Continuous Quality Improvement

Gathering Youth, Community & Partner Voice

ESSER Community of Practice

Edgar Gomez & Adrienne Bard

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Today's Facilitators

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The Forum for Youth Investment

David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality is a leader in empowering education and human service leaders to adapt, implement, and scale best-in-class, research-validated quality improvement systems to advance child and youth development. Training and technical assistance in quality improvement system design, effective performance data, and lower stakes accountability has helped OST networks across the country be successful, scale-able, and sustainable. The Weikart Center is a critical part of the Forum for Youth Investment's overall effort to build leadership capacity to advance readiness and equity.

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is the proud parent organization of:

READY BY 21

CHILDREN'S CABINET NETWORKS

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spark action
For children. For youth. For change.™

OPPORTUNITY NATION
The Forum for Youth Investment

BIGPICTURE APPROACH CONSULTING

THE READINESS PROJECTS

Objectives

- Understand the benefits of providing opportunities for Youth, Staff, Family, Community, and Partner voice in your program design.

- Discuss and share strategies for gathering meaningful feedback from your program stakeholders
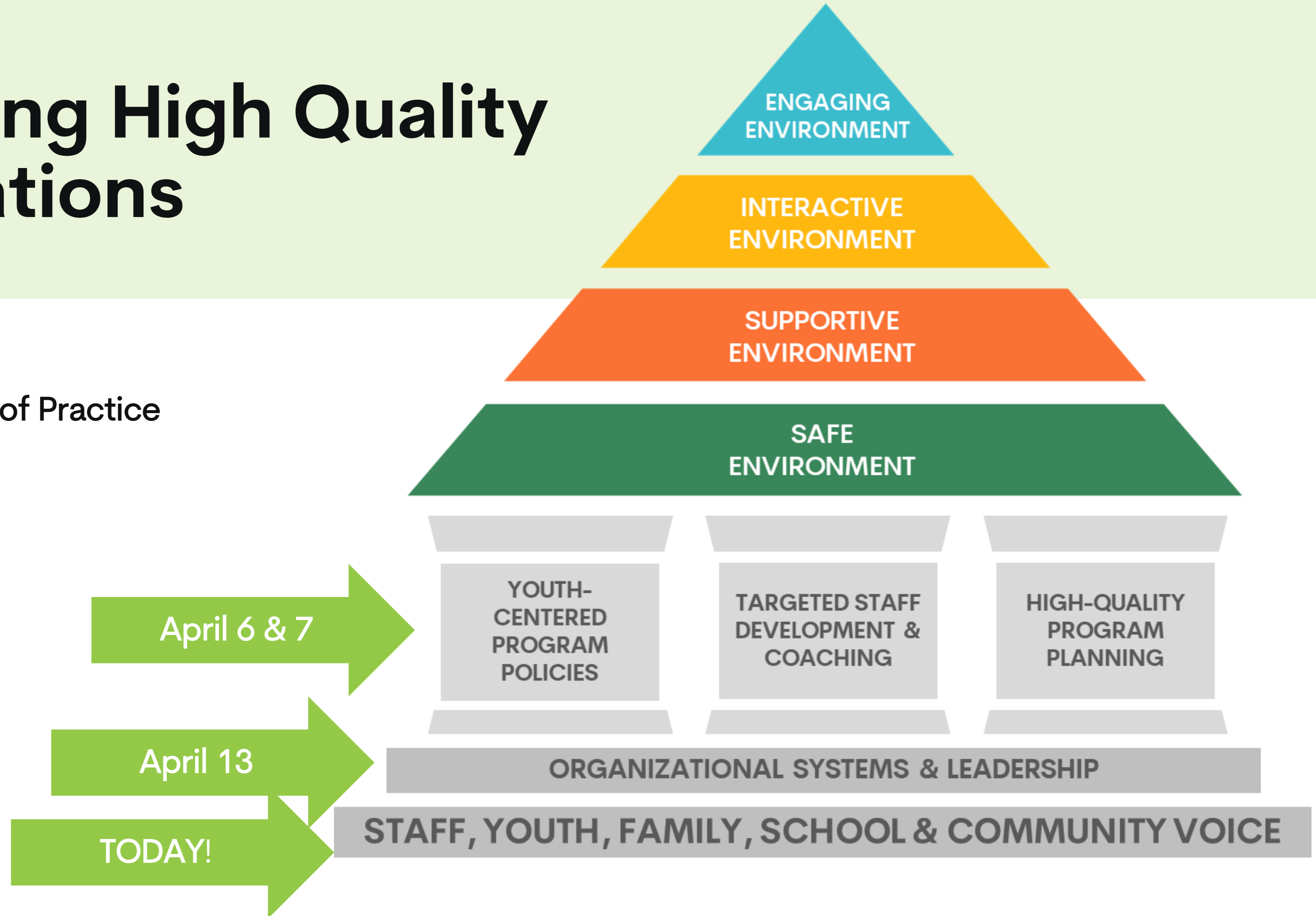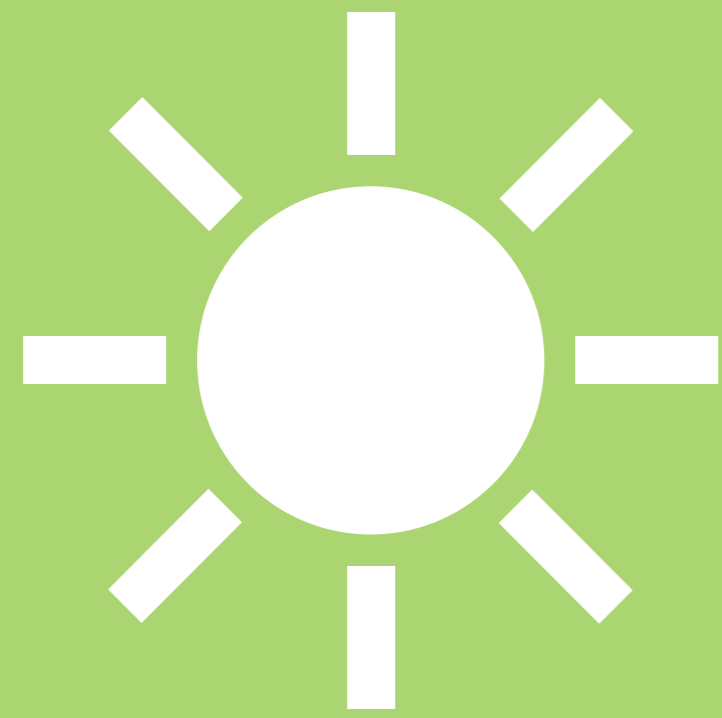
Agenda

