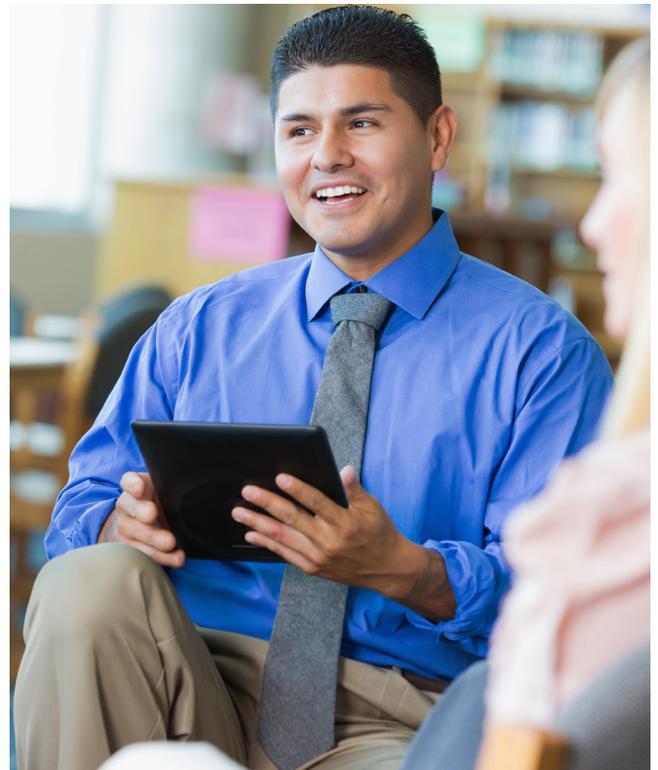
Together,

we can help young men earn post-secondary education and training and embark on fulfilling careers that provide them with greater financial stability throughout their lives while fortifying and diversifying our local businesses and organizations.

CORE COMPONENTS

Beginning in 10th grade, Young Men United will leverage existing and new strategic partnerships to provide customized, long-term, holistic support for students and their families over seven years, including:

- Exposure and discovery of possible careers and post-secondary pathways
- College and career guidance (academic program research, application and financial aid guidance)
- Access to and guidance on training programs and trade education
- Mentorships, internships, and job experience
- Soft skills and professional development
- Financial education planning and support
- Connection to supportive resources, including housing, food, mental health services, etc.



United Way of Central Maryland is committed to bringing together partners and thought leaders to ensure the success of this important and unique program.

To learn more about how you can become part of this important initiative, please contact Emilia Poiter at emilia.poiter@uwcm.org.



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