



May 20, 2026

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"To belong is to rest into the collective, to be woven into the all. It's the feeling that the group has found meaning and usefulness in your presence. That what you bring is needed and wanted here."

- Prentis Hemphill

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Welcome to the May 2026 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:

- Register for the next webinar in the 2026 NOW Webinar Series, *Resting in the Collective*
- Join us for the second workshop in the Peer Learning Cluster 2026 Series
- Save the Date for the 13th annual National Community Leadership Summit
- Explore the featured resource, *Investing in Infant and Toddler Child Care to Strengthen Working Families*
- 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 mayo de 2026 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:

- Registrarse para el próximo taller virtual de en la Serie de Talleres Virtuales del 2026 de NOW, *Descansando en el Colectivo*
- Unirse a nosotros para el segundo taller en la serie de Clúster de Aprendizaje entre Pares del 2026
- Reservar la fecha para la 13ª Cumbre Nacional de Liderazgo Comunitario
- Explorar el recurso destacado, *Invirtiendo en el Cuidado Infantil y Niños Pequeños para Fortalecer a las Familias Trabajadoras*
- Aproyar 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

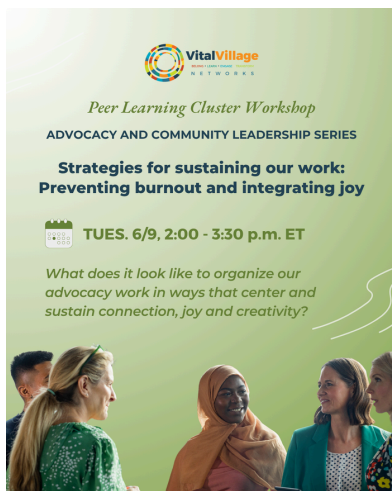
2026 NOW Webinar: *Resting in the Collective*

Join us **Thursday, June 4 at 2pm ET** for the second installment of the 2026 NOW Webinar series, where we will explore the question, *how do practices of interconnectedness and interdependence deepen both the feeling and practice of belonging?* Alongside featured local leaders, **Dorothy Williams**, Founder and CEO of Dottie's Family Childcare, **Jovanna Archuleta**, Early Childhood Program Director at LANL Foundation, and moderator **Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum**, Mid-Atlantic Regional Director at ParentChild+, we will learn how lessons from the early care and education field show us what Prentis Hemphill describes as "rest[ing] in the collective" is a necessary strategy for intentional belonging. Through real world examples of this practice – from classroom to state policy – we will examine how practices of recognition, interdependence, and agency create pathways for radical connection and transformative systems change.



[Register Here](#)

Peer Learning Cluster Workshop: *Strategies for sustaining our work: Preventing burnout and integrating joy*



What does it look like to organize our advocacy work in ways that center and sustain connection, joy, and creativity?

Join us **Tuesday, June 9 at 2pm ET** for the second workshop in the 2026 Peer Learning Cluster **Advocacy and Community Leadership Series**. From flexible leadership structures to integrating creative practices for healing and restoration, together we will explore real life examples of different organizing and advocacy strategies that sustain the work. We invite you to bring your experiences, knowledge and ideas to this peer-led workshop, and help us collectively deepen and expand our practices for connection, joy, and creativity.

[Register Here](#)

Registration Now Open: 13th Annual National Community Leadership Summit

Join us on **October 22 - 23, 2026** in Boston, MA for Vital Village Networks' National Community Leadership Summit, **Cross-Pollinating Solutions: Moving our Radical Dreams Forward**. This year we gather to cross-pollinate - the seeds of abundance, dignity, and liberation you're growing in your community deserve to travel. The strategies you've refined through years of practice deserve to be carried home by someone else and planted in new soil. The radical dreams you're tending deserve company.

This October, connect with grassroots leaders, path-builders, and innovators from across the country who are moving us toward the futures we know are possible.

Share your Story at the 2026 Summit

[Session Proposals](#) accepted through **June 24, 2026**

[Abstracts](#) accepted through **July 31, 2026**

[Register Here](#)



Featured Resource: Investing in Infant and Toddler Child Care to Strengthen Working Families



MAY 2026 FEATURED RESOURCE

Investing in Infant and Toddler Child Care to Strengthen Working Families

FROM RASHEED MALIK, CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRES

This report analyzes the economic effects of access to child care for families with children under 3. The author uses the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) to understand the challenges facing families with very young children and the opportunity to improve their lives by investing when children are young.

From the **Center for American Progress**, this report analyzes the economic effects of access to child care for families with children under 3. The author identifies both the challenges facing families with very young children, and the public policy opportunities in America to improve their lives by investing when children are young. Access this report and more resources in the [NOW Resource Library](#).

Access the Resource 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](#)



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