

# AUTHENTIC YOUTH COLLABORATION

National Youth Forum on Homelessness





# Session Starting Shortly!

 We will be **recording** today's webinar.  
 Everyone is **muted** to reduce background noise.

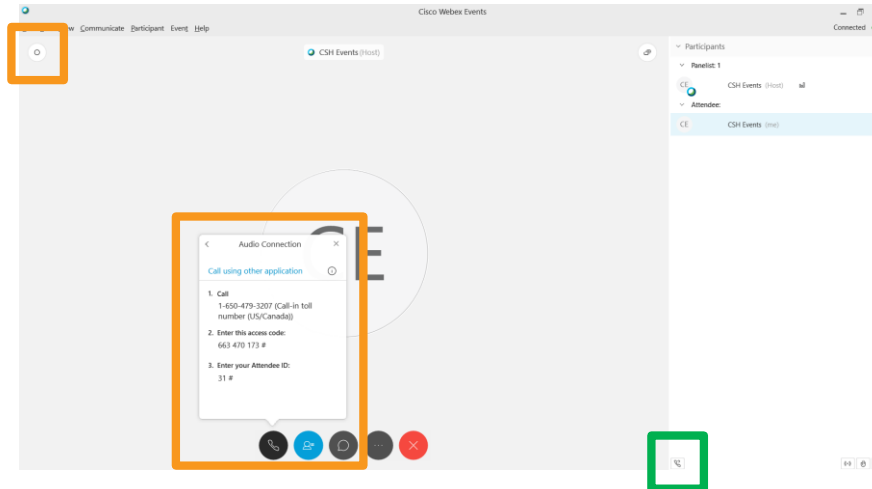
## Event Center Audio Options:



1. Audio defaults to your computer speakers.



2. If you would like to call in via phone, hit the phone icon near the bottom of your screen and the dial in number will appear in a new window and in white button on the top left.



## Troubleshooting Tips

- ✓ **Close the Webex window** and **re-launch the webinar** from your transcript in the Online Training Center.
- ✓ Or send a **chat** to **CSH Events** or **email** [training@cshevents.org](mailto:training@cshevents.org) for assistance.



# Welcome!

 We will be **recording** today's webinar.  
 Everyone is **muted** to reduce background noise.

## Activate Chat

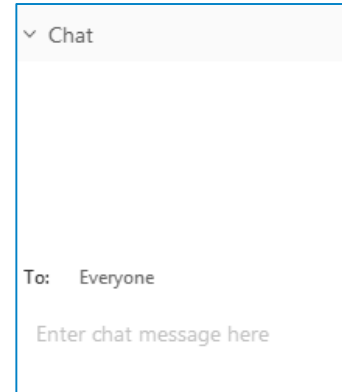
1. Make sure chat bubble on bottom is blue (active).



2. Make sure your chat box is expanded so you can see chats – click the blue greater than symbol.

> Chat

3. Make sure your chat “To” is set to “Everyone.”





Chat!

Enter chat question here.

The image shows a screenshot of a web-based chat interface. The main area is a light gray rectangle with a large, faint circular logo in the center containing the letters 'CI'. Below the logo, the text 'Waiting for others to join' is displayed. At the bottom of this main area is a horizontal toolbar with five circular icons: a microphone, an upload arrow, a video camera, a group of people, and a speech bubble. A blue callout box with a white arrow points to the speech bubble icon, containing the text 'Click the Chat button.'.

On the right side of the interface is a chat sidebar. At the top is a header bar with a dropdown arrow, the text 'Chat', and a close 'X' button. Below this is a large white text input field. A blue callout box with white text 'Send to EVERYONE.' has a white arrow pointing down to the 'To:' field in the sidebar. The 'To:' field currently shows 'Everyone' with a dropdown arrow. Below the 'To:' field is a smaller text input field with the placeholder text 'Enter chat message here'.



Q&A

Submit your questions!

Waiting for others to join

Chat

Send to **EVERYONE**.

Click the Chat  
button.

