

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The Annie E. Casey Foundation strives to support and partner with young people to inform and influence its youth-focused work and strategies — and to achieve results effectively. Engaging affected communities and stakeholders is one of the Foundation’s key steps for advancing racial and ethnic equity and inclusion.

This tool aims to help teams assess when youth engagement makes sense, the various forms it can take — including potential activities for staff and young people — and the feasibility, benefits and challenges of each. Teams may also utilize different youth engagement strategies at different phases of work. For example, youth may collaborate with staff at the start of a project and be consulted later in the work.

NO ENGAGEMENT	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	YOUTH-LED
Staff set project boundaries, manage all aspects of the process and are responsible for executing the work. Young people are not informed of, included in or involved in any stage of the design and development of a strategy, policy or program.	Staff set project boundaries, manage design and development, and execute the work. Young people are not included in the design and development but are informed of proposed strategies, policies or programs.	Staff set project boundaries, manage design and development, and execute the work. Young people are engaged once the strategy, policy or program is partially developed and are solicited for high-level input.	Staff manage design and development and are responsible for executing the work. Young people are engaged at the onset of design or development and contribute consistently and meaningfully throughout the process, including helping to define boundaries.	Staff and young people agree on anticipated results, project timing and boundaries and are jointly responsible for executing the work. They collaborate on design and development.	Staff and young people agree on anticipated results, project timing and boundaries. Young people drive the entire design and development of a strategy, policy or program. They are also responsible for executing the work.

