

A Framework for Youth Teaming

This framework was developed to assist organizations in determining how to best recruit and actively team with youth. Review the topics and considerations with your team and develop a youth engagement action plan.

Use the solutions portion of the worksheet to identify ideas, solutions or action steps. You may find that you don't yet have an answer for every step. If that occurs, then you will have identified an area that you need assistance or support.

Steps	Description	Solutions
Purpose	Why do you want to involve youth in your work?	
Involvement	Create an action plan for why you want to include youth within the scope of your organization's mission. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid tokenism, build a team of youth.	
Supports	Determine individuals within your organization to act as mentors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be intentional about explaining the culture, vocabulary and practices	
Recruitment	Identify where you will find youth to reach? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are they online?• Are they related to staff members?• Are they found from the pool of consumers you already serve?	



Recruitment (continued)	<p>What method is effective?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word of mouth? • Consumer wide email? • Vocational Rehan Consulars? <p>Reaching out to Teachers for the Blind, School Social Workers, etc.?</p>	
Meeting	<p>When and how?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What day of the week works best for the facilitating staff and youth? • Provide flexible meeting options 	
Communicating	<p>Method(s)</p> <p>How to be consistent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you contact and reach youth and depending on age their parents/guardians? • Email, text or a group messaging forum 	
Actively Teaming with Youth <p>This ensures the youth are not just involved in youth related things in a vacuum. Youth Teaming involves interdependence.</p>	<p>Helps with goals</p> <p>Realistic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Spotlight during organization meetings. This would highlight some of the objectives the youth have achieved or are working on • Engage youth in workgroups and projects • Consider leadership roles for youth 	