- Youth Voice Weather Report
- Understanding Youth Voice & Adultism
- Family Engagement Framework
- Breakout Discussions
- Planning Opportunities for Input & Partner Engagement
- What Next?

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Community of Practice Roadmap

Supporting High Quality Organizations

Power Up & Community of Practice Sessions:

ENGAGING ENVIRONMENT

INTERACTIVE ENVIRONMENT

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

April 6 & 7 → YOUTH-CENTERED PROGRAM POLICIES

TARGETED STAFF DEVELOPMENT & COACHING

HIGH-QUALITY PROGRAM PLANNING

April 13 → ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEMS & LEADERSHIP

TODAY! → STAFF, YOUTH, FAMILY, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY VOICE

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How's the weather?

Thinking about your current program or program plans, how would you rate yourself?
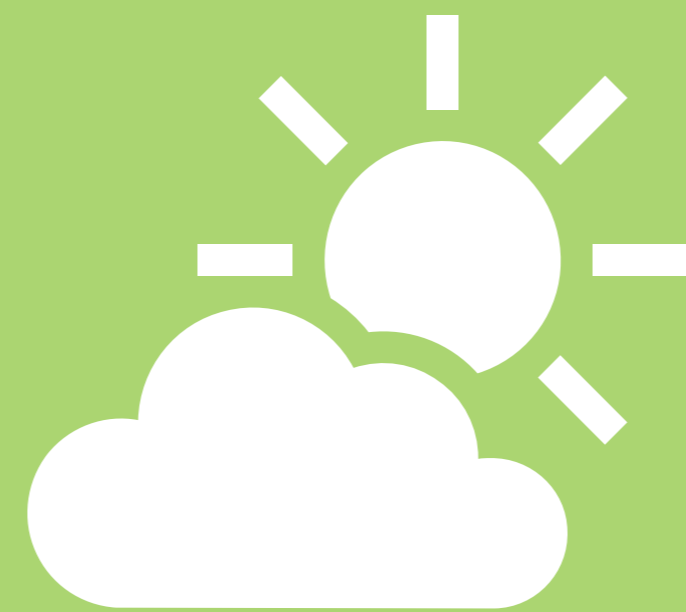
# Youth Influence Setting Activities

Youth and adults share the responsibility in determining program schedules and program offerings.

