

# Meaningful Youth Engagement in TPP Programs

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# Housekeeping

- Lines are muted
- Use the chat box to communicate with us and your peers
- Today's webinar will be recorded. The recording and slides will be posted to MAX in two weeks
- We want this webinar to be engaging, collaborative, and informative
  - Ask Questions – verbal during the Q&A section or via chat along the way



# Purpose

- To define meaningful youth engagement (MYE) and its importance in teen pregnancy prevention programs and share resources
- To feature grantees that will share experiences with MYE in three areas:
  - Serving diverse youth
  - Implementing strategies to ensure equity in program planning
  - Leveraging youth expertise in program implementation



# Waterfall Activity

- What is youth engagement?



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- Meaningful youth engagement is an **inclusive, intentional, and mutually respectful partnership** between youth and adults
- **Power** between youth and adults 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 their lives and their communities



# Meaningful Youth Engagement

- Meaningful youth engagement also:
  - Promotes the **development of important life skills, social competence, and positive personal traits**
  - Recognizes that **youth are the experts** on their own experiences and challenges
  - Understands pivotal youth experiences
  - Includes **diverse groups**, in age, race/ethnicity, sexes/genders, sexual orientations, disability/ability, rurality/urbanity and socioeconomic status

[Promoting Positive Adolescent Health Behaviors & Outcomes, NAS](#)



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# Meaningful Youth Engagement: Part of FOA

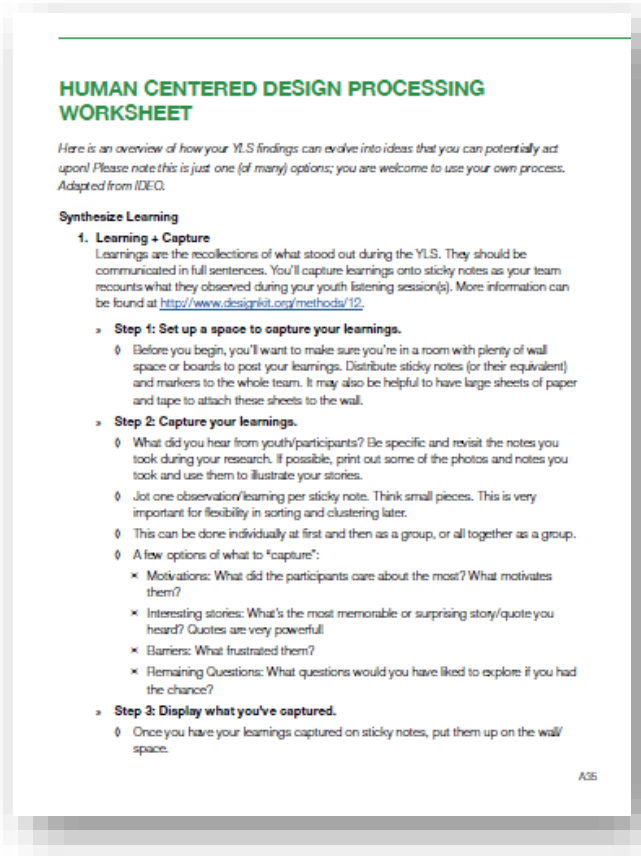
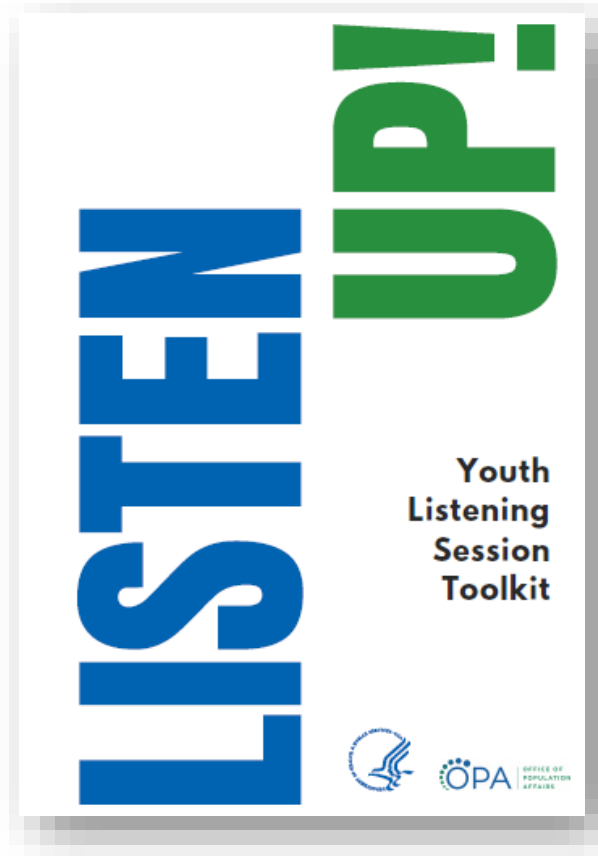
- Apply the power of youth and community voice in TPP programs and meet young people and their community where they are (p. 7, 17)
- Equitably engage youth of all backgrounds and lived experiences (p. 20)

