# **Coaching Early Career Professionals: A Tool for Staff Performance and Retention**

2014 MNN Conference: Leading Today, Transforming Tomorrow

Jenn Bender, CEO Zack Dagneau, Boston Program Manager









#### Managers who coach...



- Balance giving direction/answers with collaboration/aid in discovery
- · Communicate as experienced near-peers, not just as experts
- · Generate mutual ideas and plans
- Ask (open-ended) questions and facilitate progress
- Identify goals with and customized to the employee
- · Tell it like it is, then move to consider possibilities
- Toggle between traditional management and coaching
- ... Have more productive, engaged, and committed employees



Copyright New Sector Alliance. No part of this document may be circulated or reproduced without prior written approval from New Sector Alliance. 3



#### Millennials are...



- Born between the early 80s 2000
- Shaped by parenting styles that reacted to previous generations
- · Hopeful and optimistic
- · Ambitious and achievement-focused
- Comfortable communicating via technology
- Inclusive, relaxed around superiors
- · Civic-minded

How does this translate in your workplace?



Generations at Work

Copyright New Sector Alliance. No part of this docume may be circulated or reproduced without prior written approval from New Sector Alliance.

5

## Millennials are entering but not succeeding in nonprofit careers in enough numbers

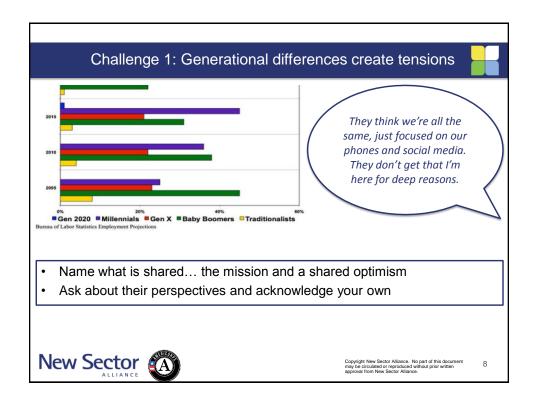


- Current and future nonprofit leadership deficit
- More than ever, young professionals want social impact to be central to their careers
- Yet performance challenges are common and retention is low
  - 45% of young professionals looking to leave the sector
- The loss of talent potential routes investments away from community impact and eats away at the natural pipeline



Copyright New Sector Alliance. No part of this documer may be circulated or reproduced without prior written 6





## Challenge 2: Structure is in the DNA of Millennials but not nonprofits



I'm not sure what to do while I wait for a return email, or when I finish the day's work at 3 o'clock.



- Ask them to play back ideas and directions (including where to go for help)
- Partner on practice opportunities



Copyright New Sector Alliance. No part of this documer may be circulated or reproduced without prior written approval from New Sector Alliance. 9

## Challenge 3: Individual feedback and perfect achievement are hard to come by



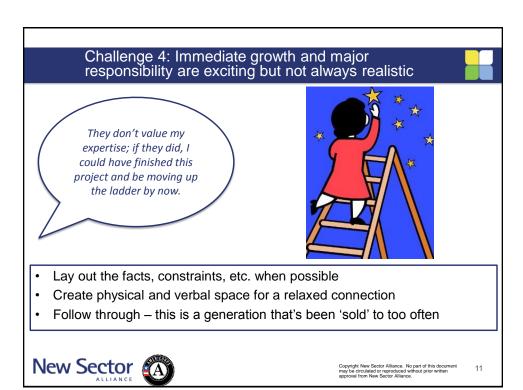


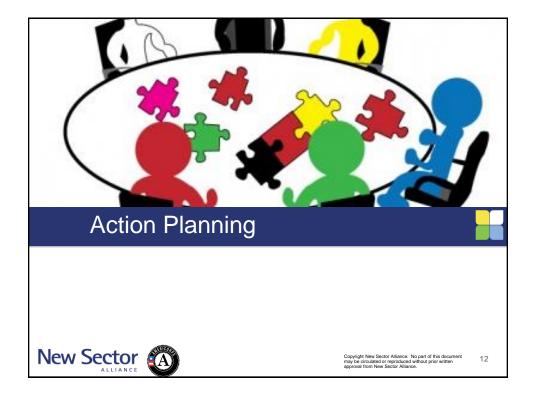
I miss school, when my paper would come back marked up in red; I can't tell how my performance is or when I've done a great job.

- Work through things together (and identify feedback on the fly)
- · Name tangible results as achievement to signal acknowledgement



Copyright New Sector Alliance. No part of this document may be circulated or reproduced without prior written 10





How can you be more of a coach? 📙		
Employee:	What I Know:	
What I Don't Know:		
What I'll Do & When:		
New Sector (ALLIANCE	Copyright New Sector Alliance. No part of this document may be circulated or reproduced without prior written approval from New Sector Alliance.	13