

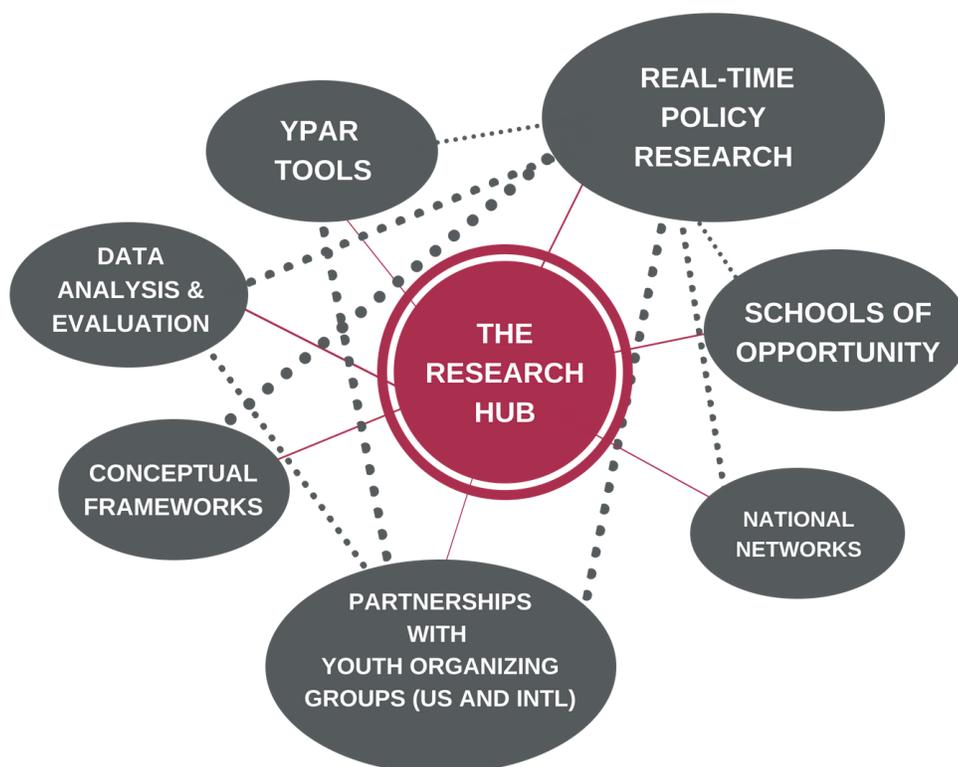
THE RESEARCH HUB FOR YOUTH ORGANIZING AND EDUCATION POLICY

Supporting the education justice movement through field-driven research

The Research Hub advances education justice by co-creating and sharing research and curriculum with youth organizers, teachers, education leaders and policy makers who are leading the education justice movement.

Examples of work from our first two years:

- Co-designing a YPAR toolkit and web platform to support new youth chapters working with local organizing groups in Colorado.
- Building a curriculum about social movements in the global south for partners in South Africa.
- Recognizing 45 high schools across the nation as Schools of Opportunity.
- Co-publishing a policy memo and report establishing the research evidence supporting community schools as an effective school improvement strategy with the Learning Policy Institute.
- Providing evaluation support to new initiatives and developing lessons for the field on how youth organizers build political power.



Rationale for a Research Hub supporting youth-led social change

Data is central to campaigns and movement-building

Youth-led movements utilize evidence to draw attention to inequality, inform specific campaigns, and hold policymakers accountable. For example, South Africa's Equal Education engaged in systematic research to document inequalities in school infrastructure, such as bathrooms and libraries, which strengthened their campaign for minimum norms and standards. Youth leadership groups with this kind of research capacity, however, are the exception rather than the norm. Contributing relevant and timely research requires far more than publishing excellent research—it requires building strong relationships between researchers and activists that ensure that research products are relevant and actionable.

Youth organizers know what the pressing questions are

The Research Hub starts with the assumption that youth activists already have key knowledge about the needs and interest in their communities and insight about the most urgent research questions that should be pursued. We see our job as convening activists across regions and nations to support peer to peer learning, and in cases where new research is needed, develop partnerships that address those questions in timely and relevant ways. Drawing on methods from the learning sciences, this partnership approach improves the quality and relevance of research while strengthening education justice movements.

The Research Hub leverages university resources for higher impact

Through the collaboration of its university research centers (NEPC and CU Engage), the Hub can leverage existing resources, networks, and expertise to disseminate research findings, respond to research requests in a timely way, and convene groups to strengthen relationships. Core to this proposal is the idea that NEPC and CU Engage are not building a new organization. Rather we serve as a conduit to facilitate and strengthen connections between multiple networks that cross communities, geographic regions and sectors.

We use a broad and flexible framing for this work

In the United States, the Research Hub is explicit about focusing on supporting youth organizing for education justice, but internationally, we use broader terms for the work, including civic engagement and youth leadership. In many nations, the terms social justice, community organizing, and youth organizing either have different meanings or may pose risks to activists.

Contact Siomara Valladares at Siomara.Valladares@colorado.edu to discuss possible collaborations or partnerships.



School of Education
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



Engage
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

