



August 27, 2025

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"We are way more powerful when we turn to each other and not on each other, when we celebrate our diversity... and together tear down the mighty walls of injustice..."

- Cynthia McKinney

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Welcome to the August 2025 edition of the [NOW Innovation Forum Newsletter](#). We are excited to share opportunities and resources with you this month. In this edition you're invited to:

- Save the Date for the September 16 workshop in the Peer Learning Cluster's 2025 Advocacy and Community Leadership Series
- Register for the 12th Annual National Community Leadership Summit
- New Resource: Spanish Edition of Collective Recommendations and Guiding Principles and Practices from 2022 Community Food Systems Fellows
- Complete the 2025 Biennial NOW Network Survey
- Explore the featured resource, *A Dignity-Centered Guide to Reflecting on Cooperative Funding Structures*
- Support Our Campaign, *Give Where Leaders Grow*

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 agosto del 2025 del [Boletín Informativo del NOW Innovation Forum](#) (Foro de Innovación NOW). Nos complace compartir oportunidades y recursos con usted este mes. En esta edición está invitado a:

- Guardar la Fecha para el taller del 16 de septiembre en la Serie de Abogacía y Liderazgo Comunitario del 2025 del Clúster de Aprendizaje entre Pares
- Registrarse para la 12ª Cumbre Anual Nacional de Liderazgo Comunitario
- Nuevo Recurso: Edición en Español de Recomendaciones Colectivas y Principios Rectores y Prácticas de Becarios de Sistemas Alimentarios Comunitarios del 2022
- Completar la Encuesta Bienal de la Red NOW del 2025
- Explorar el recurso destacado, *Una Guía Centrada en la Dignidad para Reflexionar sobre las Estructuras de Financiación Cooperativa*
- Apoyar Nuestra Campaña, *Donar Donde Crecen los Líderes*

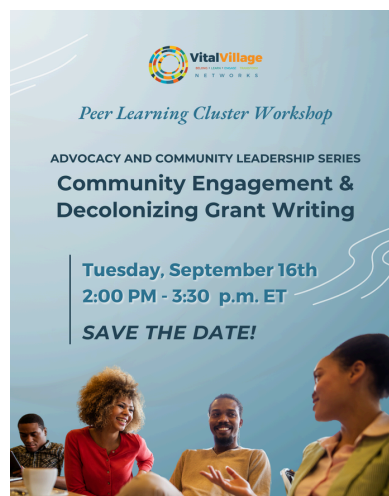
Gracias por su compromiso a los niños, las familias, y las comunidades, y por acompañarnos en nuestro recorrido ante otro año juntos.

Network Highlights

Peer Learning Cluster Workshop: Save the Date

The Peer Learning Cluster is hosting its third workshop in their 2025 Advocacy and Community Leadership Series, **Community Engagement and Decolonizing Grant Writing!** Save the Date for **September 16, 2025** from **2:00 - 3:30 pm ET**. Participants will have the opportunity to share and explore effective community engagement strategies that move us toward doing “with” community instead of doing “to” or “for” community, and specifically explore alternative approaches to funding relationships and models that center community-led work.

[Register Here](#)



2025 National Community Leadership Summit: 8 weeks until we see you in Boston



We hope you can join us on **October 23 - 24, 2025**, in Boston, MA, to connect and learn together around this year's summit theme, ***Unwavering Resistance: An Invitation to Beloved Community***. Together we will collectively heal ourselves and our communities, learn and grow our strategies for justice, and find and live in the moments of joy.

Registration closes **September 30, 2025**.

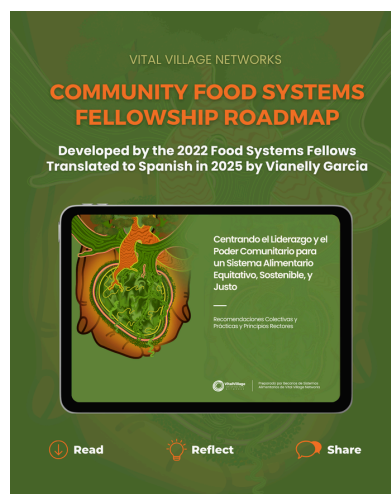
Traveling from out of town? Hotel room discounts available through **September 22, 2025**.

[Register Here](#)

New Resource: Spanish Edition of Collective Recommendations and Guiding Principles and Practices from 2022 Community Food Systems Fellows

Vital Village Networks is excited to share that *Centering Community Leadership and Power for an Equitable, Sustainable, & Just Food System* is now fully available in Spanish. Originally developed by our [2022 Community Food Systems Fellows](#)—a national cohort of grassroots leaders—this roadmap offers strategies to address systemic barriers, uplift local traditions and innovations, and center those most impacted by inequities. These collective recommendations aim to move communities from margin to center, fostering equitable, resilient, and community-powered food systems across Turtle Island.

[Access the Resource](#)



2025 NOW Biennial Network Survey



Your feedback is important to us! Through our 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. Thank you in advance for sharing your time, insight and wisdom with us, as we look to continue supporting the advancement of our collective justice movements so that all children and families can thrive.

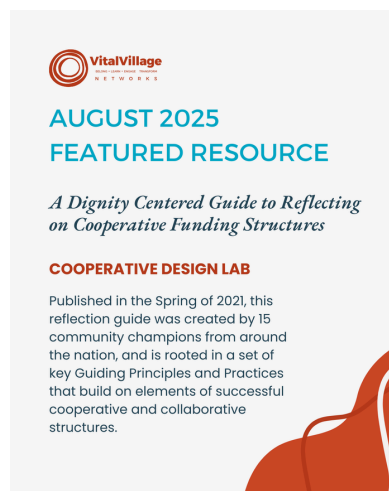
All respondents who complete the survey by **September 30, 2025** will receive a coupon for a 10% discount on their [2025 National Community Leadership Summit](#) registration!

Take the Survey

Featured Resource: *A Dignity-Centered Guide to Reflecting on Cooperative Funding Structures*

Published in the Spring of 2021, this reflection guide was created by 15 community champions from around the nation, and is rooted in a set of key Guiding Principles and Practices that build on elements of successful cooperative and collaborative structures. Explore this resource to learn more about how funders and their potential partners can think intentionally about the goals and outcomes of their relationship.

Want to dive in deeper with peers about this resource? Join the Peer Learning Cluster for the workshop [Community Engagement and Decolonizing Grant Writing](#) on September 16th.



Download Here

Support Our Campaign: *Give Where Leaders Grow*



At Vital Village Networks, we recognize that it takes a village to nurture leaders **from the community, for the community**. Together, we have been dedicated to investing in networks and cross-sector partnerships that center the leadership of caregivers and families, and create collaborative tools, processes, and conditions that promote child, family, and community well-being.

We need you, our village, to support our work and help create lasting change together. Please consider making a gift today to support Vital Village Networks and invest in the wisdom, innovative strategies, and power of grassroots leadership that is **#VillageMade**.

Give Today

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



www.networksofopportunity.org 

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