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she/her, they/them

Youth Collaboration.

Created in collaboration with the
National Youth Forum on Homelessness.



**TRUE
COLORS
UNITED.**



**NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM
ON HOMELESSNESS**

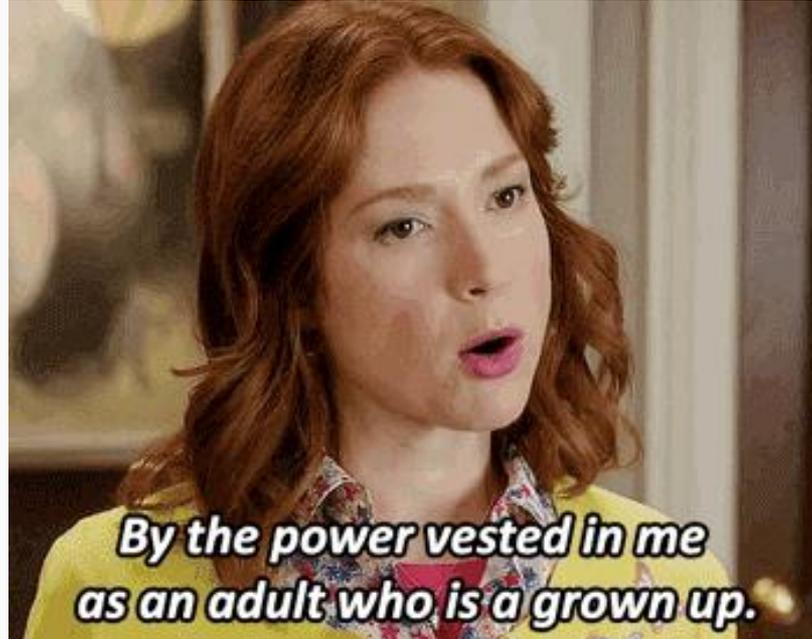
Objectives.

- **Chat about the role of Youth Collaboration in our movement**
- **Unpack why lived experience is important to our work to end youth homelessness**
- **Provide concepts and ideas to consider when building a YC framework**



Adultism and Youth Services.

Identifying & Reframing Adultism.



What are we learning?

Input from Youth and Young Adults.

- Set youth and young adult leaders up for success.
- Create a collaborative environment for input and feedback.
- Set deadlines.
- Uplift the impact of their work.



Where are we headed?

National Youth Forum on Homelessness.



Leadership Development.

**Don't
worry!
Here's a
few more
resources.**



Youth Collaboration Toolkit.

YOUTH COLLABORATION TOOLKIT



Welcome

Whenever decisions are being made that impact young people, it's important that youth are at the table and have equitable decision-making responsibilities. This can look a number of different ways: working with young people to establish a youth leadership body, including one or more youth representatives on a board of directors, and creating opportunities for young people to speak for themselves. Young people who are receiving services should be encouraged to participate in decisions that directly impact their housing and wellbeing.

Developed as a partnership between the National Youth Forum on Homelessness (NYFH) and the True Colors Fund, this toolkit was initiated by NYFH and the content was shaped by their voices. The ideas and concepts included in this toolkit will help ensure that young people are authentically engaged while collaborating with the affirming adults in their lives.

Identifying Barriers

Make a point to identify and address any barriers that may inhibit authentic youth collaboration. Here are some potential barriers to consider, along with strategies you can use to overcome them.



Building Trust

Establishing and building trust is essential to any effective working relationship. Once rapport is established, genuine collaboration can begin.

Potential Barriers

- **Cultural incompetence:** Misunderstanding the needs and values of young adults whose lived experiences differ from your own.
- **Cultural insensitivity:** The inability or unwillingness to identify and address cultural differences.



Strategies to Consider

- Understand common traumas and stresses of young adults to avoid repeating them, which could be triggering.
- Maintain an accepting and affirming environment that meets physical and emotional needs.