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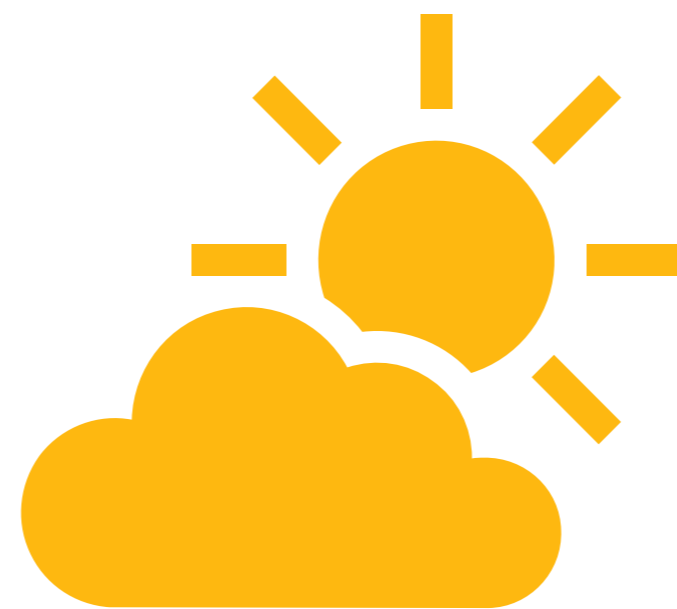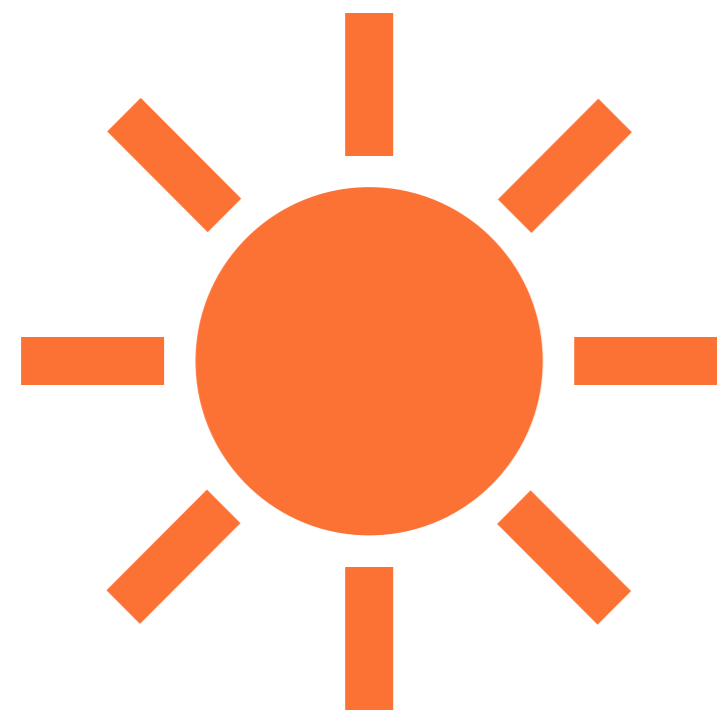CENTER FOR YOUTH
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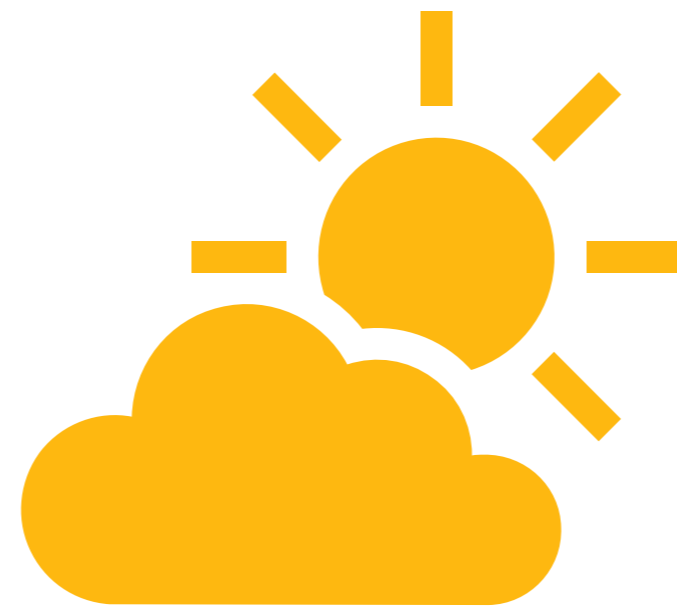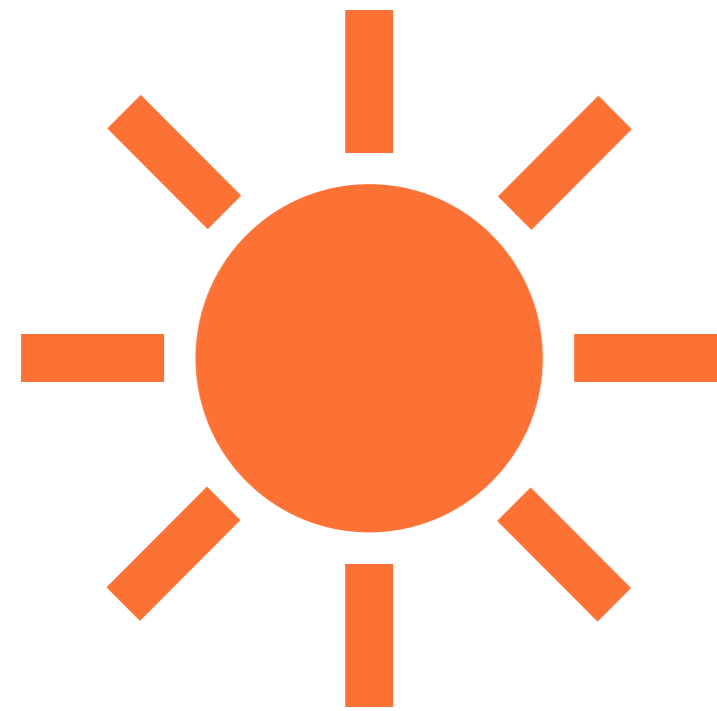
Youth Influence Policies

