

why

why enlist the help of youth infusion?

One of society's greatest resources is its youth, but youth require guidance, experience, and support. Youth Infusion knows. After all, 22-year old Oxford doctoral student Sarah Schulman founded Youth Infusion after 11 years of working with adults on tobacco and drug prevention. Her efforts at the local, state, and national levels led her to the belief that youth working alongside adults is the winning combination for positive social change. What could be more powerful than youth serving as the experts on youth-focused issues?

how



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hit the bull's eye

work with **youth as partners**, not passive recipients.

Adolescence isn't a problem to be fixed, but an **opportunity** to be cultivated.

Bring the adolescents you are trying to target to the table to advise, plan, implement, and evaluate policies, programs, and strategies that affect them. By recognizing that young people know what works in their communities, families, and schools, and that adults have invaluable experience and expertise, youth-adult partnerships harness the unique assets and energies of both generations. <<*Some Stories*>>

⦿ The Rhode Island Department of Health has hired nine youth to serve as action researchers and youth advocates. Youth learn how to conduct research in their schools and communities and then partner with adults to use that research as a tool for change.

⦿ 10 staff members from the Welsh Assembly Government engaged in a year-long organizational change process designed to help embed youth voice into everyday 'doing.' From grant guidance to staff hiring to evaluations, youth work alongside adults as equals, experts, and learners.

Youth Infusion can help cultivate youth-adult partnerships.

▲ Youth-adult partnerships are hard work. Organizational structures, systems, and processes are often built around the needs of adults, not youth. Youth Infusion helps government agencies and youth-serving organizations (nonprofits, schools, clinics, etc.) shift from simply providing youth services to actively engaging youth in programmatic and policy-making processes. By analyzing the structure of organizations, establishing youth-adult workgroups and advisory boards, training youth and adults in cooperative decision-making, and updating institutional cultures, Youth Infusion enhances an organization's capacity to meet its youth-related mission and goals.

youth infusion changing the way youth-serving organizations do business.