Youth Engagement Process

BEGIN HERE

Assess your personal & organizational readiness to lead the youth engagement process

Get additional professional development & support

Develop a (new) strategy & work plan for youth engagement

NO

YES

Evaluate both the process and product of youth engagement

Facilitate ongoing assessment of team dynamics, leadership development, and adult ally skills

Identify project goals, objectives, scope and sequence with the youth team

Provide ongoing support to youth as they complete tasks

Recruit young people to participate

Build the capacity of the youth team

Informed by overall organizational goals, deliverables, and objectives

Strong adult allies...

- Trust youth
- Listen and facilitate with patience
- Help network and navigate institutions to assist young people
- Respect young people’s views, time, experiences, diversity and culture
- Are not afraid of challenges or being challenged in their style of work
- Are empowering and empathetic
- Recognize what youth know and don’t know
- Establish and understand boundaries
- Are organized
- Create reasonable expectations with youth
- Accept feedback in a positive, non-defensive manner

Sample Youth Engagement Work Plan

- Acquire funding to support youth engagement*
- Allocate appropriate staff/adult ally time
- Receive adult ally training on youth development principles and youth facilitation
- Conduct outreach for youth team recruitment
- Interview and select youth leaders
- Facilitate youth team retreat
  - Develop community agreements, team objectives, activities, timeline
  - Develop retention plan
- Hold regular meetings & lines of communication
- Carry out projects and tasks
- Assess & evaluate process and outcomes
- Create sustainability plan

Youth Leadership Skills

- Knowledge of various adolescent health issues
- Cultural competency
- Meeting facilitation
- Agenda development
- Teamwork dynamics
- Decision-making
- Goal-setting
- Research and evaluation
- Public speaking
- Policy advocacy
- Public health outreach
- Community organizing

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