Youth and staff share responsibility for community outreach efforts (i.e., interaction with families, schools, other youth-serving organizations, and the community).
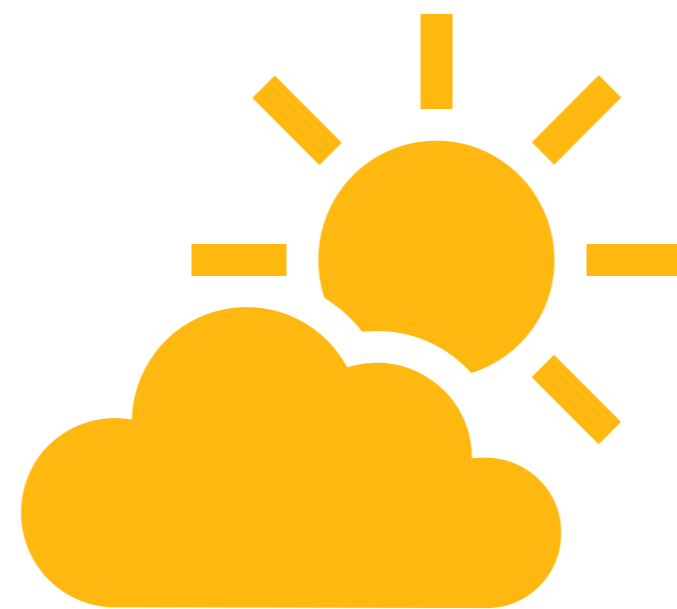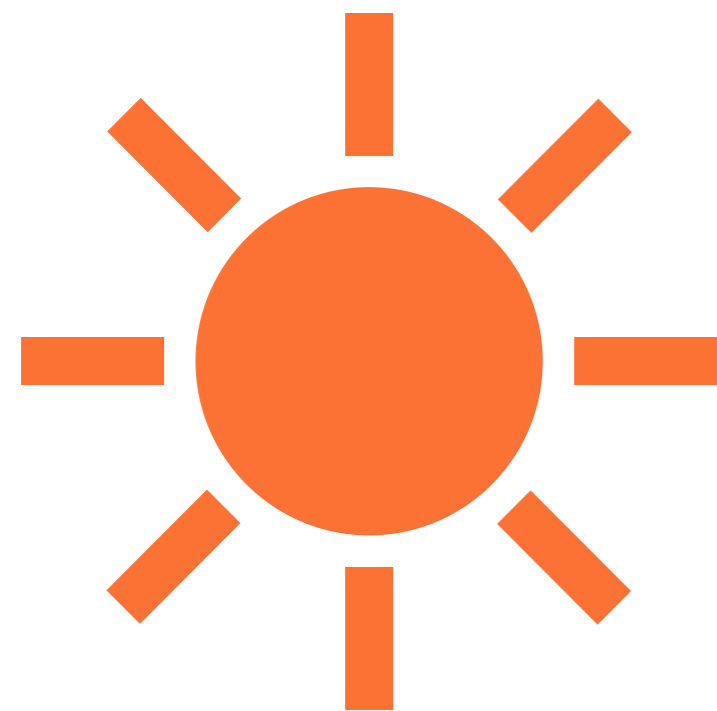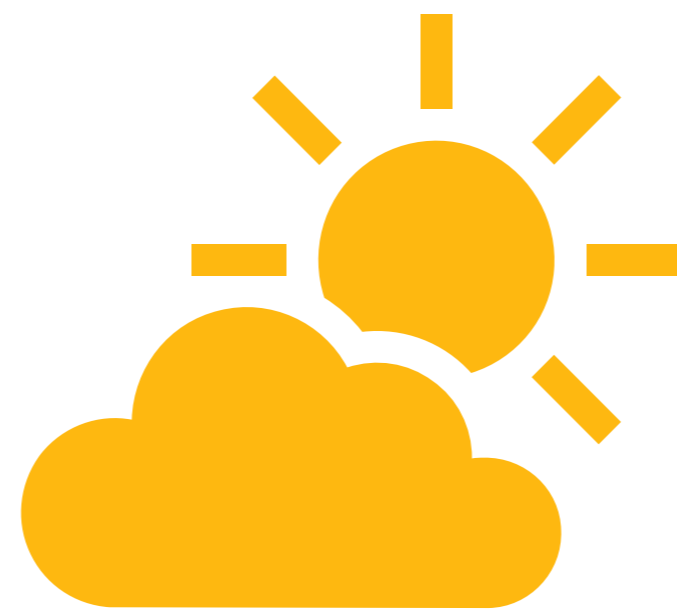
Engaging Families

Family engagement is reflected in key policies and/or plans.

Engaging Families

Staff understand their role in engaging with families in support of student belonging and success.
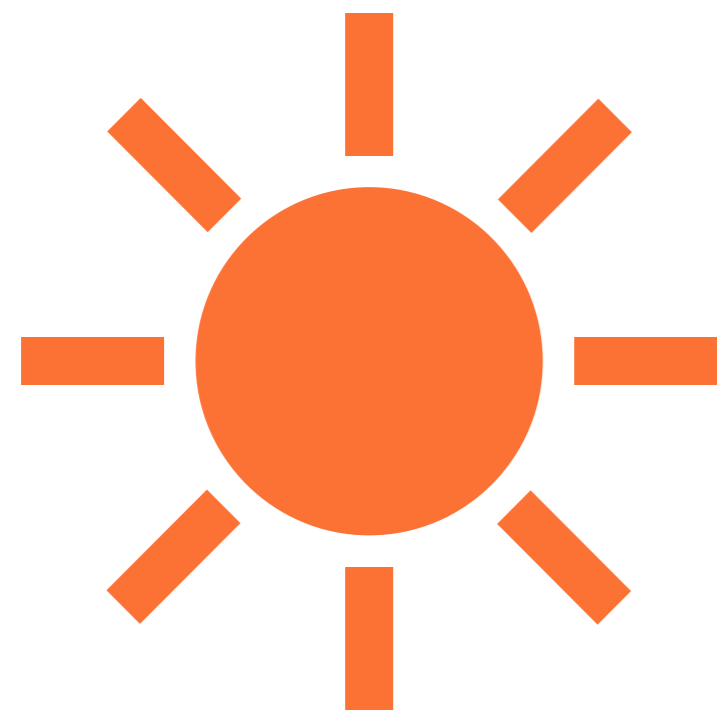
Engaging Families

