



INTERAGENCY
WORKING GROUP
ON
youth PROGRAMS

***Meaningfully Engaging Young People:
Principles, Strategies, and Success Stories***

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youth.GOV



Engaging Young People in Federal Research, Programming, and Policymaking

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Chair of the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs (IWGYP)



“Youth Engagement is an inclusive, intentional, mutually-respectful partnership between youth and adults whereby power is shared, respective contributions are valued, and young people’s ideas, perspectives, skills, and strengths are integrated into the design and delivery of programs, strategies, policies, funding mechanisms and organizations that affect lives and their communities, countries and globally.” – USAID

Youth Engagement Strategies (YES) Project

Common Youth Engagement Practices

- Youth Support Practices:
 - Youth – Adult Partnerships
 - Peer Support
 - Clear Roles and Expectations
 - Training and Support for Young Adults
 - Understanding the Developmental Needs of Various Age Groups
 - Understanding the Relevance to Young Adults' Cultural Needs
 - Understanding the Relevance to Youth with Lived Experience
- Operational Practices:
 - Engaging Agency “Champions”
 - Training and Support for Adults
 - Youth Engagement Activities Inventory
 - Ensure Sufficient Human and Financial Resources.



Youth Engaged 4 Change (YE4C)

- engage.youth.gov
 - Make sure to check out the opportunities page for ways young people can get involved!
- Youth Editorial Board



**YOUTH
ENGAGED
CHANGE** 4



Federal Resources

- HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
 - [Methods and Emerging Strategies to Engage People with Lived Experience](#)
 - [What is Lived Experience?](#)
 - [What Does it Look Like to Equitably Engage People with Lived Experience?](#)
 - [Strategies to Equitably Identify People with Lived Experience](#)
 - [Recruiting Individuals with Lived Experience](#)
- HHS Administration for Children and Families
 - Webinar: Methods and Strategies for Engaging People with Lived Experience
 - Webinar: Incorporating Lived Experiences into Decision Making
 - A Tool for Youth Engagement and Empowerment
 - Youth Engagement Blueprint

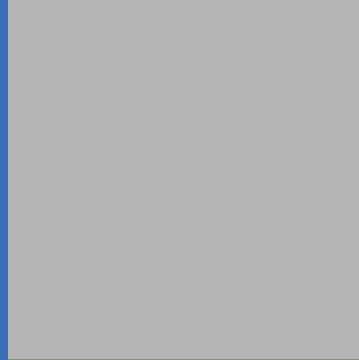


Federal Resources

- HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration
 - [Participation Guidelines for Individuals and Families with Lived Experience](#)
- USAID
 - [Youth In Development Policy – 2022 Update](#)
 - [Youth Engagement Measurement Guide](#)



Thank you!





CDF Youth Engagement Principles

Principle 1

We honor and uplift
young people as
experts

Principle 2

We are trustworthy,
transparent,
accountable and
reliable

Principle 3

We hold a safer space
for youth experts

Principle 4

We build a new power
dynamic that centers
young people's
expertise

Resources: Youth Engagement Theory

[Children's Participation from Tokenism to Citizenship](#)

-Roger Hart



[Pathways to Participation](#)

-Harry Shier



[Combined Model](#)

-Melvin Delgado & Lee Staples



Hart's Ladder of Youth Participation



RUNG 8 - Youth initiated shared decisions with adults: Youth-led activities, in which decision making is shared between youth and adults working as equal partners.

RUNG 7 - Youth initiated and directed: Youth-led activities with little input from adults.

RUNG 6 - Adult initiated shared decisions with youth: Adult-led activities, in which decision making is shared with youth.

RUNG 5 - Consulted and informed: Adult-led activities, in which youth are consulted and informed about how their input will be used and the outcomes of adult decisions.

RUNG 4 - Assigned, but informed: Adult-led activities, in which youth understand purpose, decision-making process, and have a role.

RUNG 3 - Tokenism: Adult-led activities, in which youth may be consulted with minimal opportunities for feedback.

RUNG 2 - Decoration: Adult-led activities, in which youth understand purpose, but have no input in how they are planned.

