

# VCEH Youth Committee

## *Youth Engagement Action Plan - Focus Groups*

**Goal:** To uncover youth's preferences and needs around housing resources and services.

**Method:** Focus Groups

- Participants: 16-26 year olds who have (or may) experience a housing crisis or instability
  - Targeted populations: LGBTQ, pregnant/parenting, POC, recovery, rural
- Targeted outreach: BCP, TLP, YDP, JJ, teen centers, youth boards, Outright, Multicultural Youth Program, Parent Child Centers, Turning Point, Woodside, Root, Reach Up
- Staffing: One facilitator, and one note-taker
- Locations: Burlington, St. Johnsbury, Rutland, Brattleboro
- Meeting space: Community/teen centers, conference rooms at local agencies
- Timing: 1.5 hour
- Group size: 6-8 youth

**Meeting Agenda:**

- Welcome/Introductions and pronouns (2 min)
- Getting to know you game (5 min)
- Outline of process and “rules” (2 min)
- Questions/dialogue (70 min)
- Priorities rating activity (10 min)
- Closing and stipends (1 min)

**Questions:** (Activation, Investigation, Conclusion)

1. Who would you feel comfortable going to for help if you don't know where you're sleeping that night?
2. How do people usually learn about services and programs? Are there any other places you think it would be helpful to have that information?
3. What are things that make it hard for you or your peers to get help?
4. What skills and supports do young adults need to live independently?
5. What do you think homeless teens and young adults need? What would help them get that?
6. And how do you think service providers view teens and young adults? How does that opinion affect your desire to access resources?
7. When you've gotten help from services/programs/groups, what have you found to be the most helpful/make the most difference for you?
8. What do you notice when someone who's supporting you values your personal goals and beliefs?
9. *Priorities rating and discussion*
10. If you had three wishes that you could use to make your community better, what would you wish for?
11. Are there any topics you think we missed or questions you have for us?

### Priorities Rating Activity:

- Each participant will get an envelope filled with words that represent priorities. They will have a couple minutes to quietly rank the priorities for themselves from most to least important. We will then spend a few minutes discussing their rankings. The note-taker will take photos of everyone's list so we can catalogue priorities from each group.
- Prompt Question: In this envelope are words for things that help support independent living. Rate them from what you think are most important and you need the most help with.
- Discussion questions:
  - Why did you rank things the way you did?
  - Have there been times in your life when your list would have looked different?
  - If some of these priorities were a given that you didn't even need to think about, what would you want to focus on the most?
- Priorities list ranking: What do you think is important for you to get support with to get or maintain your own place (use three categories: essential, helpful, unnecessary)
  - grocery shopping
  - cooking
  - budgeting my money
  - getting or keeping a job
  - school (high school, graduation, etc.)
  - higher ed (college, trade programs, etc.)
  - relationships with my family
  - relationships with my partner
  - relationships with friends
  - relationships with other adults who support me
  - mental health support
  - physical health support
  - being able to call in sick to work (good relationship with my boss and coworkers)
  - thinking about my life and where I want it to go
  - setting boundaries to
  - having a job that pays a livable wage
  - support taking care of a child
  - transportation- rides or my own car
  - a safe person to reach out to
  - access to a phone/ computer/ wifi
  - other:

### Timeline:

<b>September</b>	Burlington & Rutland
<b>October</b>	St. Johnsbury & Brattleboro
<b>November</b>	Present data to VCEH

### Materials:

- Phone with recorder app and camera (1)
- Priorities lists (10)
- Fidget toys (10)
- \$25 gift cards (32)
- Sign-in sheets and stipend receipt forms (4)
- Demographic survey
- Pens
- Notepaper

**Budget: \$1080.00**

Item	Stipends	Snacks	Space
<b>Cost per group (max)</b>	\$200	\$50	\$20

Funding options: VCRHYP, YIT