To: Everyone

Enter chat message here



# AUTHENTIC YOUTH COLLABORATION

National Youth Forum on Homelessness





# OBJECTIVES

---

## In this session, we will:

- ★ Explain the Authentic Youth Collaboration Philosophy and why it's important to our work to end youth homelessness
- ★ Provide a list of best practices for authentically engaging young people
- ★ Provide concepts and ideas to consider when building a framework of how to work with youth and young adults
- ★ Provide concrete examples to address adultism as an adult
- ★ Provide an index of related resources to supplement your learning
- ★ Provide a framework for collaborating with youth participants who are engaging in services or programs



# What we do:



Training & Education



Advocacy



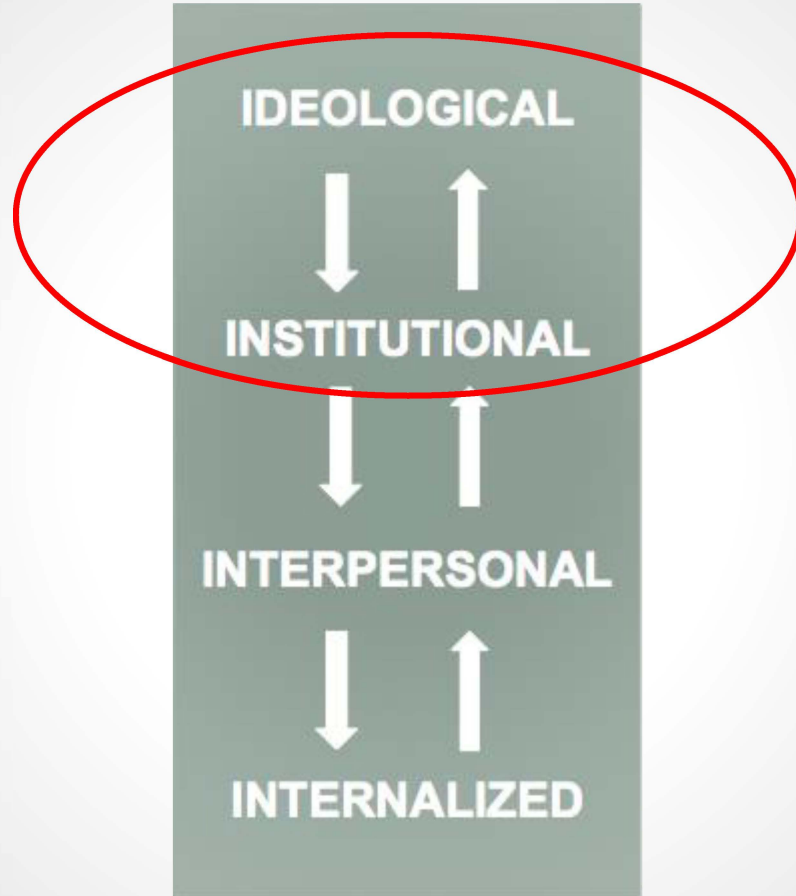
Youth  
Collaboration



**What does authentic partnership look like with youth who've experienced housing instability or homelessness?**













# What does meaningful partnership entail?

1. Be intentional about the decision-making power that youth have in your work.
2. Youth are the experts of their own truth.
3. When asking young people to be involved in your work, hear them out and build a reciprocal relationship where you honor their experiences, allowing their experiences and ideas to inform the process.



# **Avoiding Barriers to Authentic Youth Collaboration:**

## **Building Trust**

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



# Avoiding Barriers to Authentic Youth Collaboration:

## Meaningful Engagement

An issue that often gets in the way of effective collaboration between youth and service providers is *showy engagement*, in which young people are invited to participate simply to create the impression of inclusion and diversity.



# Avoiding Barriers to Authentic Youth Collaboration:

## Leadership Development

Young adults should have the freedom and agency to be the leaders of their own lives. Their autonomy should be promoted as they make decisions about the issues that impact their lives.



