Definitions to Remember:

- **Youth-guided** means that youth are engaged as equal partners in creating systems change in policies and procedures at the individual, community, state and national levels.

- **Youth/adult partnerships** are purposeful, deliberate relationships intended to create safe, meaningful opportunities for young people and adults to learn about engagement through action.

**Question:** How does my state build and create youth-guided partnerships?

**Answer:** You reach a level of having true youth-guided partnerships by strengthening your state’s capacity in three ways......

- a. **GLOBAL LEVEL** ________________________________
- b. **MACRO LEVEL** ________________________________
- c. **MICRO LEVEL** ________________________________

**Key Goal:** Your state must be **strategic** and **intentional** about........

- a. Age and skill appropriate youth & youth adult involvement.
  This means everyone should always be asking these questions,
  - “Is this young person (or group) interested in this and do they have the skills to match participating in this discussion or activity?”
  - “If not, how can they be supported and prepared?”
  - “Or is there another young person or group that is a better fit for this?”
- b. ___________________ : Developing relationships and partnerships with state partners.
- c. ___________________ : Developing relationships and partnerships with youth & young adult leaders, representatives and organizations.

**Action Step:** Create a __________ __________________________.
- This will your state’s roadmap for ________________________________.
- Should be lead by your state’s ________________________________.
- If that person is not there you can: ________________________________
- ________________________________ or ________________________________.
#1 Start small and start with what you know.
Stop and think:
Where are your state’s accomplishment in youth and adults working together?

- Successful activities?
- Successful projects/initiatives?
- Successful programs?
- Successful paid positions or youth organizations created?
- What determined success for these things??
- I don’t know the answers but I can ask ___________________________.

____________________________________________________________________________
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What is your state’s history of youth and adults working together?
Have relationships with youth and young adult leaders and organizations been:

- Positive?
- Negative?
- Mixed?
- Or different for various people and groups?
- For me?
- For other youth and youth organizations I know of?
- For adults who have worked with me in leadership?

____________________________________________________________________________
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Remember: ___________________ + __________________ =____________________

#2 Create an upfront commitment to ________________________________.

All partners: _______ ______________ & __________ _______________

- Developing youth/adult partnerships is continuous and should never stop
- Developing these partnerships should always be intentional and relevant to the issues being worked on.
Examples of this commitment:

In the beginning it may look like.....
- Ensuring youth voice at the table (this means the issues are youth are brought up)
- Finding youth partners
- Accessing community partners with direct access to youth
- Identifying priority meetings for youth attendance
- Preparing the youth partners for the work environment and their role
- Educating adult partners about youth specific cultural competency issues
- Pairing youth and adult partners together for support and mentorship

As you advance it may look like...
- Ensuring youth voice and actual representation at the table
- Formalizing partnerships within direct youth access channels
- Having higher and more consistent youth participation in advanced community work
- Holding youth/adult partnership building retreats and/or trainings
- Pairing youth and adult partners together for support, mentorship and collaboration
- Providing skilled youth partners with the role of guiding advanced community and policy level discussions
- Developing a ladder of new youth partners, expand leadership opportunities and also provide compensation
- Community partners contributing financially to the sustainability of community level youth involvement

Identifying and breaking down my state...........

Audiences:
- Elected officials
- Career employees
- Private/non-profit businesses and organizations
- Concerned citizens or recipients of services

Levels in each:
- Executive Level: Leaders & administrators
- Mid Level: Managers & administrators
- Direct Level: Managers & deliverers
  - Who has the authority? Who do people listen to and respect?
  - Who has the ear of these people with authority?
  - Who is on your state’s team? What are your team member’s roles and titles?