



February 26, 2025

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"Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

- Barack Obama

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Welcome to the February 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:

- Register for the first NOW Webinar in the 2025 series scheduled for March 13, 2025
- Listen to the latest episodes of Season 3 of *In the Arena with NOW* podcast
- Join the Data Storytelling Workshop Series
- Save the date for the 12th Annual National Community Leadership Summit
- Explore the NOW Resource Library featured resource, *Community Change Process*
- Support Our Campaign, *Together We Thrive*

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 febrero 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 estás invitado a:

- Registrarse para el primer Taller Virtual de NOW de la serie del 2025 programado para el 13 de marzo de 2025
- Escuchar el último episodio de la temporada 3 de *In the Arena con NOW* podcast
- Unirse a la Serie de Talleres de Narración de Datos
- Reservar la fecha para la 12a Cumbre Nacional de Liderazgo Comunitario
- Explorar el recurso destacado de la Biblioteca de Recursos de NOW, *Proceso de Cambio de la Comunidad*
- Apoyar Nuestra Campaña, *Juntos Prosperamos*

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

A Letter from Ronda Alexander, Director of National Partnerships

Dear NOW Community,

It is with a bittersweet heart that I write to inform you that I will be stepping away from Vital Village Networks this April. Seven years have flown by and I have learned so much from this amazing network of leaders. From the launch of the NOW Learning Community to the podcast, quarterly webinars, and Peer Learning Clusters, I am in awe of the power, leadership, and commitment to children and families across the country. Keep an eye out for an invitation to a more formal celebration in next month's NOW Newsletter.

The revolution is not being televised, it is happening in the work YOU are doing every day. Thank you for bringing me along on this journey with you!

*With Love & Light,
Ronda Alexander
Director, National Partnerships
Vital Village Networks*

Join us in celebrating Ronda Alexander's leadership!

Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. ET

Join us as we gather in deep appreciation to honor Ronda Alexander's seven years of dedication, leadership, and impact at Vital Village Networks. **Save the date and [register here!](#)**

Ronda has strengthened our village and nurtured transformative change. This celebration is an opportunity to express our gratitude, reflect on the journey we've shared, and send her forward with love and appreciation.

Network Highlights

NOW Webinar Series: Centering Ancestral Wisdom through the Hogan Dialogue: Reflections on Community Engagement and Data Sovereignty

Join us on **Thursday, March 13 at 1:00 pm ET** for our first webinar of the year featuring **Roberto Nutlouis (Navajo)**, Executive Director of Nihikeya and 2024 VVN Community Food Systems Fellow. In this dynamic conversation we will learn more about how Roberto is centering ancestral wisdom and knowledge through community engagement processes using the Hogan Dialogue. He will also share reflections on practices and actions needed to move towards greater data sovereignty and community healing.

[Register Here](#)



In the Arena with NOW: New Episode



Tune into the latest episode, *We Have the Answers: Centering Interconnected Healing and Community-Led Solutions*, featuring **Julie Garreau, Chief Executive Officer, Cheyenne River Youth Project (CRYP)**. We learn more about CRYP's intentional approach to developing expansive programs that are centered on interconnected healing, including the Winyan Toka Win Garden, which was started by community elders – including Julie's mother – and has since become the heart of the youth project's Native food sovereignty initiative. Julie reflects on the inherent wisdom and self-sufficiency of communities, recognizing that "we have the answers, we have the solutions."

[Listen Here](#)

Data Storytelling Workshop Series: First Workshop

Who is telling the story of your community? Join Vital Village for the free virtual Data Storytelling workshop series and build your capacity to create and share stories that support social change using data tools. Visit our website to learn more and register for the upcoming workshop on **Thursday, February 27 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm ET** on Zoom.

[Learn More Here](#)



2025 National Community Leadership Summit: Save the Date



Join us **October 22 - 23, 2025** for the 12th Annual National Community Leadership Summit in Boston, MA. The summit brings together trailblazers from around the country who are dedicated to helping children and families get equitable access to the resources they need to thrive. Save the dates and stay connected for registration announcements this spring.

Stay Connected Here

NOW Resource Library Feature: Community Change Process

Developed by Racial Equity Tools, *Community Change Process*, provides specific examples and practices of racial equity work aimed at community change. Additionally, there are resources that provide frameworks and ideas for focusing on collective action for change. Read more and check out other resources in the [NOW Resource Library](#).

Access the Resource Here



At Vital Village Networks, we envision a world where every child's birthright includes a healthy, joyful, and equitable future. As we continue to work collectively to improve child well-being and nurture community leadership, we see power in knowing we are not alone, and that ***Together, We Thrive***.

Every contribution, regardless of the amount or type of service, helps to sustain this critical work of supporting civic leadership and driving positive change. Can we count on your support to help us reach our goal?

Give Together, 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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