



A Program of OJJDP

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# Before We Get Started

- ▶ This project was supported by Grant #15PJDP-24-GK-02602-MUMU awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.
- ▶ The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.

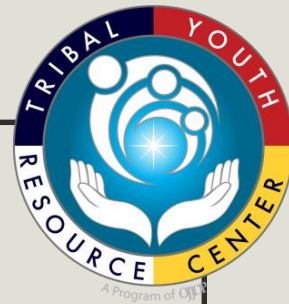


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# Youth Voice & Engagement

July 1, 2025





# Strengths

Each person will share the item that represents the strengths of the youth they serve.



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# Sharing Your Vision





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# The Two "I"s

## Inclusion & Involvement – Youth Decision-Making Activity:

- Table Discussion: How does the community currently include youth in decision making?
- Mind Map: How youth voice can be included in a direct hands-on way to guide planning and programming efforts for your Tribal Youth Program?





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# Youth Recruitment

Youth recruitment = going out in the community and *actively* engaging young people to participate in your Tribal Youth Program. You will need to create strategies to attract youth to your program. Recruiting youth creates an impact in your community by providing youth additional opportunities to learn, be involved, and be productive.

## Sharing

- Whom should you recruit? Why?
- Where will you recruit? Why?
- Develop a strategy to encourage referrals/engagement to your program.





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# Emerging Leader Youth Wisdom

## Sydney Matheson





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# Creating Safe & Welcoming Spaces

## Youth Centered-Strategies:

- Talking Circles
- Focus Groups
- The Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)
- The "Walk & Talk" Approach
- Cultural Arts – Youth can bead or draw/paint and share ideas.



# Being a Good Relative (Healthy Behaviors)



## Tips for Engaging Youth

- Be present and listen, don't be quick to solve any situations. Sometimes youth and family/caregiver just want to be heard without brainstorming a solution.
- Be dependable, true to your word. Consistency is key.
- Update youth and family/caregiver with any changes to a meeting, do not wait until the last minute.
- Be willing to spend time with youth and family/caregiver.
- Ask open-ended questions and for feedback.
- Share with family/caregiver vision and goals for your program.
- Give youth and family/caregiver responsibility and leadership.
- Give opportunity to learn about healthy behaviors.
- Educate and train staff, parents, and caregivers

# Discussion



*Nothing about us, without us!*





# Reflection





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