



YOUNG WORKER PROGRAM

# SPRING INTO SUMMER

## Roundtable Toolkit

# Contents

<b>Welcome</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>What is Spring Into Summer?</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The First National Day of Action—Roundtable Discussions</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Get Started</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Young Worker Advisory Council—Solidarity Action</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Resources</b>	
Sample Invitation to Elected Officials	6
Sample Media Advisory	7
Sample Press Release	8
Sample Social Media	9

# Welcome

Greetings,

The AFL-CIO Next Up Summit energized and engaged more than 1,000 young workers from across the country. We all have returned home to our local unions and local labor movements excited and ready to work. It's important that our energy is agenda-driven and builds power for the labor movement. The Spring Into Summer campaign does exactly this.

Spring Into Summer is about utilizing the energy and enthusiasm from the Next Up Summit and directing it toward a series of actions throughout the summer. These actions will be a foundation for future activism and engagement at the local level. By interacting with elected officials and having the space to tell their story, Spring Into Summer will help young people build the narrative that their voices matter in the run up to the 2016 elections, and that young people are not going to be satisfied by politicians or policies that fail to take into account the unique challenges they face or the changes they want to see.

This toolkit provides a starting point for young worker groups to plan Spring Into Summer actions. It contains general advice, examples of how to localize broad policy issues and sample documents to get young workers to the starting line for the first action on June 20, 2015. In addition to the toolkit, we are asking young worker groups to reach out to their local state and labor bodies for help, guidance and support to make Spring Into Summer a reality.

The support of your local labor bodies is crucial to the success of Spring Into Summer and your future endeavors. You will need a range of support—from help getting meetings scheduled with elected officials as a leader of your local young worker group, to finding meeting space or holding trainings on how to conduct a meeting with an elected official for maximum results. We intend for these actions to create closer bonds between you and the federation bodies to build power for workers.

Following the action on June 20, we will send additional tools for the subsequent summer actions—**a town hall in August and an action on Labor Day**. We have a great opportunity to channel the energy from the Next Up Summit into political power and activist training. Thank you in advance for your leadership on these issues.

In Solidarity,

Liz Shuler  
AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer



## What is Spring Into Summer?

Spring Into Summer is about utilizing the energy and enthusiasm from the Next Up Summit and directing it toward a series of actions throughout the summer. Through these actions, we are beginning to build the narrative that young voices matter in the run up to 2016, and that as young people we are not going to be satisfied by politicians or policies that fail to take into account the unique challenges we face or the changes we want to see.

## The First National Day of Action—Roundtable Discussions

This toolkit will focus on the first action, the National Day of Action on June 20, 2015.

The first national day of action will be a roundtable discussion with fellow young labor activists, members of local federation bodies and elected officials. At most, these discussions should include 10 to 15 people. The discussions should be led by the young labor activists and focus on two to three issues that are critically important to young people in your community. Keep in mind, it is an introductory conversation with elected officials about issues important to young people, and how those officials can support young people in their communities.

We will be tracking all Spring Into Summer actions to show the collective power of young workers from across the country. These actions then will be placed on an interactive map with details of each action. **Please upload your Spring Into Summer Action Plan here to be added to the power map.**

## How to Get Started

### Youth Economic Policy Platform

#### What do you want to talk about?

Included with this toolkit is a copy of the Youth Economic Platform, YEP. This policy platform was developed by young workers for young workers. The YEP should be the foundation of your conversation with elected officials. Pick your two to three specific issues based on these broad policy objectives. Then look for ways to adapt the policy goals to local, state and federal issues important to your community.

Are there campaigns, contract fights, bills or city ordinances, etc., that are currently happening? If so, use these to anchor the discussion and have a clear ask.

*NOTE: You might want to focus only on one area (for example, only local issues) because you will want to invite an elected official(s) who can have an actionable impact on your issue.*

**LOCAL EXAMPLE**

*Youth Economic Policy Goal*

We will defend our right to speak out together.

*Specific Local Issue*

The teachers' union at a school in the community is conducting contract negotiations.

*Elected Official*

School board member

**STATEWIDE EXAMPLE**

*Youth Economic Policy Goal*

We call for dramatically increasing access to postsecondary education and training for all.

*Specific Statewide Issue*

Your state's budget is cutting funds to public higher education.

