



# yes!

YOUTH EMPOWERED  
SOLUTIONS

Healthy Neighborhoods Panel

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## ***The Problem***

Young people under the age of 18 make up more than a quarter of the U.S. population, yet their potential as a generation contribute to a better society is systematically ignored. Our nation is suffering economically, socially and civilly as a result.

## ***The Solution***

Empowering young people to participate in effective youth-adult partnerships is a proven, replicable approach to solving community problems.



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# The Continuum of Youth Leadership



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# The YES! Youth Empowerment Model®



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# How YES! works



YES! hires high school students



they learn how to identify and research problems



develop solutions



gather community support

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engage key stakeholders



work with the media



and change local and statewide policies

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# Empowering Outcomes: Individual

- Train youth on media advocacy → Youth write press releases
- Train youth on public speaking → Youth speak to school boards
- Youth partner on community development campaign → Youth discover passion for community planning
- Youth lead local advocacy campaign about water access → Youth goes to college to study environmental justice or public policy



# Empowering Outcomes: Organizational

Shared decision making



Equitable policies, practices and decisions

Clear roles & responsibilities for youth-adult partnerships



Youth gain skills & experience – organizational capacity increases

Nurturing leadership



Youth grow in confidence, leadership pipeline

Set shared agreements for work



Team feels free to discuss concerns





# Empowering Outcomes: Community



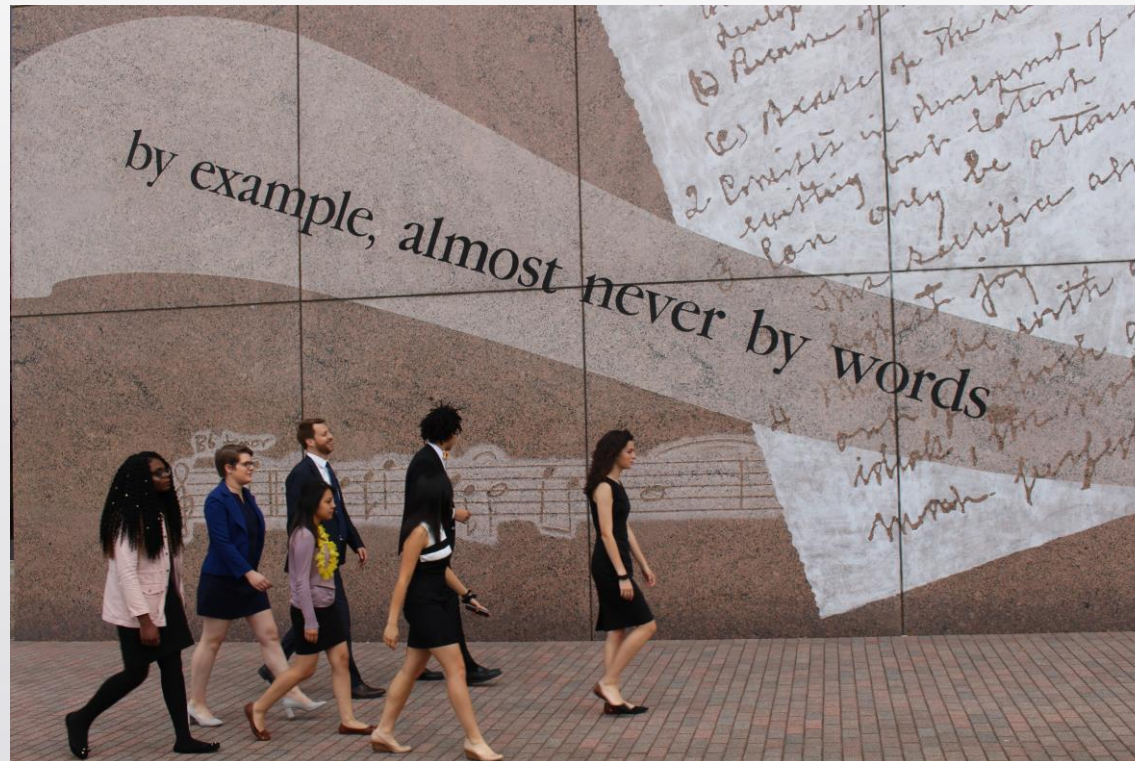


# Common Mistakes around Youth Empowerment

- How do we describe the typical young person? What do we know about them?
- What young people are we attempting to recruit to our work?
- How do we ask youth and adults to prepare for meetings?
- What are our expectations of youth being involved in our work?



Let's meet our youth panelists for today...



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