



November 15, 2023

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“Families are always the experts of their own lives.”

Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum, National Community Leadership Summit 2023 Panelist,
Educating to Liberate: Building Strong Partnerships for Early Care and Education

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Welcome to the November 2023 edition of the [NOW Innovation Forum Newsletter](#). We are excited to share opportunities and resources with you! In this edition you'll find:

- Latest NOW Leadership Article, *Coalition Building: Key Takeaways from the 2023 National Community Leadership Summit*, By Gabrielle Cockerham
- Registration for the November 30 NOW Webinar, *Building Relationships and Partnerships towards an Equitable Food System*
- Registration for December's *Cultivating Community Connections: Peer Learning & Reflection Hour* with the peer learning cluster co-leads
- An invitation to complete the Biennial NOW Network Survey
- NOW Resource Library featured resource, article by Tonni Oberly, *Food Justice is a Black Maternal Health Imperative*
- Spotlight on network partners in Newark, New Jersey and Charleston, South Carolina
- Call for Proposals for the 2024 Community-Engaged Research Conference, hosted by National African American Child and Family Research Center

Thank you for your commitment to children, families, and communities and for joining us as we journey through another year together.

Bienvenido a la edición de noviembre de 2023 del [Boletín Informativo del NOW Innovation Forum](#) (Foro de Innovación NOW). ¡Estamos muy contentos de compartir oportunidades y recursos con usted! En esta edición encontrará:

- El Artículo más reciente de Liderazgo de NOW, *Construcción de Coaliciones: Puntos Claves de la Cumbre Nacional de Liderazgo Comunitario de 2023*, Por Gabrielle Cockerham
- Inscripción para el seminario web NOW del 30 de noviembre, *Construyendo Relaciones y Alianzas hacia un Sistema Alimentario Equitativo*
- Registro para *Cultivando Conexiones Comunitarias de Diciembre: Aprendizaje entre Pares y Hora de Reflexión* con los co-directores del grupo de aprendizaje entre pares
- Una invitación para completar la Encuesta Bienal de la NOW Network
- La Biblioteca de Recursos de NOW presentó un recurso, artículo de Tonni Oberly, *La Justicia Alimentaria es un Imperativo de La Salud Materna Negra*
- Enfoque en los socios de la Network en Newark, Nueva Jersey y Charleston, Carolina del Sur
- Llamada para Propuestas para la Conferencia de Investigación Comunitaria 2024, organizada por el Centro Nacional de Investigación Infantil y Familiar Africano Americano

Gracias por su dedicación a los niños, las familias y las comunidades, y por acompañarnos mientras navegamos a través de otro año juntos.

Network Highlights

New Leadership Article: *Coalition Building: Key Takeaways from the 2023 National Community Leadership Summit*



The latest Leadership Article in our 2023 series is written by **Gabrielle Cockerham**, NOW Practicum Student, and features reflections from the 2023 National Leadership Summit. Gabrielle highlights key takeaways from Summit sessions including the importance of authentic connections in coalition building, and the role of interconnectedness in sustaining community led change. Read more about the highlights from Gabrielle's 2023 Summit experience, and find additional linked resources from the NOW network in this month's leadership article.

[Read Here](#)

2023 NOW Webinar Series: Register Today!

Building Relationships and Partnerships towards an Equitable Food System

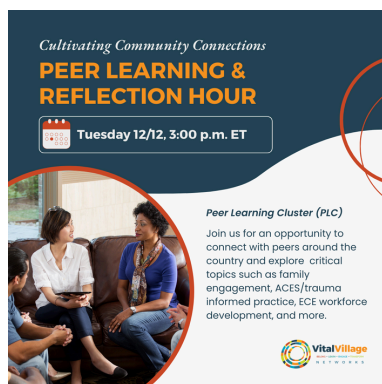
November 30 at 1pm ET

Community food systems are rooted in meaningful relationships across people and place – from farmers and distributors, to retailers and families, to advocates and local entrepreneurs. Join us for the final session in the [2023 NOW Webinar series](#), featuring two local food systems leaders and [2023 Community Food Systems fellows](#), **Hallie Nelson of Jefferson County Food Policy Council** and **Kim Ross of Mount Terra LLC**, to learn more about their experience, strategies, and lessons learned for building sustainable and meaningful relationships across their local food systems in Jefferson County, Colorado and the Appalachian Region in West Virginia.



[Register Here](#)

Cultivating Community Connections: Peer Learning & Reflection Hour



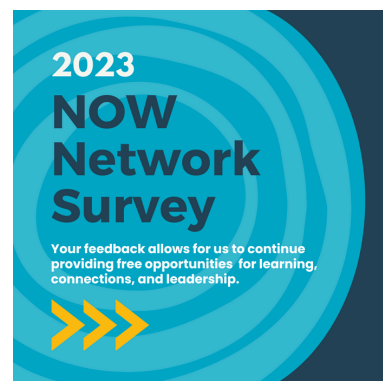
We invite you to join us for the next Peer Learning Cluster meeting **December 12 at 3:00 pm ET / 12:00 pm PT!** Peer learning and reflection hours are an opportunity to connect, share and learn from others who are supporting child and family wellbeing in their local communities. The monthly peer-led discussion space is an opportunity to bring questions, ideas, challenges, and successes to a national community for learning and support.

[Register Here](#)

Biannual NOW Network Survey

Your feedback is important to us! We invite you to take our 2023 Biennial NOW Network Survey. Your input will help us to continue to provide free resources, tools, and learning opportunities that can better support your work on the ground. Take the survey today and be entered into a raffle drawing!

[Take the Survey Here](#)



NOW Resource Library Feature: Food Justice is a Black Maternal Health Imperative



Inspired by November's Peer Learning Cluster conversation on maternal health and connections to local food systems, this month we wanted to highlight a related resource - *Food Justice is a Black Maternal Health Imperative*. An article by **Tonni Oberly**, published by [Coalition for Food and Health Equity](#), examines the correlation between the Black maternal health crisis and racism in food systems, and calls for an integration of food justice with birth justice.

Check out this resource, and many more, in the NOW Resource Library. You can also hear more from Tonni Oberly in the NOW Webinar Series Archive, [Community Food Systems, Maternal Health and Justice](#)

[Access the Resource Here](#)

Network Spotlight: Beloved Community in Action

Earlier this month, the **Beloved Early Education and Care (BEE) Collective** presented the inaugural [Just-Us INDABA Birthing, Education & Healing Justice Summit](#) in Charleston, South Carolina. Learn more about what happened at this year's event and stay connected with the BEE Collective's work [here](#).

At the start of this month, [Parents Engaging Parents New Jersey](#), hosted the first of their seven part series on economic literacy and financial growth in their weekly Beloved Community Check-in. Check out this most recent collaboration which supports their economic pillar [here](#).

Call for Proposals: National African American Child and Family Research Center, 2024 Community-Engaged Research Conference

NAACFRC 2024 Community-Engaged Research (CER) Conference: CER Pathways to Equitable Programs and Policies, is currently accepting presentation proposals through **November 30, 2023**. "Presenting...provides an opportunity to build your professional network and share timely, relevant research with a diverse audience. Presenting a content-rich session, individually or as part of a team, is a wonderful way to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas. The conference will share community-engaged research; including innovative research approaches, stories of successful research collaborations, and lessons learned within the following program tracks: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Head Start/Early Head, or Childcare Assistance."

[Learn More Here](#)

The NOW community hopes to stay connected and lift up the work and stories of all of our members. Follow and tag us so that we can virtually highlight the community-led transformation you are leading

[#VillageInMind](#)



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