

no choice about us without us!

TIPS TO ENGAGE YOUTH IN WINNING DEDICATED FUNDING FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Conceiving/determining the solution:

- Start with your constituents—youth you serve.
- Authentically engage youth from beginning to end—conception, campaign, implementation, monitoring, etc.
- Create a formal structure for youth to engage like a youth advisory/action committee.
- Adult allies provide training and ongoing support.
- Remove barriers to engagement—transportation, money, meeting time/location, etc.

Core Values:

- Those most impacted by a problem must determine and fight for the solutions
- Youth are experts of their own experience
- Youth at the center
- Leadership development



Fighting/campaigning to win:

- Youth can design campaign materials like door hangers, flyers, etc.
- Youth stories have power: Create a speaker's bureau.
- Train youth to craft messages using quantitative data and their stories as qualitative data (personal expertise) for lobbying, media, campaigning, etc.
- Organize a youth-led GOTV campaign for ages 18-24 (a sympathetic segment of the electorate with LOW voter turnout)
- Schedule regular youth precinct walks.
- Celebrate key benchmarks to keep up excitement, momentum, and bring more people into the campaign.

Implementation/monitoring:

- Ensure youth have a major role in building the funding agenda
- Ensure youth have a powerful voice in a monitoring/accountability body like a citizen's advisory and oversight commission
- Provide staff support and training for engagement
- Create a formal youth advisory body like a youth advisory council
- Pay youth!