# Introduction to Adultism:

## What is adultism?

Adultism describes the systems of privileged attitudes and behaviors that adults have regarding young people

## What is the difference between adultism and ageism?

Ageism describes the systems of privileged attitudes and behaviors that younger people have regarding elders.



# How To Identify & Reframe Adultism

Like many -isms or systemic oppressions, adultism is learned very early in life and, though it's all around, it is often invisible until it is pointed out. The learned ideas and behaviors of adultism come with harmful effects, including creating and perpetuating divisive power imbalances in collaborations between young people and adult partners.

Let's discuss common ideas that are rooted in adultism and suggestions for reframing those ideas to be more authentically collaborative.





# Input and Feedback from Youth and Young Adults

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



# The Listening Session

**Listening sessions are facilitated conversations where youth and young adults' ideas and suggestions are uplifted in an essential way. Adult partners in the room are asked to remain silent throughout the process, centering the perspectives of young people with lived experience toward several goals**

*5 Tips for a successful Listening Session:*

- Build Trust
- Have an open mind
- Identify and reframe adultism
- Engage in active listening
- Be Specific





What are other  
YABs doing,  
you ask?



# Some successes...

1. YAB members being paid at least \$15/hour.
2. Full integration within the CoC
  - YAB members holding at least 2 voting seats
3. Capacity Building/ Education
  - YAB members are being equipped with the proper knowledge in order to make informed decisions
4. The CoC governance complements the structure of the YAB
  - Pushes towards the YAB mission and vision



# Some challenges...

1. Rural areas
  - Location challenges
  - Access to internet
2. YAB that is representative of the community being served
  - Usually predominately white members
  - In most cases, the YAB directly reflects CoC leadership
3. Landing on a governance structure/mission/vision
4. Working through/ calling out adultism when it shows up
  - YAB members and CoC stakeholders being able to recognize adultism



# Some suggestions....

1. Listen to the YAB
  - They are the experts
2. Do not attempt to have a governance structure/mission/vision in place for YAB
3. Allow the YAB to decide what the work will “look like” for them
4. Focus on demographics
  - If your recruitment yields one type of person as the majority, keep recruiting
5. Be transparent early and often



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.





**TRUECOLORSFUND**  
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

[ABOUT US](#)
[OUR ISSUE](#)
[OUR WORK](#)
[OUR EVENTS](#)
[RESOURCES](#)
[NEWS](#)
[DONATE](#)




[Map](#)
[Satellite](#)

[Service Providers](#)
[Events](#)

Home > Location

The True Inclusion Directory is a national database of organizations that provide services to LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness.

### My Dashboard




TRUECOLORSFUND  
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

ABOUT US    OUR ISSUE    OUR WORK    OUR EVENTS    RESOURCES    NEWS    DONATE

Home > Service Providers > **Naperville** > Housing > 360 Youth Services

# 360 Youth Services



Provider Category: [Housing](#) and [Supportive Services](#)

## About the Organization

360 Youth Services offers Transitional Housing Programs serving young adults, ages 18-24, who are homeless. In addition to housing, residents participate in a structured program that focuses on improving education and life skills with the ultimate goal of securing permanent housing and achieving independence. 360 Youth Services also offers safe, supportive and affirming housing for LGBTQ young people, ages 18-21, in our LGBTQ-specific Transitional Housing Program.

**Favorite**

**Owner Verified Organization**

**Primary Organization Contact :**  
[web@360sfund.org](#)

**General Information:**

Category: [Housing](#) and [Supportive Services](#)

**Address:** 1305 W Oswego Rd  
Naperville  
Illinois  
60540  
United States

**Phone:** [630-717-9408](tel:630-717-9408)

**Fax:** [630-717-9400](tel:630-717-9400)

**Website**

**Facebook**

**Donation Page**



# State Index on Youth Homelessness

[ABOUT US](#)[OUR ISSUE](#)[OUR WORK](#)[OUR EVENTS](#)