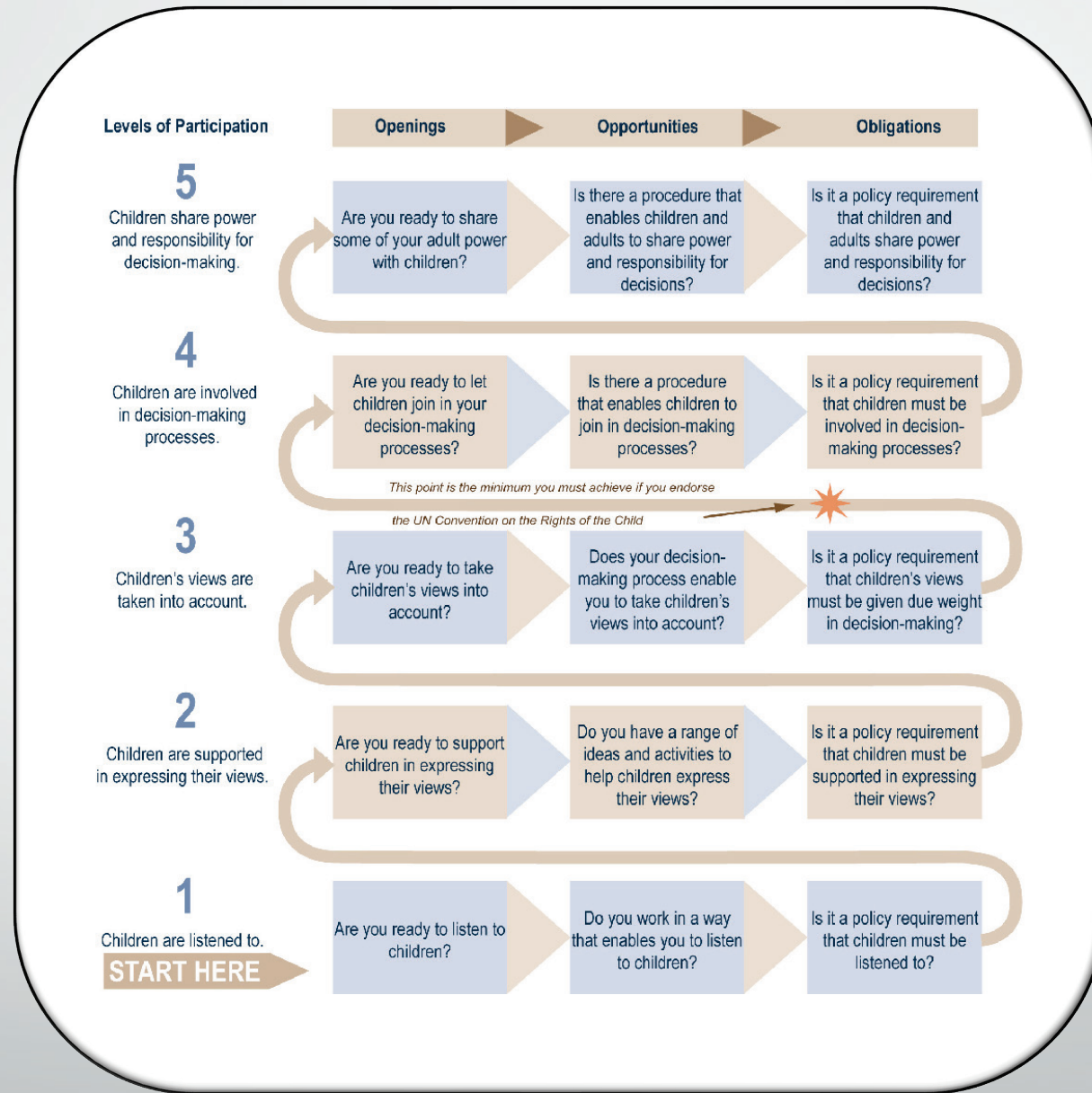
RUNG 1 - Manipulation: Adult-led activities, in which youth do as directed without understanding of the purpose for the activities.

Adapted from Hart, R. (1992). Children's Participation from Tokenism to Citizenship. Florence: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, as cited in www.freechild.org/ladder.htm



Pathways to Participation


-Harry Shier



Combined Model


-Delgado & Staples

<u>Model 1</u>	<u>Model 2</u>	<u>Model 3</u>	<u>Model 4</u>
Adult-Led with Youth Participation	Adult-Led with Youth as Limited Partners	Youth-Adult Collaborative Partnership	Youth-Led with Adult Allies



Fundamental Practices for Youth Engagement

- Secure buy-in from leaders with decision-making authority
- Demonstrate the *Platinum Rule* – treat young people the way they want to be treated
- Provide the opportunity to participate throughout the life cycle of a project/initiative
- Provide training and technical assistance to facilitate their informed engagement
- Provide access to resources (e.g., books, peer support)



Fundamental Practices for Youth Engagement (continued)

- Maintain regular contact – think high-touch relationship building
- Provide the opportunity to engage *in person*
- Activate your adult network/contacts to support the development of young people
- Maintain flexible scheduling to support their school/work/family commitments

