

ARE YOU READY TO START A YOUTH-LED PROGRAM?

This tool is designed to help you assess how ready you are to launch a youth-led program. Each section features prompts and additional context to reflect upon.

FOUNDATIONS OF YOUTH-LED PROGRAMS

Are you ready to support young people when they speak out about issues they believe in?

YES NO MAYBE

Are you ready to let young people have decision making in the direction of the program?

YES NO MAYBE

Youth-led programs (YLP) are distinct because they develop young people's knowledge, skills and attitudes to be catalysts for positive change within their communities. At the core of YLP, youth are engaged in collective activities and experiences that are intended to spark their interest and enhance their ability to address local issues. In short, YLP empower young people to create community change (Talbert, 2017).

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Please read the following paragraph:

Youth-led programs are for all youth. All young people, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, gender identity or sexual orientation, are capable of contributing to their communities. The nature of YLP places young people, from all types of backgrounds, beliefs, and experiences, into active roles to affect positive change in their community environments. This inclusive, empowering approach provides young people with opportunities to develop critical knowledge, skills and attitudes while impacting their communities (Fellows, Petersen, Stevens, 2020).

Are you ready to welcome all young people into your youth-led program?

YES NO MAYBE

Are you ready to grow in your capacity to learn new strategies and be an inclusive adult ally?

YES NO MAYBE

ASSESSING ORGANIZATIONAL READINESS

Are adults in your organization/coalition ready to value young people's analysis of data to impact change in the community?

YES NO MAYBE

In Ohio, youth-led programs (YLP) are defined by a particular form of youth engagement. In YLP, young people engage in a planning process where they determine a problem of practice, identify the root causes of the problem, and select and implement evidence-based strategies to address those root causes (Talbert, 2017).

ARE YOU READY TO START A YOUTH-LED PROGRAM?

ASSESSING ORGANIZATIONAL READINESS (CONTINUED)

Are you ready to move beyond scare tactics?

YES NO MAYBE

Scare tactics have been proven to be ineffective with adolescents. Youth-Led Programs should use evidenced-based prevention strategies. Prevention efforts that utilize the expertise of youth can be structured in a variety of ways allowing youth to play a key role in fostering change within their schools and communities (Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, 2011).

ASSESSING INDIVIDUAL READINESS

As an adult ally to a youth-led program, are you ready to support young people in creating positive change?

YES NO MAYBE

Are you ready to be a continuous learner?

YES NO MAYBE

Effective youth-led programs are youth led and adult supported. The involvement of adults is key to the success of a youth-led program. Adult allies must intentionally focus on creating empowering settings in which their young people can engage; this often requires them to seek out resources and network with others to continuously expand and improve their practice for working with youth. The characteristics of effective adult allies include general respect of youth, active listening, being open-minded to ideas and approaches, and being relatable by the youth (Snaveley & Rigby, 2017).

CONCLUSION

Take a moment to reflect on your responses. If you answered yes to most questions, you are ready to take the next steps toward launching a youth-led group. If you answered no or maybe for any question, you may need some additional support on incorporating a youth-centered approach into the work that you do. Wherever you are in your readiness, we are glad you decided to take the first step and complete this questionnaire. The next step is to connect with the Ohio Adult Allies' Regional Learning Collaboratives. To do this, please visit the Ohio Adult Allies webpage at:

<https://www.ohioadultallies.com/rlc>

OHIO
— *adult* —
ALLIES

*For Additional Youth-Led Resources please visit the Ohio Adult Allies Website:
www.ohioadultallies.com*