The culture of your program supports engaging *every* family.
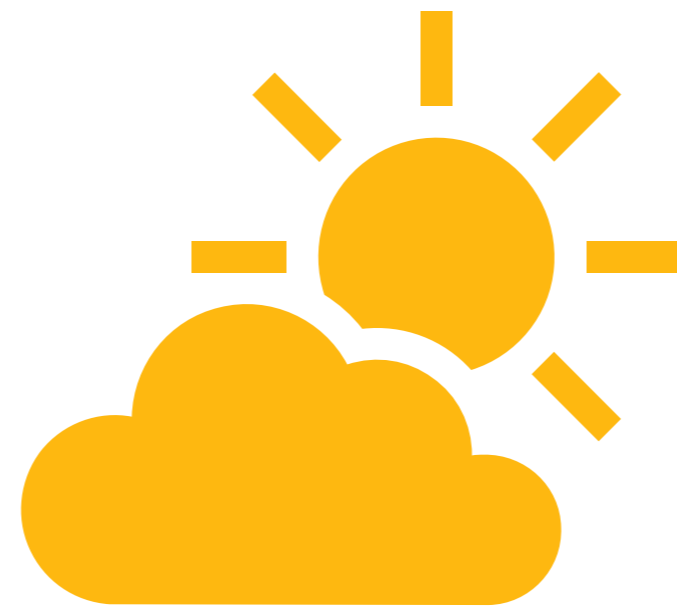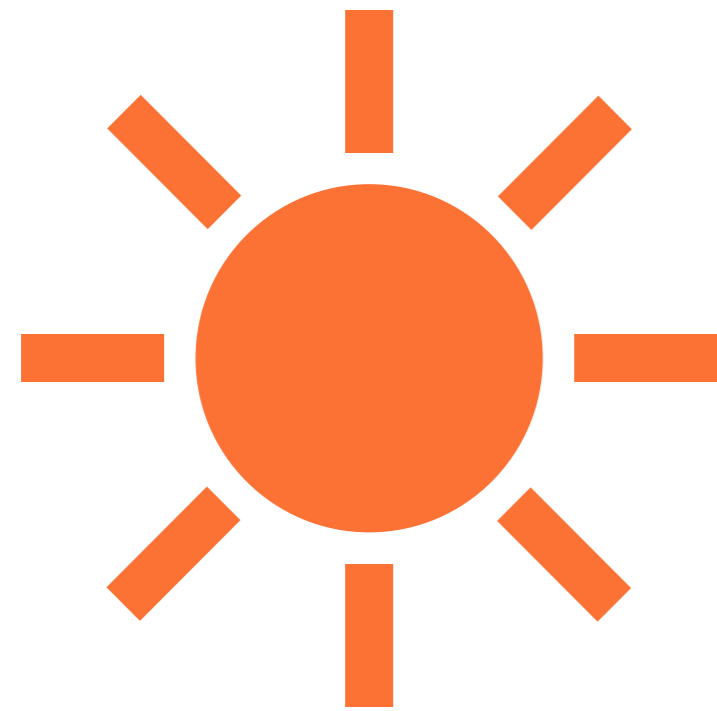
Connecting Communities

