

Beware of and counter the Youth-Industrial Complex

The youth-industrial complex is the informal relationship between governments, nonprofits and businesses that reinforce each others' mutually beneficial interactions with young people. Each side gains from developing specific activities for youth, and the others gain from ensuring young people need those particular activities in the first place.

Every single young person is affected by this complex in countless visible and invisible ways, extending from their home lives to sports, schooling to hanging out; and, from technology to clothing, music to communication. So many aspects of young peoples' lives are touched upon by the entwined, non-linear forces of the youth-industrial complex that it can be hard to identify exactly what it is.

In his paper, national-class youth activist Adam Fletcher uncovers the youth-industrial complex and answers these concerns:

- What it is
- How it acts
- Why it exists
- Where it came from
- Where it is going

Proposed Action Item

To protect Marion County Black American children and youth from exploitation, AACI will convene a group of local government, non-profits, and businesses that exist because of young people. The group will meet every 4 months for 2 years to unpack and critique Fletcher's "Youth-Industrial Complex" <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/The-Youth-Industrial-Complex-2.pdf>, analyzing how it relates to and is reflected in the values, policies and actions of the assembled groups.

The group will come up with a list of policies and actions negatively affecting youth--exploitive essences that would turn on a red light that would warn all libratory critically conscious youth initiatives and youth themselves. These involve "the relationships between non-profits, government and businesses [which] include subtle and overt interactions" between:

- Laws, rules, policies and regulations
- Products, programs, curricula, projects, plans and activities
- Evaluations, assessments, analytics and oversight
- Training, professional development, certifications, and degrees
- Books, articles, reports, websites and blogs
- Associations, affiliations, partnerships, coalitions, networks, districts and regions
- Funds, sales, grants, allocations, set-asides, donations and foundations.

A card will be prepared and given children and youth reminding them of how they could be exploited and what to do about it as an individual and how to organize their peers to protect themselves.

Some local organizations are:

- MCCOY
- Indiana Youth Institute
- Head Start
- Indiana Afterschool Network
- Girls Inc
- Indiana Black Expo
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Center for Leadership Development

- United Way of Indianapolis
- Children’s Coalition of Indiana
- Black & Latino Policy Institute
- Boy and Girls Scouts of America
- Catholic Youth Organization
- Thrival High School
- Indiana Youth Services Association
- Indiana Youth Group
- NAACP
- The Salvation Army
- Flanner House
- Mayor Hogsett’s Office of Education Innovation
- Mayor Hogsett’s Youth Leadership Council
- National Youth Advocate Program, Indiana
- Latino Youth Collective
- The Children’s Policy and Law Initiative
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- KIPP High School
- IPS
- Starfish
- Southeast Working-Class Task Force
- 100 Blackman
- Indiana Dept of Child Services
- Children’s Bureau
- Indiana Family and Social Services Administration