

ASSESSING ORGANIZATIONAL READINESS & PROGRESS

ASSESSING AGENCY YOUTH ENGAGEMENT:

The following assessment tools were developed by Texas Network of Youth Services, in collaboration with youth caregivers and providers, and intended for use by agencies seeking to start new or evaluate current youth engagement strategies. Though each agency will have its own unique perspective and goals related to youth engagement, some best practices for using these tools are listed below:

- If possible, use these tools at the outset of any youth engagement efforts in order to plan appropriately and more accurately measure progress down the road.
- The assessments can be administered and redistributed during any agency data collection periods (e.g. quarterly, yearly, etc.) to monitor progress made and identify areas still needing improvement.
- When possible, consider incorporating assessment tools into existing organizational data collection instruments.
- Ideally, everyone involved in an agency's program should be included in the feedback process; this includes agency leadership, managers/supervisors, direct service staff, and youth and their caregivers. All perspectives—and especially those of youth—are important to effectively assess youth engagement readiness and progress.

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN ANALYZING SURVEY RESULTS:

After all surveys have been distributed and collected, use the questions below as a guide to assessing an agency's readiness and progress:

- Where is there overlap between how youth and staff responded?
- Where are there differences between how youth and staff responded?
- What responses/answers were surprising?
- What are the organization's strengths/assets?
- Where is there room for improvement within the organization?

In addition, consider the following questions in developing a roadmap for future youth engagement.

- What are some action items or next steps that you can develop from these responses?
- What policies can be generated from the results of these surveys?