Our program has the resources and tools needed to create strong connections among families, schools, and the greater community to meet the needs of the whole child.
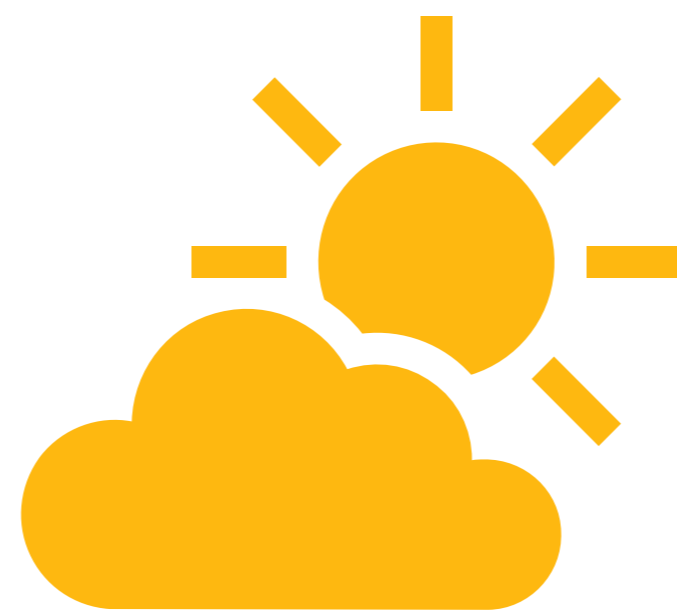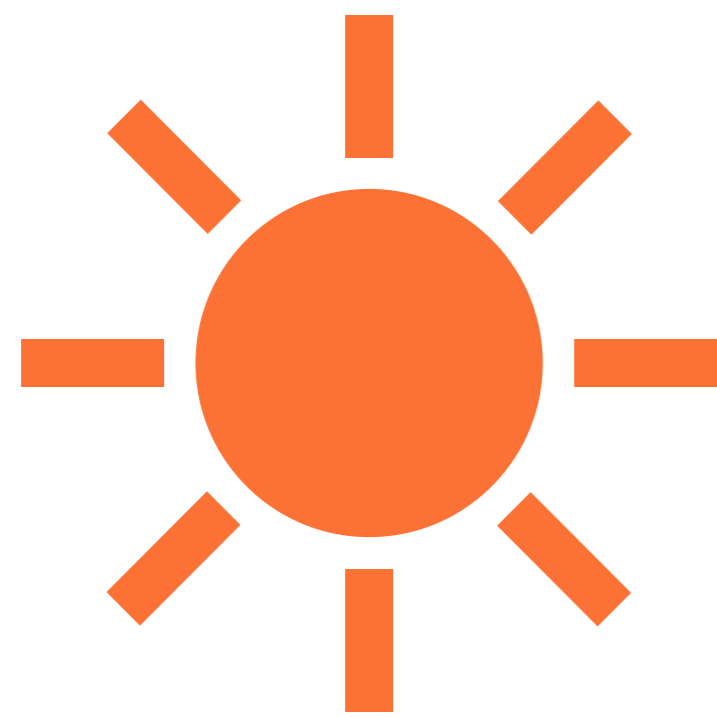
Youth Voice

Understanding Adultism

- Bias against youth
- Assumption that adults are better than youth

ADULTS ONLY

Adultism can manifest in many ways...

- Stereotypes about youth (e.g., "all teens are trouble makers")

- Common sayings such as "children should be seen and not heard" or "grow up!"

- Adults assuming they always know better than youth—even in areas they know nothing about!

- Adults using mocking statements or a tone of voice they would never use with another adult

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In your breakout, discuss...

- Where have you heard about or experienced adultism?

- Why is adultism a real problem?

- What does this mean for us as youth workers or educators?

- How do we recognize the adultism within us?

- How do you support your staff in recognizing how adultism may be affecting the culture of your program?

The Voice Ladder and Method

Opportunities

Shared Leadership
Choice
Input
[No Voice]
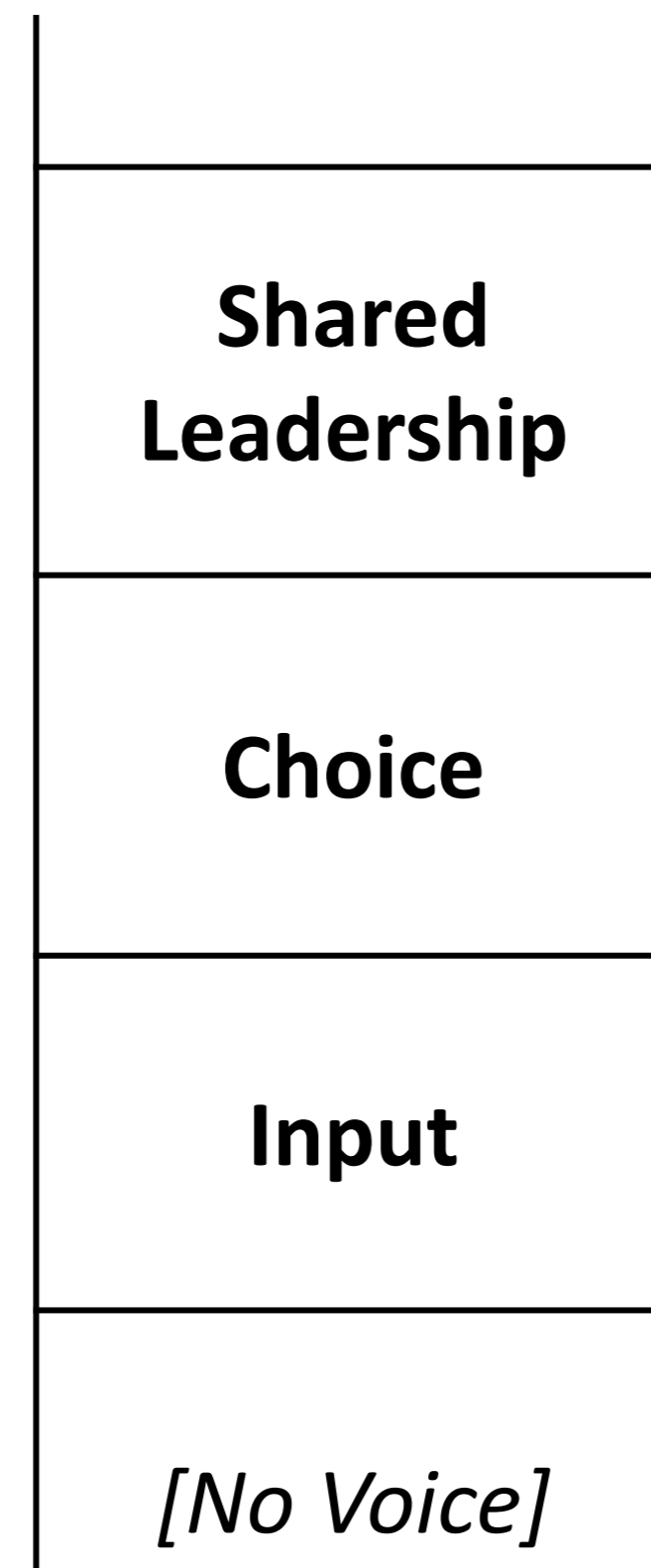
Supports