Compensation Practices



- Consider equity: pay young people and adults equitably
- Start with offering cash rather than gift cards or cash cards
- Support for unbanked youth; onboarding must include financial literacy
- Hourly pay rates: \$7.25/hour (minimum wage) up to \$50/hour or more depending on the type of work
- Monthly pay rates – e.g., \$500 for 20 hours
- Project-based pay rates: stipends for specific deliverables and vary widely by type of organization, most range \$250 - \$500 per project

Resources: Methods, Strategies & Practices

[Youth Engagement Measurement and Indicators](#)

-U.S. Agency for International Development/Youth Power Learning

[Youth Engagement at the Federal Level: A Compilation of Strategies and Practices](#)

-Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation/youth.gov

[Methods and Emerging Strategies to Engage People with Lived Experience](#)

- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

Related Products:

- [What is Lived Experience?](#)
- [What Does it Look Like to Equitably Engage People with Lived Experience?](#)
- [Strategies to Equitably Identify People with Lived Experience?](#)
- [Recruiting Individuals with Lived Experience](#)



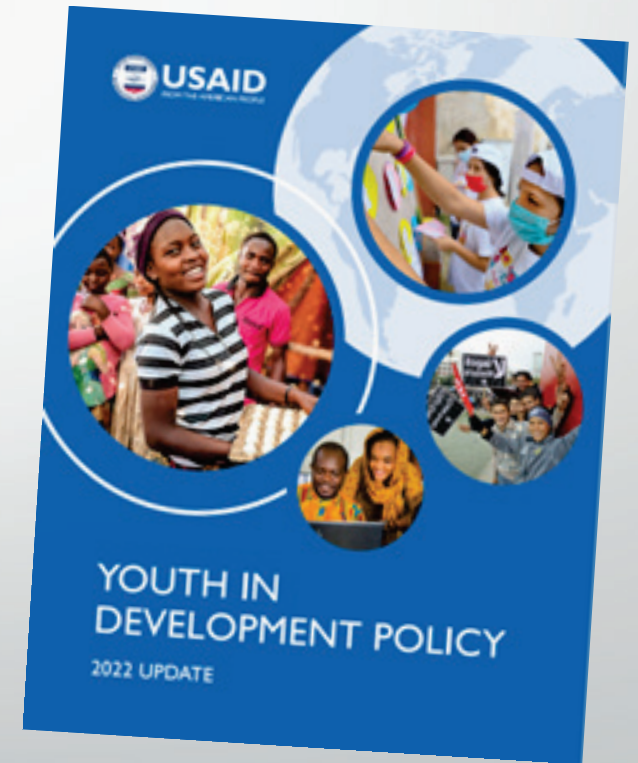
Resources: Practices & Policies

[Participation Guidelines for Individuals with Lived Experience and Family](#)

-Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

[Youth in Development Policy 2022 Update](#)

-U.S. Agency for International Development/Youth Power Learning



Resources: Assessment & Evaluation Tools

[A Roadmap to Authentically Engage Youth Voice](#)

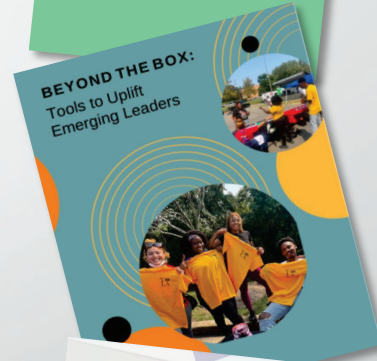
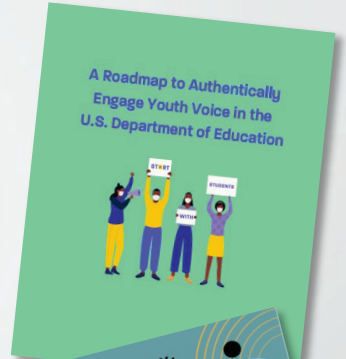
-U.S. Department of Education

[Beyond the Box: How to Uplift Emerging Leaders](#)

-U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

[Measuring Youth Engagement: Guidance for Monitoring and Evaluating Youth Programs](#)

-U.S. Agency for International Development/Youth Power Learning



Additional Resources for Consideration

[Authentic Youth Engagement: Youth-Adult Partnerships](#)

-Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative

[Utah Youth in Transition Policy Summit](#)

-presentations and policy proposals regarding youth mental health

[How to Compensate Young People Fairly and Equitably](#)

-tips on how to create a compensation structure for youth and young adults

[How to Pay Young People: Considerations for Equity & Effectiveness](#)

-guidance on how to safely and equitably pay young people