

Child and youth engagement resources

Policy statements template

INSERT AGENCY NAME

A: *Commitment*

XXX is an organization that is engaged in child/youth programming and capacity building with child/youth groups. To achieve effective, positive child and youth development and engagement, XXX operates within the Developmental Assets framework.

XXX believes that the most effective way of engaging and supporting children/young people to succeed is through a child and youth-centered model.

XXX recognizes that intentional planning is required to engage children/youth in participation and decision-making.

At XXX, we provide opportunities for children/youth to develop their skills and fulfill their potential through meaningful participation in all aspects of the organization.

As a child/youth-led organization, XXX involves children/youth and families in all aspects of governance, decision-making, fundraising, and program planning, delivery and evaluation.

XXX will:

- Ensure that children/youth have access to XXX's services, resources and decision-making bodies, as necessary
- Take steps to ensure services, programs and decision-making reflect meaningful and full participation of our children/youth and families

B: *Governance*

XXX is committed to ensuring that there is representation from youth and families at the Board of Directors. Positions will be open for young adults to participate, to ensure continuity and allow for mentorship of newer members. This will be achieved through a transparent nomination process communicated to all members, with specific outreach to youth and young adults through XXX networks, and networks of partner youth organizations.

Parents of younger children will be approached the same way. Efforts will be made to solicit feedback from children during decision making processes.

C: Employment

XXX is committed to ensuring that all staff people are trained in Developmental Assets and Child and Youth Engagement strategies. We will endeavor to have 5-8 youth on staff at all times. Young people will also be involved in all hiring committees as either XXX staff or Board members.

XXX is committed to working with community partners to provide opportunities for coop placements.

XXX will develop volunteer opportunities for youth to support them in the attainment of their 40 hours.

XXX is committed to maintaining an environment where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect and are free from all forms of discriminatory treatment, behaviour or practice.

D: Services

XXX is committed to ensuring that its services and programs are accessible and engaging to all children and youth.

This will be achieved through ensuring young people who are representative of the communities XXX serves are involved in all aspects of program delivery, through their participation in program design, delivery and evaluation. Young people will also be involved in developing funding proposals and organizing fundraising events.

Children will regularly have opportunities to contribute to and influence the issues that are important to them.

XXX will ensure that our outreach, communications, program planning and evaluation are reflective of the children/youth that we work with.

E: Training and Education

XXX is committed to ensuring that those involved in the delivery of services and programs have the knowledge, understanding and skills to work with and provide services to children, young people and their families.

XXX recognizes that ensuring youth engagement means more than involving young people in governance and staff positions. It means ensuring young people that are involved are connected to the youth in their communities and are equipped with the tools they need to be active and engaged participants. XXX will deliver training to young people to ensure that they develop their skills to increase their ability to participate in decision-making and effective program delivery. Young people will take the lead in the delivery of XXX's training and skills development programs.

F: Information and Communications

XXX is committed to ensuring that all of its communications, including information on its services and programs, are child/youth and user friendly. This involves ensuring the language and design of our materials is accessible and relevant to our community. This will be achieved through working with young graphic designers and employing the film, video, web and design skills of the youth we work with. Youth friendly outlets, including formal and informal networks, youth media and on-line platforms, will be utilized.