Scaffolding

Increasing challenge

Youth Voice at Multiple Levels

Individual Adults and Youth ➔ Combating Adultism

Within a program session ➔ Choice and Leadership Opportunities

Throughout an organization ➔ Teen Advisory Council; Reflection activities for feedback

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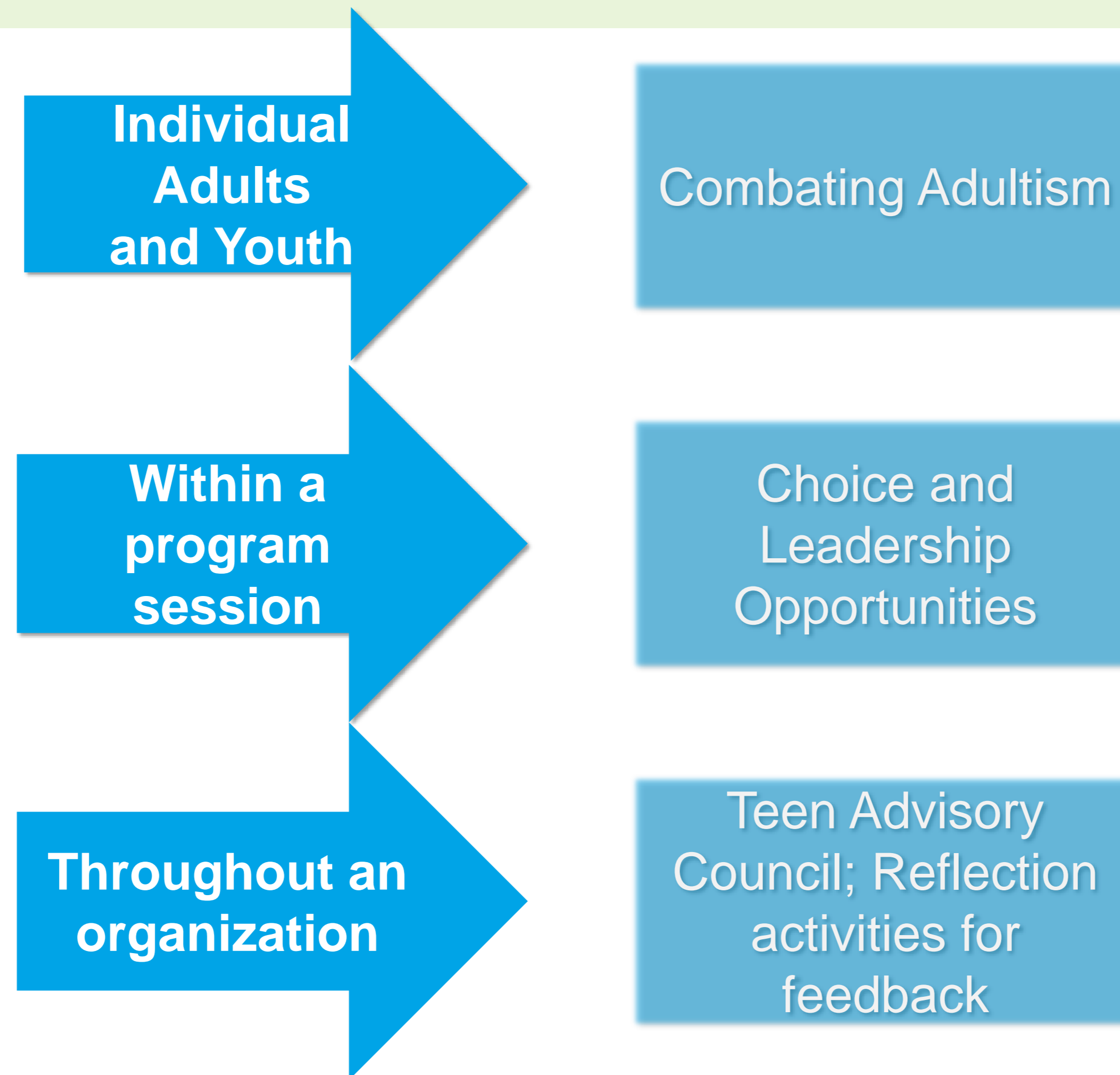
Gathering Voices Strategy Share Out!

- How have you (or will you) included youth voice or input into your program design?

- What challenges have you faced when trying to include meaningful youth voice?

