

Youth Empowerment Guide











WHAT:

- Tool used to bring young people together to deliberate on policy issues.
- Usually used to empower.
- Questions can be qualitative or quantitative.
- Can be combined with surveys or interviews or other evaluation methods to collect more data.

WHY:

- Enables the agency to engage with targeted youth population e.g. youth facing homelessness, youth with disabilities.
- Enables evaluators to understand the considerable differences when it comes to cultural and ethnic backgrounds, living conditions and abilities of young people.
- Gets youth more involved and interested in civic processes.

HOW:

 Determine which youth group(s) to engage.	 Use polling tools, such as MS Forms, Google Forms, Survey Monkey, etc. If applicable.
 Determine recruitment strategy. Unless efforts are made to be inclusive, self-selected groups of young participants will often be biased towards certain groups.	 If possible, offer a way to provide a stipend for participation.
 Decide on a meeting location and time. Usually after school hours.	 Consider ways for youth to provide regular input throughout the process.
 Do not limit participation exercises to typical “youth issues”. Young people also have a lot to share on more “mainstream” issues such as the environment, crime, housing etc.	 Clarify how decisions/results will be shared with participants after the decision is made.



OPTIONS TO EMBED EVALUATION:

Level of Engagement	Key PPCE Activities	Options to Embed Evaluation	Analysis
Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaflets, posters, other informational items • Social media postings • Presentations or exhibitions • Meetings or workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QR code on flyer to track use of the informational materials • Website/social media analytics • Counts of informational materials distributed • Flip charts/virtual white boards • AI assisted notes from meeting • Participant worksheets • Short meeting polls conducted in real-time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of key themes • Dashboard of relevant meeting metrics • Dashboard of poll results displayed on agency webpage or intranet
Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web-based and asynchronous collaboration platforms • Photo voice 	<p>All items from Consult, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web analytics • Collaborative document • Pictures/video themes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of key themes • Journey map/photo montage • Dashboard of relevant meeting metrics
Empower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community forums and action planning sessions 	<p>All items from previous levels of engagement, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action plan document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed action plan • Journey map/photo montage • Dashboard of relevant meeting metrics



OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES:

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear understanding of how the agency is defining the problem. • Individuals and communities were clear about their role. • Identification of “who” has the final say or deciding authority. • List of individuals who may be affected by the decision. • Identification of the resources needed to conduct public participation. • Clear understanding of how the information will be used. • Identification of the level of participation. • List of young individuals who need to be engaged. • List of relevant groups who are already engaged and can be a resource for the agency. • Any barriers to access were addressed by the agency. • Number of youth engaged. • Time spent with individuals/communities. • Understanding how communities/individuals feel about the federal government. • Understanding the reason behind unfavorable or favorable views. • Understanding if there are differences in perception based on demographics. 	<p>Short-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All relevant groups and communities agree on the problem. • Meetings are accessible to all. • All communication material is accessible to all. • Resources are allocated equitably. <p>Medium and Long-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy-in from public and relevant groups. • Agency does not overpromise participants about the influence they have on final decisions. • Agency is better prepared to conduct the participatory process. • Effective public participation process is designed. • Participants are satisfied with the process and outcomes. • The full range of perspectives needed to conduct meaningful public participation is achieved. • Changing perception of federal government. • Participants are fully aware of and understand what is being communicated. • Effective participation by individuals and community members. • Increasing trust in federal institutions. • Barriers to public participation are alleviated. • Participatory process enables people/communities to influence the decisions and actions that affect their lives.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [UNDP: Youth Empowerment](#)
- [Meaningful Youth Engagement in Policymaking and Decision-making Processes](#)