



September 25, 2025

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"...And at last you'll know with surpassing certainty that only one thing is more frightening than speaking your truth. And that is not speaking."

- Audre Lord

”

Welcome to the September 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 final installment of the 2025 NOW Webinar Series, *Centering Disability Justice in Intergenerational Movement Building*
- Register for the 12th Annual National Community Leadership Summit
- Complete the 2025 Biennial NOW Network Survey
- Register for the Social Justice Mediation Program Training Virtual Open House
- Explore the featured resource, *Lavender Phoenix Healing Justice Learning Resource*
- 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 septiembre 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 la última entrega de la serie de Talleres Virtuales de NOW 2025, *Centrando la Justicia de la Discapacidad en la Construcción de Movimientos Intergeneracionales*
- Registrarse para la 12ª Cumbre Anual Nacional de Liderazgo Comunitario
- Completar la Encuesta Bienal de la Red NOW del 2025
- Inscribirte en la Casa Abierta Virtual para el Programa de Entrenamiento de Mediación de Justicia Social
- Explorar el recurso destacado, *Recursos de Aprendizaje de Justicia Sanativa de Lavender Phoenix*
- 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

2025 NOW Webinar Series: Save the Date

The final installment of the NOW Webinar Series, ***Centering Disability Justice in Intergenerational Movement Building***, is scheduled for **November 20, 2025 from 1:00 - 2:00 pm ET**. In this conversation, we'll hear from intergenerational leaders about the importance of centering accessibility and disability justice within movement building spaces. Join us to learn from their reflections around strategies to ensure full participation and uphold dignity and collective care across generations.

[Register Here](#)



2025 National Community Leadership Summit: 30 day countdown



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. Explore the [two-day agenda](#) to plan your experience at the summit, and see the [powerful line-up](#) of leaders, changemakers, and community builders sharing their wisdom on our collective work to heal, cultivate and thrive in our justice movements.

Registration closes **September 30, 2025**.

[Register Here](#)

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](#)



Register for the Social Justice Mediation Program Training Virtual Open House



Vital Village Network's Local Boston team invites you to a Virtual Open House for the 2025 Social Justice Mediation Program (SJMP) Training on **Thursday, September 25, 2025** from 5:30 - 7:00 pm ET on Zoom.

The SJMP Training is a free, 40-hour in-person training in Dorchester, MA where attendees will learn about mediation and have the opportunity to practice their developed mediation skills through a 6-month service learning pathway.

Applications for the training close on **Thursday, October 2, 2025** at 11:59 pm ET.

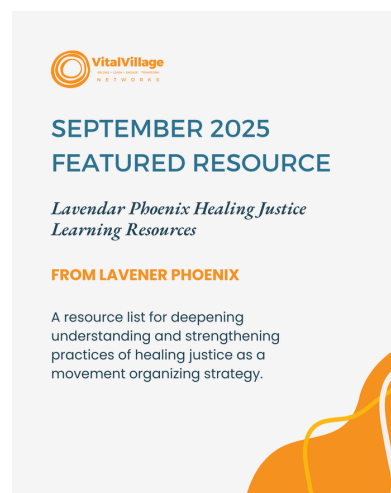
[Register Here](#)

Featured Resource: *Lavender Phoenix Healing Justice Learning Resources*

Created in 2021, and updated by [Lavender Phoenix](#), this list of resources looks to support deepening understanding and strengthening practices of healing justice as a movement organizing strategy. This collated resource directory includes materials on *Disability Justice*, *Liberatory Harm Reduction*, and *Abolition, Transformative Justice + Healing Justice*.

To learn more from national leaders on disability justice in their local work, be sure to save the date for the NOW webinar, [Centering Disability Justice in Intergenerational Movement Building](#).

[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



www.networksofopportunity.org 

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