- What resources do you have to share with each other to build a culture of shared responsibility with youth over more aspects of program?

Engaging Families

Defining Family Engagement

Family and Community Engagement is a shared responsibility among families, schools, and communities to build relationships that support a child's learning and growth from birth through college and career.

- Family is a group of persons dedicated to the well-being of a child(ren) and may include parents, grandparents, extended family members, caregivers, or any responsible individual.
- Schools are a group of persons inclusive of all staff within a school and district.
- Community is a group of people who share common attitudes, interests, goals, or geographic area.
- Relationships are the meaningful, equitable, and culturally responsive interactions among families, educators, and community partners that provide opportunities to listen to, work with, and learn from each other as full and equal partners.

Oklahoma State Department of Education Family Engagement Framework

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Why do we need to engage families?

At the heart of family engagement is a focus on the inclusion of all families as equal partners in their children's learning.

- Family engagement should be designed to remove barriers, improve access and opportunities, and improve knowledge and skills so that all families can be partners in the education of their children.
- All families have hopes and dreams for their children and want the best for them.
- All students can grow and all schools can improve.

Oklahoma State Department of Education Family Engagement Framework

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How do we engage families?

Strengthen Relationships: Establish more effective personalized, two-way communication between schools and families that builds mutual trust and respect, reflects families' preferences, and provides families an authentic sense of engagement in their children's learning.

Build Leadership: Expand the awareness, skills, abilities, and confidence of families, schools, and communities to effectively support student learning at school, at home, and in the community.

Focus on Learning: Connect to all families' interests, identities, and home lives to provide meaningful experiences that support student learning outcomes.

Connect Communities: Create strong connections among families, schools, tribal nations, and the greater community that are compassionate, culturally sensitive, and designed to meet the needs of the whole child in support of lifelong learning.

Oklahoma State Department of Education Family Engagement Framework

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Gathering Voices Strategy Share Out!

- How have you (or will you) engage families in your program design and communications?

- What challenges have you faced when trying to engage families?

- What resources do you have to share with each other to build a culture of family engagement?

Connecting Communities & Partners
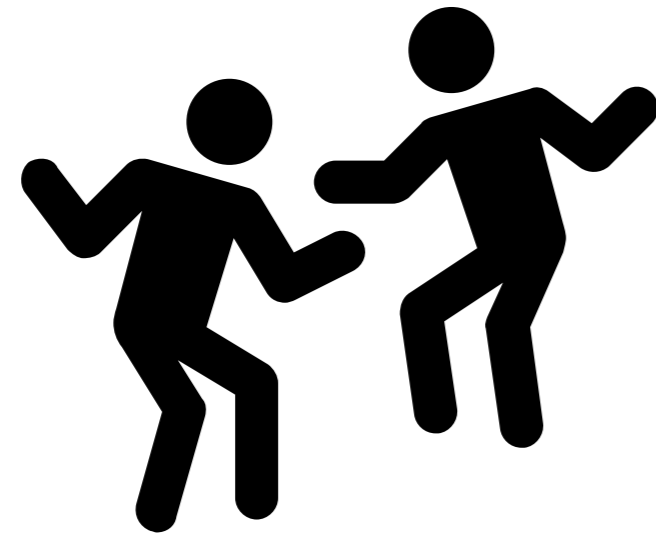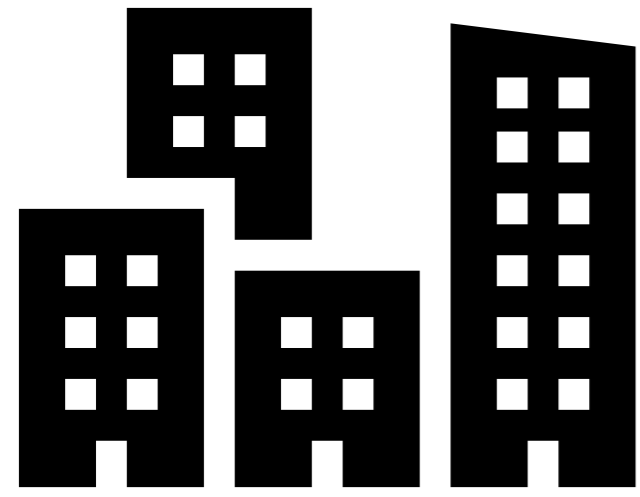
Partnerships are not hard work, but heart work. Not more work, but the work. Not harder work, but smarter work to mobilize all available resources that will contribute to student success.

Dr. Joyce L. Epstein and Associates

Oklahoma State Department of Education Family Engagement Framework

Implementation

Running your program with gathering voices in mind...

You're Planning an End-of-Year Program Showcase Event!

- What are the objectives or goals of the event?

- Who are you inviting?

- How will the event come together? Who is responsible?

- How do you hope folks will feel at the end of the event?

- What opportunities will you have, as a program lead, to make connections or further relationships in your community?

Lingering Questions

What's Next?

What action do you need to take before the start of your next program year to be sure you're building a culture that gathers voices of youth, families, communities, and your partners?

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Workshop Evaluation

https://bit.ly/OKESSER_Feedback

Workshop Title: Gathering Youth, Community, and Partner Voice

Thank you!

Questions?

Contact us!