Building Strong Communication Loops

ANCHOR COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

It takes a collective to end YYA homelessness. Core Teams, Youth Action Boards (YABs), and larger community groups all play important roles in weaving together the knowledge and authority to make lasting changes to youth homelessness systems. Ensuring that everyone gets accurate, clear information about things like decisions made and requests for change or support are critical for everyone to be moving in the same direction. This resource offers some key considerations and questions to help you build and maintain strong communication loops across these different stakeholder groups.

To establish an effective communication loop between two or more groups, answer the following questions:

1. What is the goal?

- Overall, to end YYA homeless in 4 Anchor Communities by the end of 2022. Every 6 months, communities select and pursue a process measure goal that drives them towards their overall goal.
- What is your community's current reducing goal?

2. Who is in the loop?

- Who will be representing these bodies in meetings?
- Is there another point of contact for groups?
- What perspectives do they bring and what decision-making authority do they have?
- Whose perspectives are missing?

3. How will you ensure everyone is on the same page?

- What information does each group need to know to fulfill its purpose?
- Who are the messengers of each group?

4. How will you ensure everyone is "speaking the same language?"

- What are the key terms and acronyms that are frequently used?
- What opportunities will you take to inform members of the meaning of those terms and acronyms?
- How are you creating pathways to learn technical language where needed?

5. How will people access information?

- Where will you keep notes? Supplemental documents? Glossary, key terms and acronym lists.
- **PRO TIP:** Google Drive is great for collaboration and storing notes and records.

Collaborating with new groups and individuals? Check out our New Core Team Members Guide for ACI best practices, key terms and expectations.