

SNAPSHOT

Launched: 2007

Leadership: Deborah S. Smolover, J.D.

Executive Director, America Forward

Managing Partner, New Profit

COALITION MEMBERS: 65

COALITION REACH: 13,000+ communities in 50 states

LEVERAGED FEDERAL FUNDING: \$1 Billion



AMERICA FORWARD'S MISSION

Uniting social entrepreneurs and policymakers. Transforming local impact into national change.

America Forward believes that too many people living in America lack access to quality education, economic opportunities, and healthy communities. We believe that even in times of limited resources, transformative change is possible; but neither the private sector nor the government can achieve this change alone.

Based in Washington DC, America Forward is New Profit's nonpartisan policy initiative that unites national policymakers with social entrepreneurs to advance a public policy agenda championing innovative and effective solutions to our country's most pressing social problems. America Forward works with policymakers to foster social entrepreneurship, spur innovation, identify more effective and efficient solutions, reward results, and catalyze partnerships across sectors. To advance these efforts, America Forward leads the America Forward Coalition, a network of more than 60 high-impact organizations united by common principles to advance social innovation. We envision a new role for government: one that removes barriers and creates incentives to help high-impact, results-driven organizations flourish; one that rewards what works rather than what is politically appealing; and one that works in partnership with the private sector to create strong programs that have meaningful impact in people's lives.

WHAT WE DO

America Forward focuses on 5 key areas of work:

- **Advance innovative policy platforms:** America Forward Coalition Task Forces and Working Groups pursue collective policy agendas in Education (Early

Learning, K-12 Education, Reimagine Learning, and Higher Education), Workforce Development, and Pay for Success.

- **Incubate cutting edge ideas:** America Forward develops promising social innovation policy proposals and advances bold new ideas.
- **Develop organizations' wide-spread impact:** America Forward partners with innovative organizations and New Profit's Focus Funds to help build their policy and systems change capacities and foster cross-sector, collaborative learning opportunities.
- **Amplify field leadership:** America Forward advances New Profit's field leadership goals through engagement in presidential elections, events, partnerships, and media.
- **Support service and social innovation:** America Forward supports strategies that increase opportunities for national service and spread the reach of social innovation policy.

AMERICA FORWARD'S CURRENT PRIORITIES

America Forward's current federal policy priorities:

- **Drive federal legislation:** Work with policymakers to reauthorize, reshape, and implement critical federal policies and programs in education through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Higher Education Act.
- **Advance Pay for Success:** Support Pay for Success and other results-oriented innovative funding strategies through legislation and priorities within the Administration, including support for social enterprises, and implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- **Improve access to and use of data:** Promote policy solutions that increase access to data, engage all sectors, and invest in what works.
- **Increase opportunities for national and volunteer service:** Advance national service through the Higher Education Act and Fair Labor Standards Act.

THE AMERICA FORWARD COALITION

America Forward leads a Coalition of more than 60 innovative, impact-oriented organizations, working in every state and in more than 13,000 communities nationwide, dedicated to driving systemic change in education, early childhood, workforce development, and poverty alleviation. The Coalition serves as the main driver of America Forward's policy priorities and includes:

Acelero Learning | Alternative Staffing Alliance | America's Promise Alliance | AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation | AVANCE | BELL | Blue Engine | Bottom Line | BUILD | Child Mind Institute | Citizen Schools | City Year, Inc. | College Advising Corps | College Forward | College Possible | College Summit | Compass Working Capital | Connecticut Center for Social Innovation | Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) | Eye to Eye | First Place for Youth | Generation Citizen | Genesys Works | Global Citizen Year | GreenLight Fund | iMentor | Institute for Child Success | Invest in Outcomes | Jumpstart | KIPP Schools | LIFT | National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) | New Classrooms Innovation Partners | New Leaders | New Sector Alliance | New Teacher Center | Opportunity Nation | Peace First | Peer Health Exchange | Reading Partners | REDF | Roca | Root Cause | Save the Children | Say Yes to Education | ServiceNation | Single Stop USA | Social Enterprise Alliance | Social Finance | Teach For America | The Children's Aid Society | The Corps Network | The Mission Continues | Third Sector Capital Partners | Turnaround for Children, Inc. | Twin Cities RISE! | uAspire | Waterford Institute | Year Up | YouthBuild USA | Youth Villages | 10,000 Degrees

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND EVENTS TO DATE

- 2009: Spurring the launch of the White House Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation
- 2009: Creating the Social Innovation Fund via passage of Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act
- 2010 - Present: Advocating for full funding of the Social Innovation Fund (totaling \$340M+ to date)
- 2012: Helping secure \$25M in Pay for Success funding as part of Workforce Innovation Fund
- 2014: Securing inclusion of a Pay for Performance amendment in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, resulting in close to \$300M of federal resources for outcomes-driven programs

NEXT MILESTONES

- Publish the America Forward Briefing Book for engagement in 2016 Presidential election and secure strong partners for advancing Presidential and Field Building efforts
- Advocate for renewal of key education legislation, including the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Higher Education Act, with focus on America Forward's innovative policy proposals
- Launch an Early Learning policy working group, and a Criminal Justice Reform effort
- Work closely with New Profit Focus Funds to develop and advance policy priorities
- Aid introduction of Pay for Success bills, creating a \$300M Incentive Fund to scale Pay for Success