

YCI SELF-ASSESSMENT: ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL YOUTH - SERVING SYSTEM



Since 2001, the **Youth Council Institute (YCi)** and New Ways have supported local Youth Councils and others in their work with hundreds of youth-serving organizations and schools. Local Youth Councils, formed under the auspices of the Workforce Investment Act, present a powerful and viable opportunity to focus local communities on the development of comprehensive youth-serving systems. Even though the Workforce Investment Act is currently undergoing reauthorization, a number of shifts in the focus of the youth program component will continue to have direct impacts on local Youth Councils across the country - and present a new set of challenges. Youth Councils will continue to be well suited to carry out this work.

YCi was established by the California Workforce Investment Board (CalWIB) to assist leadership, staff, and practitioners at the state and local level seeking to implement the broad vision set forth in the Workforce Investment Act – to serve as architects of and catalysts for comprehensive, local youth-serving systems. Since 2005, YCi has been focused on serving Youth Councils throughout the nation. YCi is managed and delivered by New Ways to Work and is supported by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

This self-assessment is part of an integrated set of tools designed to help your Youth Council determine progress, document success, prioritize activities, and plan for improvements as you implement your vision of All Youth-One System. Team leaders or facilitators using this tool should review the *YCi Guidebook* prior to completing the self-assessment. The *YCi Guidebook* (available for downloading at www.newwaystowork.org/mastertools/guidebooks%20and%20toolkits/yCi_guidebook_%20intro.pdf) provides detailed instructions on how to use this tool as well as other frameworks, assessments, and workplans.

Your Youth Council or planning team should also review the *Elements of a Comprehensive Local Youth-Serving System* framework prior to conducting this assessment. The left hand column in this assessment lists indicators (or goals) that are drawn from the *Elements* framework. Your team will indicate progress in meeting these goals, and then you will prioritize areas of focus for inclusion in your Youth Council's Workplan.



Indicators / Goals	Progress	Priority
Academic Achievement <i>All youth are engaged in their learning in the classroom.</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults promote high academic and technical success. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workplace experiences support academic learning. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple educational approaches address individual needs. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards-based alternatives are available at all levels of education. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All youth are educated and ready to learn. 		

Self-Assessment Legend

Progress: ○=Not on our radar screen ◐=Just started ◑=Pretty far along in implementation or practice ●=Fully integrated into system

Priority: ◻ = Low priority (force at least 2 lows) ◼ = Medium priority ◼ = High priority (limit 1 high priority per category)



Indicators / Goals	Progress	Priority
Career Preparation <i>All youth are engaged in their learning in the workplace and community.</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early employment exposure and experiences are provided. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality work-based learning opportunities are in place. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers and workplace partners provide work and learning opportunities. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom learning supports career preparation. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All youth are experienced and ready for careers. 		

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Indicators / Goals	Progress	Priority
Youth Leadership <i>Youth are visible and active in leadership roles.</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth actively participate in decisions about their lives. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth voice drives policy and decision making. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are encouraged and supported in leadership roles. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth leadership opportunities are leveraged and connected. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All youth are confident and ready for life. 		

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Indicators / Goals	Progress	Priority
Community Services and Support <i>All youth receive individualized services and community support.</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All youth have safe and stable living arrangements. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All youth have strong and enduring adult and peer connections. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All youth receive life skills training and practice. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A full range of social services are available. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All youth are connected to adults, peers, and services. 		

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Indicators / Goals	Progress	Priority
Comprehensive Youth Development Approach <i>A formal network provides the foundation for an equitable and coordinated system.</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All activities embody a youth development approach. 	○ ◐ ◑ ●	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individualized, youth-centered plans guide programs and services. 	○ ◐ ◑ ●	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged community leadership supports collaboration. 	○ ◐ ◑ ●	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate resources are available and leveraged. 	○ ◐ ◑ ●	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A quality system is responsive to individual and cultural differences. 	○ ◐ ◑ ●	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community publicly supports a focus on youth issues. 	○ ◐ ◑ ●	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A connected, operational infrastructure supports youth success. 	○ ◐ ◑ ●	

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