

My Brother's Keeper Sacramento Youth Fellowship

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER



This is for our brothers man... we know we all goin' through it – Lamariea, MBK Youth Fellow

My Brother's Keeper Sacramento Background

The My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Sacramento Collaborative brings together a host of youth and adult partners to collectively address health, education, employment and justice system disparities for Sacramento young men of color through policy advocacy, systems reform and support for effective programs. Local MBK initiative efforts began in response to President Obama's 2014 signing of the My Brother's Keeper Memorandum that calls for national attention focused on "address(ing) persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color"¹. Using a collective impact model to support effective and coordinated action across multiple sectors, the MBK Sacramento Collaborative's vision is "to address the persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their fullest potential".

My Brother's Keeper Sacramento Youth Fellowship

Launched in 2017, the My Brother's Keeper Youth Fellowship provides an opportunity for young men of color in Sacramento, ages 16-20, to become agents of change in their community. As members of the MBK Youth Fellowship, Fellows develop new skills, build knowledge and have increased access to opportunities that empower and help flourish the leadership capacity of Fellows as young social justice advocates for boys and men of color through a 9-month impactful program with ongoing connection of brotherhood.

Our Policy Brief Overview

Through a participatory action approach, the MBK Sacramento Youth Fellows explored challenges commonly encountered by boys and men of color attending school and living in Sacramento. Our exploration centered around the four impact areas of the MBK Sacramento Collaborative: 1) health, 2) education, 3) employment, and 4) juvenile justice. However, one area in particular provided relevance for each MBK Youth Fellow and connection across all impact areas – mental health. Our policy brief highlights our methodology which included collecting nearly 200 surveys, with 61% of respondents indicating experiencing a traumatic event and 64% of respondents indicating mental health as very or extremely important. The hope for the policy brief is to help improve mental health strategies around boys and men of color so that our brothers can strive for success at their fullest potential.

Moving Forward

- **At the Forefront of Urgency:** Targeted, but universal mental health support services that are accessible both within the community and in schools.
- **Paying Attention to What Our Brothers Are Telling Us:** Sharing our policy brief and recommendations with City and County mental health related boards and councils.
- **Not Expecting Miracles, but Progress:** Seeking partners to support and advocate for deeper dive into the mental health need of boys and men of color in Sacramento. In addition, we seek partners to develop a youth-targeted mobile platform that helps address the mentorship, community spaces for healing, self-care strategies, and resource gap that our brothers' need.

¹ Obama, B. (2014). Presidential Memorandum—Creating and Expanding Ladders of Opportunities for Boys and Young Men of Color. Retrieved from <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/02/27/presidential-memorandum-creating-and-expanding-ladders-opportunity-boys>