<b>Youth Voice and Action</b>	<p>Youth are engaged in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the project to ensure effective programs and supportive services are of the highest quality and best fit for the community(ies) and population(s) to be served.</p> <p>Develop and implement a strategy that meaningfully and authentically engages youth and creates equitable opportunities for youth of all backgrounds and lived experiences, particularly those who are the most vulnerable, to express themselves, voice their ideas, and provide input for projects or programs.</p>
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From Expectations and Assessment Criteria



# Youth Listening Sessions Toolkit



- OPA Collaboration with 13 Grantees
- 9 different formats of youth engagement / youth voice
- More institutional support for new youth engagement methods



## Youth Listening Session Insights



## Actions

School should be a safe place to grow, explore identity, and make connections, but youth frequently encounter racial and cultural insensitivities from other students and teachers (e.g., school dress codes are enforced inconsistently across racial and ethnic groups)

Engage school districts' Chief Diversity Officers to improve teacher training on cultural humility and propose its integration into teacher certification process

Young men don't like the stereotype that they are all sexually active and have multiple partners. They want to know how to be a good partner and what makes a good relationship

Explore messaging that combats harmful stereotypes about masculinity and boys

Youth felt as if most teachers didn't care about them and only cared about getting paid. Youth identified a few teachers who demonstrated behavior that inspired them and made them feel cared about

Share insights with school counselors and nurses during annual year-end review and planning session for the upcoming year

Tap students' favorite teachers as program champions in the school

Asking for income on parental consent forms is distasteful to caregivers, and this may contribute to a lower rate of return

Change parental consent forms and explore innovative methods for incentivizing their return

Youth feel "forgotten" and believe their stories are minimized by adults

Incorporate youth listening as a regular practice, launch annual youth voice celebrations, and train youth to serve as "listeners"



# Benefits Of Using the Youth Listening Sessions Toolkit

- 18 ready-to-use templates, forms, tools and samples (e.g., HMW guides, agendas)
- Will inspire innovative approaches and creative problem – solving for health equity
- Made with grantees, for grantees content pulled almost entirely from our experience with 13 YLS grantees

**ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE**

Now that you have generated some ideas and prioritized action items, it's time to develop an action plan. An action plan provides a clear picture of the entire improvement effort, its goals, and how all activities fit together to achieve those goals. Using an action plan makes it easy to track and update the implementation of all your YLS program improvement activities.

**Instructions:** First, choose an appropriate goal(s) and clearly define your objective(s). Next, create your action plan by choosing steps that are concrete, measurable, and attainable. Then, identify the responsible person(s) and resources needed to complete each action step. Finally, determine the benchmarks, completion dates, and evidence of improvement for each action step.

**GOAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Objectives:** \_\_\_\_\_

Action Steps	Responsible Person(s) or Partners	Resources Internal and External	Progress Indicated at Benchmark	Completion Date	Evidence of Improvement
What you need to do to achieve the goal	Who is responsible for each action step	What resources you'll need to achieve the goal	How you'll know progress has been made on each action step	When you expect to complete each action step	The result of completing each action step
Step 1:					
Step 2:					
Step 3:					
Step 4:					
Step 5:					

**Potential Barriers** (Who [individuals/organizations] might resist? What are your plans to mitigate?)  
**Communications Plan** (Who is involved? What methods? How often?)  
**Evaluation Process** (How will you determine that your goal has been reached? What are your measures?)

A40



# Positive Youth Development Checklist

## A Checklist for Putting Positive Youth Development Characteristics into Action in Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs



### What is positive youth development?

Positive youth development (PYD) is an intentional, pro-social approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive, recognizes, utilizes, and enhances youths' strengths, and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths (Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs).

Positive youth development can be divided into eight key practices, including:

1. Physical and psychological safety;
2. Appropriate structure;
3. Supportive relationships;
4. Opportunities to belong;
5. Positive social norms;
6. Support for efficacy and mattering;
7. Opportunities for skill-building; and
8. Integration of family, school, and community efforts.

To learn more about positive youth development and the eight key PYD practices, please visit: <http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/youth-topics/positive-youth-development>. For resources on incorporating PYD practices into your program, please visit: [http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/resources-and-publications/publications/positive\\_youth\\_development.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/resources-and-publications/publications/positive_youth_development.html).

