YouForward: Engaging the Un-engageable

Flexible Peer-Driven Strategies for Engaging and Retaining at-risk Youth and Young Adults in Services

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Now is the Time - Healthy Transitions
The YouForward Model

YouForward Youth Council

Identify at risk and “fall through the cracks” TAYA

YouForward Program

Virtual Community  TAYA Peer Supports  Drop-in Centers

Core Services

Wraparound Team (AMP-enhanced)  Transitions to Independence (TIP)

Expedited Pathways

Community Services and Natural Supports
(Housing, Education, Employment, Benefits, Healthcare)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Subcategory</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>African American/Black</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>Latino/Hispanic</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Orientation</td>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gay/Lesbian</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bisexual</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age Distribution</td>
<td>16-17 Yrs.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18-19 Yrs.</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20-25 Yrs.</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Homelessness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Enrolled Full/Part-time</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not Enrolled</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Grade/High School Diploma/Equivalent (HiSET)/Voc Diploma</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Some College/University</td>
<td>&lt; 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>Employed Full/Part-time</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unemployed/Looking for Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violence and Trauma</td>
<td>Has Experienced</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Engagement By Design

Necessary Design Elements:

• Hire a Culturally and Linguistically Representative Team
• Low Barrier/No Barrier Design
• Flexibility
• Youth-Voice Centric
Engagement: From Concept to Practice

- Community Partners
- Outreach at “the Drop of a Hat”
- Peer Mentors
- Youth Voice & Youth Leadership Opportunities
Peer Mentors, Youth Voice & Youth Leadership
National Evaluation of NITT-HT

• SAMHSA-required Client-Level Data Collection

• National Outcome Measures (NOMs)
  – Previous 90 days; baseline, 6 month reassessment, discharge
  – Functioning; symptoms; substance use; criminal justice; violence/trauma/PTSD; social connectedness; housing; employment/education; perception of services

• Additional Measures (YouForward)
  – Physical/mental health; housing and food security; lifetime criminal justice involvement; satisfaction education/employment satisfaction with YouForward

• Engaging Youth in Data Collection
  – Peer mentors as data collectors
  – Incentives
YouForward Preliminary Outcomes Employment and Income

- None: 50% (Baseline), 33% (Current)
- SSI/Survivor's Benefits: 20% (Baseline), 17% (Current)
- Job: 44% (Current)
- Other: 11% (Baseline), 6% (Current)

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YouForward Preliminary Outcomes

Education

- Dropped Out: Baseline 28%, Current 8%
- In GED Class: Baseline 3%, Current 14%
- GED: Baseline 11%, Current 17%
- In High School: Baseline 36%, Current 39%
- Diploma: Baseline 19%, Current 19%
- In College: Baseline 3%, Current 3%

YouForward.org
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