

Yearly Feedback for Youth-led Programs:

Juvenile Law Center's End of the Year Check-Out Process

Every end of Juvenile Law Center's program year, program staff conduct regular "check-outs" with youth to gather information and feedback on the program overall, and youths' reflections on their own involvement in the program and workshops. Youth are also asked questions to identify their own goals and what they hope to accomplish within the program.



Collection Method

Youth check-outs are scheduled by interns and or staff who are outside of the program conducting the check-out. Information is collected and documented from youth based on a series of questions youth are asked, regarding themes like program structure, advocacy efforts, and individualized support. Program staff decided on this method to try to decrease any implicit or explicit bias from staff members who may be speaking with youth to collect this information. Information collected, is then de identified and shared with staff to reflect and implement suggested changes, and or recommendation in the upcoming program year.



Reflections & Suggestions

Reflections and Suggestions for Organizations: We see this process as a useful method for programs to collect valuable information from youth, and so youth can share critical and constructive feedback regarding program staff to someone who is outside of the program. Below are some examples of questions we ask youth regarding our Youth Advocacy Program at Juvenile Law Center. We hope that some of these questions can be a helpful guide for organizations to consider, and or think about the type of feedback they would like to gather from youth.



Overall Program Feedback

Do you feel you gained knowledge about the foster care and justice system from participation in this program?

Do you feel you gained skills you can use outside of the program?

Please share one skill you gained from participating in the program and one skill you still want help developing.

What do you think needs to change about the program? Is there something that should be added to make it better?



Campaign & Project Feedback

Please share your overall thoughts about the project your group worked on this year.

Which topics/ issue areas that came up this year do you feel most comfortable speaking on?

Do you have triggers or subject areas you want staff to know you want to avoid speaking on? *Please note staff are not requesting details about the triggers, simply the subject area to better support youth advocates during presentations.

Do you feel like the group accomplished their goals of the campaign this year?

What could have been better about the work you all did this year? For example, what could have been better about the campaign, or a project or an event you worked on?



Returning Program Members

As a returner did you find it beneficial to return and to have other returners included in the projects?

How would you describe your overall experience as a returner? Is there anything you want to be different or better?

Would you be open to returning next year?

Group Dynamics

How well do you think the group worked together? Why?

What is a positive outcome of working with a group of peers with similar experiences?

What could have been better about being part of a group of peers with similar experiences?

Were there any group conflicts you feel were never resolved? Why?

Please share at least one way we can work (improve) on group dynamics to make this experience better for everyone next year?



The Future

Would you have liked to get to know more about staff and what they do? If so, do you have ideas for this in the future?

What's the next issue you would pick to work on and why? It can be a previous issue.

How would you want the experience of selecting an issue to be different from this year?



YA Staff Feedback

Do you feel that your voice was heard by staff? Why?

What can staff do to improve relationships between youth and staff?

Do you feel that YA staff built on your strengths? Why?

Do you feel like virtual programming has been engaging?

Any additional recommendations for staff?



Individualized Support

Did you receive any additional support from program staff outside of workshops? If it's comfortable, please share the type of support you received. (ex. Educational support, employment, etc.)

Is there any additional help you would have liked?

If yes, what would you have liked help with?

Here are some helpful topics: Education; Housing; Mentorship; Mental Health; Healthcare; Connecting to Other Programs/Services; Benefits; Legal Support; Communicating with social worker/lawyer; Financial Support
Other: _____



Remote Support and Engagement

Please tell us what has worked for virtual programming and what has not worked.

Do you have suggestions for how we can improve remote work as we continue to use it in the future?

Any final reflections (about anything this year) that you would like to share?



Youth Speakers Bureau

What topics were you able to present this year related to your experience? (For example, education for youth in foster care, ending youth incarceration, impact of group placements on youth? Etc.)

Were there any events and or speaking opportunities you liked the most? What went well about them? What did not go well.

Are there other speaking engagements/opportunities you would like in the future?