## State Index on Youth Homelessness



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



<https://truecolorsfund.org/index>

[ABOUT US](#)[OUR ISSUE](#)[OUR WORK](#)[OUR EVENTS](#)[RESOURCES](#)[NEWS](#)[DONATE](#)

## State Index on Youth Homelessness | Texas

Home » State Index On Youth Homelessness » State Index on Youth Homelessness | Texas



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH





### Quick Facts & Stats

State Ranking: 17

Overall Score: 51

Performance Breakdown

- Law & Policy: 55% of metrics met
  - Laws authorizing comprehensive supports and services for youth experiencing homelessness: 22% of metrics met
  - Preventing youth experiencing homelessness from coming into contact with the criminal and juvenile justice systems: 48% of metrics met
  - Providing unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness the opportunity to seek legal independence and live independently: 85% of metrics met
  - Addressing the educational needs of youth experiencing homelessness: 33% of metrics met
  - Allowing youth experiencing homelessness to access critical supports and services: 72% of metrics met
- Systems: 76% of metrics met
- Environment: 6% of metrics met

### Take Action

Send a message to your governor with your state's score and recommendations for improvement. Complete this form and we'll generate a personalized email and tweet for you.

331 Entries Goal: 500

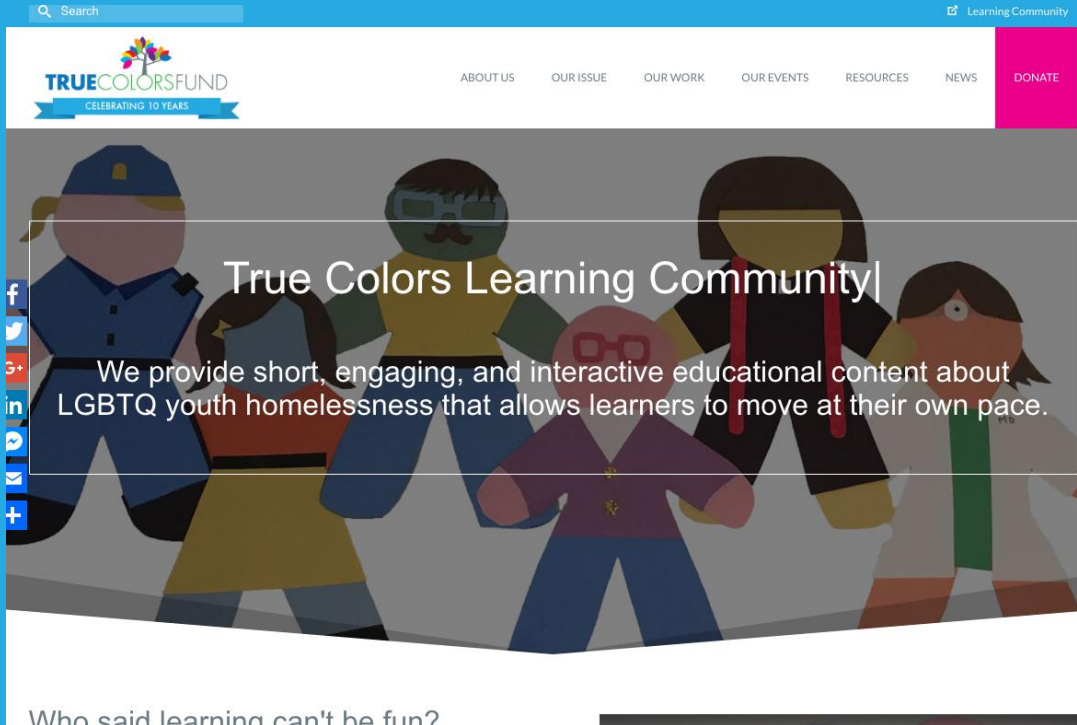
First Name

Last Name

Email Address



# True Colors Learning Community





# Q&A





**THANK YOU!**





[Kahlib@truecolorsfund.org](mailto:Kahlib@truecolorsfund.org)

[Dee@truecolorsfund.org](mailto:Dee@truecolorsfund.org)



**TRUE**COLORSFUND