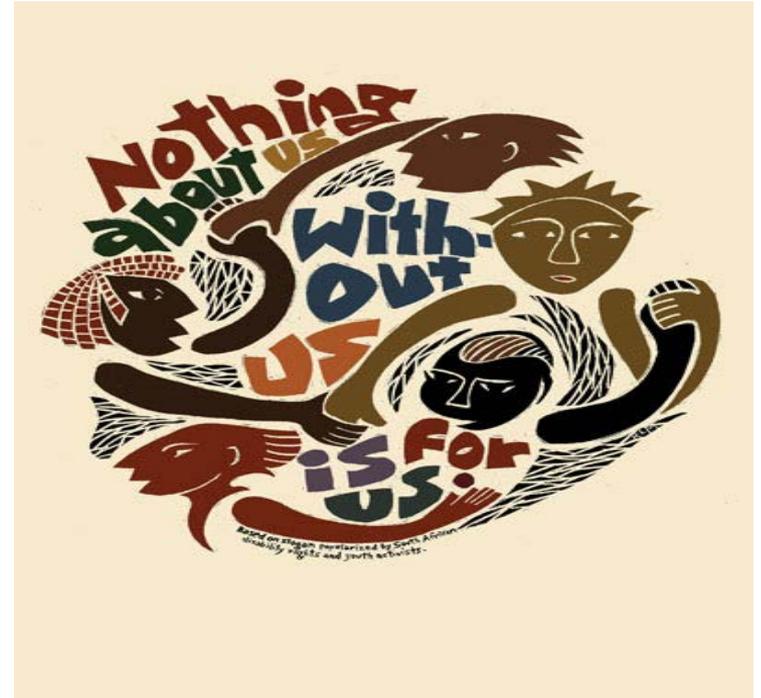

Amplifying Youth Voices through Youth Action Boards

By: Baltimore City and Frederick County's
Youth Action Boards

What are Youth Action Boards?

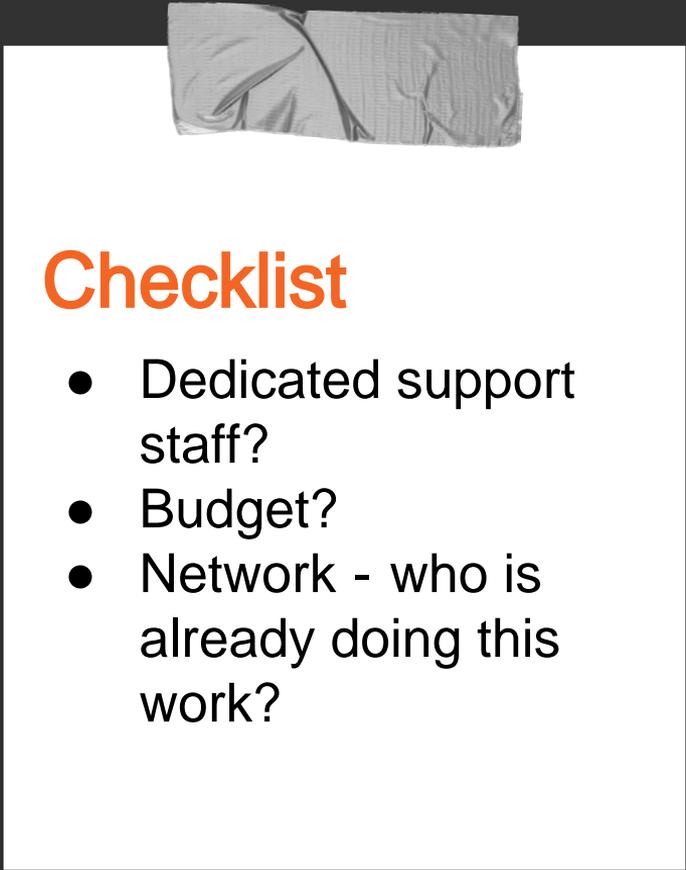
Youth-led groups that share their lived experience to impact youth homelessness in their communities, and influence policy making and programming decisions.



Why are they important?

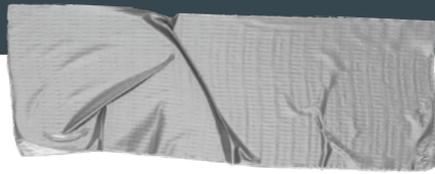
- Youth empowerment & meaningful inclusion
- Youth have valuable experiences that can teach and inform.
- Are respected for their ideas and opinions and are free to state them
- Provide a unique role in advocating for the improvement of services
- Reinforces an equal partnership

Are you thinking about creating a **Youth Action Board?**



Checklist

- Dedicated support staff?
- Budget?
- Network - who is already doing this work?



Starting by Engaging Youth

- Leave entitlement at the door.
- See youth as EXPERTS, not as adolescents
- A seat at the table isn't enough
- Location matters
- Have different ways to get involved



Steps

- Recruitment
- Referrals/Applications
- Contract/Expectations
- Norms
- Leadership Development
- Governance
- Action

Baltimore's YAB

"We are ambitious young adults who are ending 'okay' homelessness and stress, and uplifting peace and happiness. We are striving for a better generation so that we as people can have a brighter and more ambitious future."

-Tyshell Johnson, YAB Member

"YAB is a way for me to give back to my community and peers, provide insight on obstacles youth faced while homeless, help people in charge understand and relate to youth, and give a voice to people who feel like they have no way to be heard or don't know where to start to make changes to a broken system."

-Lolah J <3 , YAB Member

"I think having the group visit various providers is an excellent strategy to make sure we are factoring in the youth perspective at all times- easy for us older folks to lose sight of at times!"

-Service Provider Partner



Student Homelessness
Initiative Partnership
of Frederick County



Promoting *Student* SUCCESS

- ✓ Get paid to do well in school
- ✓ Earn additional money by working

This free innovative program includes:

- Morning course work
- Tutoring and mentoring
- Meals while at school
- Part-time jobs for participants
- Access to recreational programs and facilities

Space is limited, so sign up soon.
To learn more, speak to your School and *New Horizons* counselors today.

July 1 - August 1, 2019



- 4th Annual
- 60 students from 5 schools
- 4 core subjects
- Daily life skills instruction
- Youth are paid to attend and complete the program
- Courses are offered to either get ahead or for credit recovery
- Preferred placement in to Summer Youth Jobs program
- Access to and support from social workers



RESOURCES

- **True Colors Youth Collaboration Toolkit**
[http://learn.truecolorsunited.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/08/Youth-Collaboration -Toolkit.pdf](http://learn.truecolorsunited.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/08/Youth-Collaboration-Toolkit.pdf)
- **Point Source Youth**
- **Establishing a Youth Advisory Council Toolkit**
https://static.globalinnovationexchange.org/s3fs-public/asset/document/game_changers_yac_toolkit.pdf?QHrIUeKpp_vpvSOBQ8NKwhcg0_t_huJm
- **Blakeslee, J. (2018). Assessing the Meaningful Inclusion of Youth Voice in Policy and Practice: State of the Science.**



What do you
think?

1. How many of you are operating a YAB at this time, or intend to?
 2. What are some of the opportunities you see arising from creating a YAB?
 3. What are some of the challenges you see in organizing and sustaining?
 4. How would the youth benefit?
 5. How would your organization/community benefit?
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Q & A
