

AN OVERVIEW OF THE TOOLKIT TO SUPPORT YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

THE 360 CIVIC LEARNING TOOLKIT IS A GUIDE FOR PRACTITIONERS IN SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES, AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS TO DESIGN PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND PRACTICES THAT SUPPORT YOUTH CIVIC DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS AN OVERVIEW OF THE TOOLKIT'S KEY COMPONENTS.

PROBLEM

There is unequal civic participation in America. Unequal civic participation exists between individuals from historically marginalized, or underserved, communities, and those from white, wealthy, and otherwise more privileged communities.

The root causes of unequal civic participation:

1. Systemic and structural inequities.
2. Unequal civics education.
3. Intergenerational cycles.
4. Insufficient political outreach.
5. Lack of civic resources.
6. Civic disillusionment and disjuncture.

RESPONSE

Use the 360 Civic Learning Toolkit to implement civic learning opportunities that support youth from underserved communities to develop four **Civic Building Blocks**:

1. Civic knowledge
2. Civic skills
3. Civic values or disposition
4. Efficacy



RESEARCH INSIGHTS

ASPIRATIONS AND TENSIONS

ASPIRATIONS AND TENSIONS IN THE DAILY AND CIVIC LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

SOCIAL NOT POLITICAL

I WANT TO ENGAGE WITH ISSUES THAT I CARE ABOUT

I care deeply about many issues... **and** I don't identify as "political."

APPLIED VALUES

I WANT TO EXTEND MY PERSONAL VALUES TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY AND POLITICAL ISSUES

I have core values that I can express and try to live by... **and** I'm not always sure how to apply them outside my personal life.

CHANNELS OF EXPRESSION

I WANT THE SPACE AND OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AND USE MY VOICE

I have plenty to say and real expertise based on my own experiences... **and** contentious conversation can be intimidating and spaces are usually dominated by adults or a few loud voices.

FUTURE PLANNING

I WANT TO SEE HOW I CAN ACHIEVE THE FUTURE I IMAGINE

I deserve respect and to be treated like an adult... **and** I am still developing my understanding of how the world works.

VOTING NAVIGATION

I WANT TO FEEL READY TO VOTE WHEN THE TIME COMES

I know that if I'm a Citizen, I'm supposed to vote... **and** I'm not sure how or why; I'm not sure I trust the system.

IMPACT AMBITION

I WANT TO BE IMPACTFUL (NOW AND LATER)

I want to make a difference... **and** I don't feel effectual in a larger system. I'm just one person.

» Insights should be used to better understand the tensions and aspirations of youth from underserved communities and as fodder for brainstorming and developing new ideas for programs, policies, and practices.



DESIGN PRINCIPLES

GUIDES FOR SHAPING ENGAGEMENTS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE FROM UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

ANY IDEA OR SOLUTION AIMED TO SUPPORT THE CIVIC DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH FROM UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES SHOULD BE:

- Youth-centered
- Grounded in context
- Emotionally supportive
- Activating
- Courageously resilient

» Design principles should guide and underpin the creation or execution of each part of a solution that effectively contributes to the civic development of youth from underserved communities.



INFLUENCER "HOW-TO" GUIDES

TURNING INSIGHTS INTO ACTIONS

KEY TAKEAWAYS, EXAMPLES, AND BEST PRACTICES:

- In Schools
- In the Community
- In Political Systems

» The "how to" guides should be considered in tandem with the Design Principles and Insights to inform solutions for supporting youth civic development in broad opportunity areas, while accounting for local needs and contexts.

WHAT YOUTH SAID:

I mean, I'm scared to death of school shootings, so I care a lot about gun control, but I'm not political.

I think it's really important to take care of your community — I'll probably come back to this town when I'm older and then I'll be able to help. Once I have money.

We all have ideas how things could be better in our school. We're just waiting for someone to ask us. No one ever asks our opinion.

Yeah I've heard that we're supposed to vote, but no one tell us why.



Read and use the full Toolkit to support youth in your community. For additional information, including prior research and program outcomes, read the accompanying literature review, *360 Civic Learning: A study of the practices that cultivate civic engagement among youth from underserved communities*.

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