



A project of the Twenty-First Century Foundation

## FACT SHEET

### Background

In 2004 the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Foundation embarked to develop and sponsor the Black Men and Boys Initiative (BMB). Founded in 1971, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Foundation's mission is to advance strategic Black philanthropy aimed at having a positive impact on social and economic issues in the Black community. With support from the Ford Foundation and others, the Foundation launched local efforts of BMB in four cities: Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City and Oakland. Oakland was chosen as a pilot city because of its rich history of community activism, strong community leadership and breath of individuals and institutions that demonstrated a willingness to support the project. The Mentoring Center serves as the lead agency for BMB-Oakland.

### Vision Statement

We will create a society with new social and economic realities that inspire ambition and hope among African descendant males and accommodate the pursuit and realization of their dreams. We will initiate and support efforts that restore aspiration among and create conditions for African descendant males to realize their destiny and contribute greatness to the world. We believe this endeavor advances humanity and increases our collective capacity to heal injustice.

### Goals

- Raise the visibility of critical issues facing Black Men and Boys nationally and in select local communities in a way that informs substantive action and positive change.
- Develop effective strategies and effect positive change on the circumstances and conditions which negatively impact Black men and boys by closing the gap on negative indicators.
- Foster the development of programs and systems that will positively

impact the understanding, knowledge, values and skills that enable Black men and boys to succeed in an American society.

- Develop and sustain partnerships and coalitions that reflect the needs of Black men and boys and impact systemic change.
- Develop and steward financial resources, (which exist within and external to our communities), by maximizing existing resources and continuously surfacing new sources of support from individual donors, community organizations and institutional philanthropy to supplement this effort.

## **Focus Areas**

There were five (5) areas identified as key to successfully changing outcomes for the better in the long term:

- Educational Opportunity
- Engaged Fatherhood & Parenting
- Justice, Rights, & Responsibilities
- Health (Physical and Mental)
- Economic Opportunity

## **Contact Information**

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