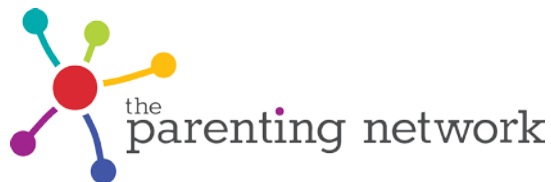


Best Practices for Youth-Serving Organizations

1. The organization has a mission and strategic plan to guide all activity.
2. The organization's leadership ensures that there are fiscal management, communication, and data-collection systems in place to strengthen program and service delivery.
3. The organization recruits and supports the staff members required to operate programs in accordance with the mission and strategic plan.
4. The organization ensures that the basic needs of young people are met: shelter, food, clothing, health care, and physical and emotional safety.
5. Program staff, facilities, and activities contribute to making the program site a safe, welcoming, and positive environment.
6. Programs are culturally competent, sensitive to the specific needs of youth, and build upon the proven capacities of youth participants.
7. Programs encourage the involvement of parents and other caregivers.
8. Programs promote caring, healthy relationships between youth and adults.
9. Programs insure accessibility of services, especially to those most in need.
10. Youth workers and other adults articulate, model, and reinforce appropriate responses, positive problem-solving skills, and clear norms about healthy behavior.
11. Programs provide experiences to build competencies, confidence, life skills, and social support systems for young people - guidance on their path to the future.
12. Youth have a meaningful role in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs.
13. Youth-serving staff members are well-trained, mentored, and supported with sufficient resources for success in carrying out their tasks.
14. Programs are regularly evaluated through formal and informal methods.



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