*Elected Official*

State representative

**NATIONAL EXAMPLE**

*Youth Economic Policy Goal*

We demand that our government invest in jobs, infrastructure and innovation. Invest in us!

*Specific National Issue*

Stop Fast Track and the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

*Elected Official*

U.S. senator or member of Congress

## Elected Officials

### Who is your target audience?

Depending on the issue, you will want to invite the most appropriate elected official. To do this, identify elected officials who can vote on or have strong influence over the issue you have decided on. If this is a contract fight regarding workers at a local school, meet with a school board member; if it's about statewide funding, meet with a statewide elected official; if it's about a national trade deal, meet with your U.S. senator or member of Congress, etc.

Work with your local labor body to send an invitation to the elected official as soon as possible! Their schedules fill up quickly, so the sooner you reach out, the better your chances are of talking with them. When you send out an invitation, make sure you are reaching out to the correct person, have all the logistical details and provide some insight into why you want to meet.

There is a sample invitation in the Resources section of this toolkit.

## **Working with Your CLC or State Federation**

### **Whom should you work with?**

You should be working with your local labor body on this event (central labor council, area labor federation or state federation, etc.). They are here to provide guidance and support. They will have the knowledge and relationships to help get you to the finish line.

Local labor bodies can be helpful with selecting specific issue campaigns, knowing the best elected official to reach out to, having the best contact information for the elected official's scheduler, where to have the meeting, how to conduct the meeting, etc.

They already have been briefed on Spring Into Summer and know you will be seeking their help. So reach out!

### **What about community organizations?**

This initial conversation is meant to be a small group discussion. However, if you already are working closely with student or community groups on this issue, you should reach out to them and include them in the planning and execution of this action. The next couple of events will progressively get larger and might be opportunities to look for future partnerships with other organizations.

## **Young Worker Advisory Council—Solidarity Action**

The recent uprisings from Ferguson, Mo., to Baltimore have been places where young people, particularly young people of color, have spoken out about injustices they face in their communities. Following the killing of Freddie Gray in Baltimore, the Baltimore Young Trade Unionists have decided their event will focus on confronting racial justice and infrastructure investment issues.

To show these issues are not isolated to specific cities, but mirror the same injustices all across the nation, as an act of solidarity the Young Worker Advisory Council will focus its Spring Into Summer actions on issues of racial justice and infrastructure investment.

# Resources

## SAMPLE INVITATION TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

[DATE]

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[ADDRESS]

[CITY], [STATE] [ZIP CODE]

Dear [NAME]:

On June 20, 2015, young workers across the country are meeting with elected officials to talk about critically important issues impacting young people and their communities. With the 2016 elections around the corner, we want to make sure young people and their concerns are part of the conversation to set an inclusive agenda.

With millions of young workers across the country struggling to find employment and make ends meet, it's essential to involve them in the process of creating a brighter economic future for them and their families.

We, [GROUP NAME], as a non-formal committee of the [NAME OF CLC/STATE FEDERATION], invite you to a roundtable discussion on June 20 at [TIME] at [LOCATION]. This discussion will include a dozen young workers who are interested in discussing a policy agenda that will lift up and create a path forward for them.

During the roundtable we would like to discuss [ISSUE 1], [ISSUE 2] and [ISSUE 3]. These are issues found by [GROUP NAME] to be of the utmost importance to young people in our community.

We hope you will join us on June 20 at [TIME] for the roundtable discussion. We'll contact your staff in the upcoming days to talk through this further. If you have any questions, you can contact [NAME] at [EMAIL] or [PHONE].

Sincerely,

# Resources

## SAMPLE MEDIA ADVISORY

Media Advisory for June 20

Contact: [NAME, NUMBER]

### **Young Labor Activists and [ELECTED OFFICIAL] to Outline Key Issues Facing Young Workers in [STATE] on National Day of Action**

*Roundtable discussion to highlight what young workers need to chart a path forward*

(CITY, STATE)—On Saturday, June 20, young union members in [STATE] will host a roundtable featuring [ELECTED OFFICIAL] and local labor leaders that will lay out key issues facing local young workers as part of a national day of action around young workers coordinated by the AFL-CIO.