### Introduction to positive youth development

You're already doing important work toward preventing teen pregnancy- thank you! But even a good program can be strengthened. PYD is an approach to programming that focuses on providing experiences that give youth opportunities for healthy and successful development. PYD practices can be integrated to improve any teen pregnancy prevention (TPP) program and OAH-funded grantees should work to incorporate key PYD practices into all interactions with – and programs for – youth.



This checklist may seem a bit daunting. Don't worry! Organizations aren't expected to incorporate every single one of the items in this checklist; these are simply examples of how an organization can integrate PYD into their programs. However, this checklist can help you purposefully integrate key PYD practices into all interactions with – and programs for – youth.



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### Physical and psychological safety

These items assess the degree to which your TPP program provides safe facilities and encourages health-promoting practices that increase safe peer group interaction and decrease unsafe or confrontational peer interactions.<sup>1</sup>



PYD characteristics	Describes us well	Almost there	Just getting started	Does not describe us
In our TPP program, explicit policies and staff training indicate that physical and sexual harassment, violence, and bullying are not tolerated.				
Staff members make youth feel comfortable, supported, and safe.				
Staff members encourage youth to be respectful of the rights and choices of others related to sexuality and sexual health.				
Staff members are trained on privacy and confidentiality laws in their state, ensuring that information and feelings youth share are managed appropriately.				
Staff members have been trained in managing group dynamics and creating a safe environment for youth to discuss sensitive topics related to sexual health.				
Staff recognize and prevent bullying situations.				
Staff proactively resolve conflicts among youth.				

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Descriptors of each category in this checklist are adapted from the National Research Council's Community Programs to Promote Youth Development summary <http://www.iom.edu/~media/Files/Report%20Files/2004/Community-Programs-to-Promote-Youth-Development/FINALCommunityProgramsPaper.pdf>.



- Developed from Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs across 21 federal departments
- Can be used for temperature check on positive youth development



# Youth Engagement Resources on MAX.gov

## My Grantee Page

[Welcome](#) [Project Management](#) [Monitor & Improve](#) [Partnerships](#) [Implementation](#) [Communications](#) [Technical Assistance](#)

### Technical Assistance

[Technical Assistance Plan for TPP20 Tier 1](#) - This document provides a summary of planned TA events for Year 1 of this grant program.

### Youth Voice and Action

- [Promoting Positive Adolescent Health Behaviors and Outcomes \(Webinar\)](#)
- [Listen Up! Youth Listening Sessions \(Toolkit\)](#)
- [Positive Youth Development \(YOUTH.gov\)](#)
- [Literature Review \(HHS, Office of Adolescent Health\); 2019](#)
- [Youth Engagement Measurement Guide \(USAID, youthpower.org\)](#)
- [Characteristics of a Community Advisory Group \(CAG\) and Youth Leadership Council \(YLC\)](#)
- [Talking with Teens about Reproductive Health: How to Tackle Tough Topics e-Learning Module \(HHS, Office of Adolescent Health\) May 2013](#)
- [Youth Engagement Matters - The Power of Youth Voice in Teen Pregnancy Prevention. Slides \(PDF\), Video \(YouTube\), Transcript \(PDF\)](#)
- [The Promise of Adolescence: Realizing Opportunity for All Youth. \(National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2019\)](#)



# Grantee Presenters



**Angel Young**  
Project Director  
GCAPP

TPP19 Phase I & TPP20 Tier 1



**Jevon Gibson**  
Technical Advisor  
GCAPP

TPP19 Phase I & TPP20 Tier 1



**Jessica Chapman**  
Program Manager  
San Diego Youth Services  
TPP19 Phase I



# Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power & Potential

- **Serving youth from diverse communities:**
  - African American males ages 13-19
  - Works dropout prevention, public school system, Department of Juvenile Justice
  - Intentional inclusion
- **Implementing unique strategies:**
  - Celebrations/activities with youth that are of their interest
  - Mentorship opportunities
  - Parent engagement
- **Experience leveraging youth expertise:**
  - Ask opinions on program components (e.g., incentives, program times)





# San Diego Youth Services

- **Serving youth from diverse communities:**
  - Youth ages 11-19 in traditional and nontraditional school and community sites
  - Youth experiencing generational and rural poverty
  - Youth from refugee communities
- **Implementing unique strategies:**
  - Staff Development- Establishing a foundation of support and transparency
  - Social Justice Work
  - Building trust in the community
- **Experience leveraging youth expertise:**
  - Using Technology (i.e., Tik Tok, Instagram, Google Sites)
  - Tapping into your workforce skills, passions and talent



# Gallery Discussion

- Please ask questions to Grantee Presenters or POs via chatbox
- Share tools and/or resources with peers via listserv



# Thank you!

- Share your resources with peers via listserv
- Explore the TA Resources on MAX
- Continue the conversation!

