Engaging Youth in Making Community Change

An Examination of Youth Engagement Strategies Across the NNIP Network and Beyond

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Poll

What is your experience with youth engagement in your work?

A. I’ve participated in/led youth engagement work or youth action research

B. I understand the concept but have never participated

C. I am unfamiliar with the concept
Engaging youth in your work is beneficial to both your organization’s work and the youth involved.
Benefit to Your Organization

• Grounds your work in lived experience
• Provides new ideas
• Increases credibility
• Promotes inclusivity and personal investment
• Appeals to funders
Benefit to Youth

- Build personal skills: leadership, critical thinking, relationship formation, analysis, public speaking
- Empowered to make changes in their communities
- Elevate youth to serve as role models and experts in their community
- Lead to better health and interpersonal outcomes later in life
Ways to Engage Youth

- Data and Advocacy Training
- Youth Voice
- Youth Led Initiatives
- Creative Dissemination
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Data and Advocacy Training

Youth Voice

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Youth Engagement Project Examples
Young Leaders, Strong City Program

- Run by the Institute for Urban Policy Research (IUPR) at the University of Texas at Dallas and the IF Institute
- This youth summit teaches advocacy, data literacy, and analytical skills to high school students
- Focused on topics of social justice
- Some students went on to lead youth summits and projects in their schools around topics such as racial justice, immigration, and microaggressions
The Social Service Run Around

- Partnership between the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of Minnesota and the youth participatory action research at Juxtaposition Arts in Minneapolis.
- Investigated the experiences of people facing evictions.
- Youth research team conducted interviews and developed creative dissemination methods of their findings.
• The Public Health Department of Seattle and King County conducted LGBTQ youth focus groups
• To help interpret and contextualize quantitative data findings in their lived experience
Take Aways

• Youth engagement takes effort and commitment.
• Leverage partners with experience working with youth.
• Match your methods to your goals.
• It’s worth it!
References


THANK YOU

For more information about NNIP, visit www.neighborhoodindicators.org.

For questions, email CAnoll@Urban.org.