With wages stagnating and the youth unemployment rate remaining consistently above the national average, the roundtable discussion marks the beginning of a series of conversations and actions that will continue to highlight these issues throughout the year.

As highlighted at the AFL-CIO's Next Up Young Worker Summit this year, roundtable participants will issue a call for concrete policy agendas that will lift up and create a path forward for young workers.

**WHO:** [LIST PARTICIPANTS]

**WHAT:** Roundtable discussion on [LIST ISSUE AREAS]

**WHERE:** [LOCATION, ADDRESS]

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 20, at [TIME]

*Media planning to attend must RSVP to [NAME] at [EMAIL] or [PHONE].*

###

# Resources

## SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: [NAME, NUMBER]

### **[STATE] Young Labor Activists and [ELECTED OFFICIAL] Call for Action on Issues Facing Young Workers**

*Roundtable discussion part of an AFL-CIO-coordinated national day of action  
around young worker issues*

(CITY, STATE, Saturday, June 20)—At a roundtable today in [CITY], young labor activists, local labor leaders and [ELECTED OFFICIAL] highlighted the top issues currently affecting local young workers. Drawing from the AFL-CIO’s Youth Economic Platform that was released before the State of the Union address this year, the roundtable pointed to [LIST SELECTED ISSUES] as a few of the many economic issues plaguing youth in [STATE] and across the country.

“Despite the economy slowly recovering, young people continue to lag behind,” said [NAME], a local young worker. “This roundtable should serve as a springboard for other conversations around what young workers need to thrive in their workplaces.”

Today’s roundtable was part of a broader national day of action around issues facing young workers coordinated by the AFL-CIO. With millions of young workers across the country struggling to find employment and make ends meet, the labor movement is committed to bringing the issues facing young workers into the spotlight.

“Unless there’s an election coming up, politicians far too often relegate the interests of young people to the back burner. It’s time for these issues, which are central to the economic wellbeing of thousands of young people across the state, to take center stage,” said [ELECTED OFFICIAL].

###

# Resources

## SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA

### #1uNextUp, #BlackSpring

#### Facebook

Option 1:

I just met with @RepX to talk about [insert issue here]. What issues are important to you as we head into 2016? Join the conversation #1unextup [insert photo of the meeting or at rep's office]

Option 2:

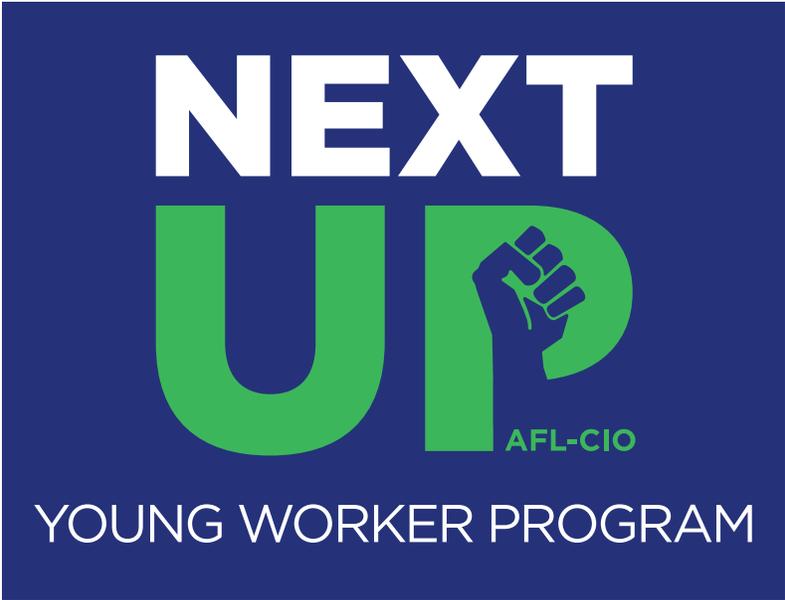
Young workers are speaking up and making our issues heard. Check out our vision for the future:  
<http://go.aflcio.org/future-economy> #1unextup

#### Twitter

Young workers are talking economy with their reps today. What issues are important to you?  
<http://go.aflcio.org/future-economy> #1unextup

Young voices matter. Join the conversation 6/20. What issues matter to you? #1unextup

I am a voter and today I met with @repx to discuss student loans (or issue of your choice). #1unextup



**AFL-CIO**

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