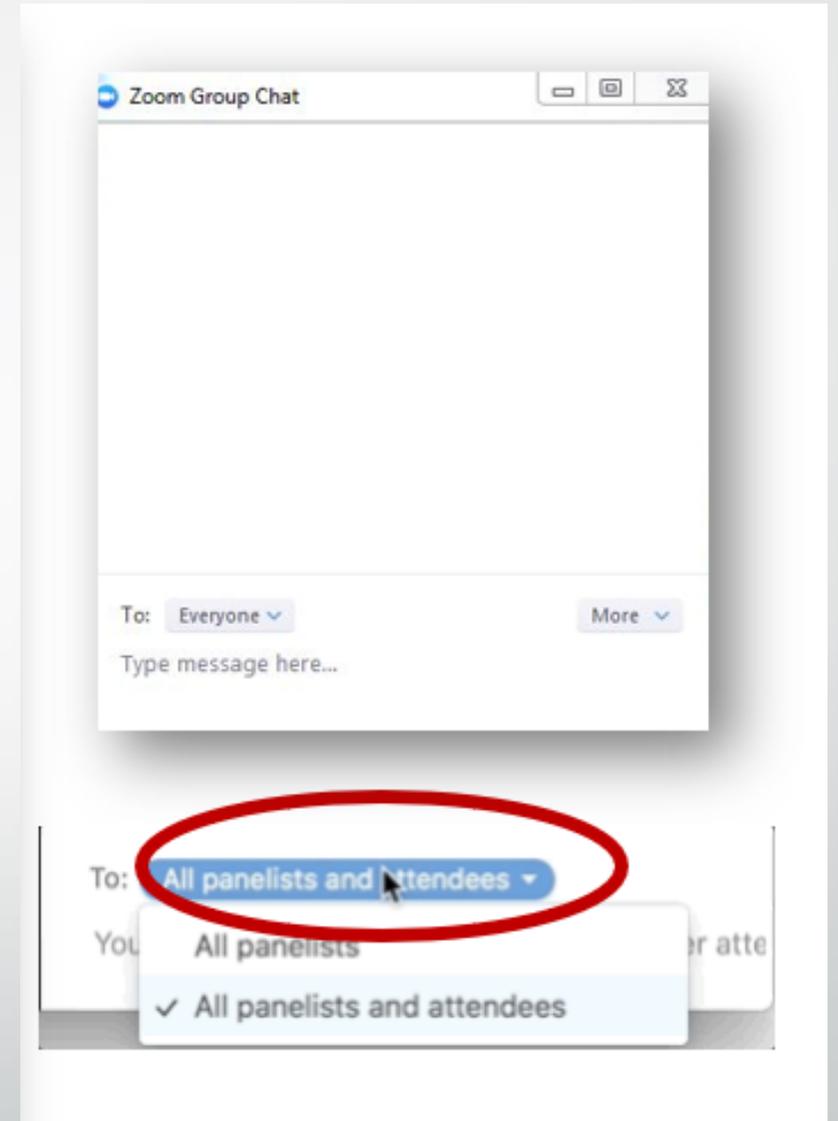


Housekeeping & Introductions

In the Chat Box please introduce yourself:

- What is your role and location
- What brings you to the webinar today?
- What questions do you have?





INTERAGENCY
WORKING GROUP
ON
youth PROGRAMS

*The Benefits and Importance of Using Youth
Participatory Action Research with Populations
such as Youth with Incarcerated Parents*

September 21, 2020

PURPOSE of TODAY'S SESSION

- To highlight the benefits of youth participatory action research (YPAR), particularly for individuals working with COIP, as a valuable method of:
 - Engaging youth as full partners and teaching youth valuable skills;
 - Learning the answers to questions and topics youth deem critical;
 - Disseminating the results; and
 - Applying that knowledge to policy and practice.
- To share the experiences of a youth who has participated in YPAR.
- To emphasize the importance of a well-trained facilitator that leverages [developmental relationships](#) with youth participants through the YPAR process.

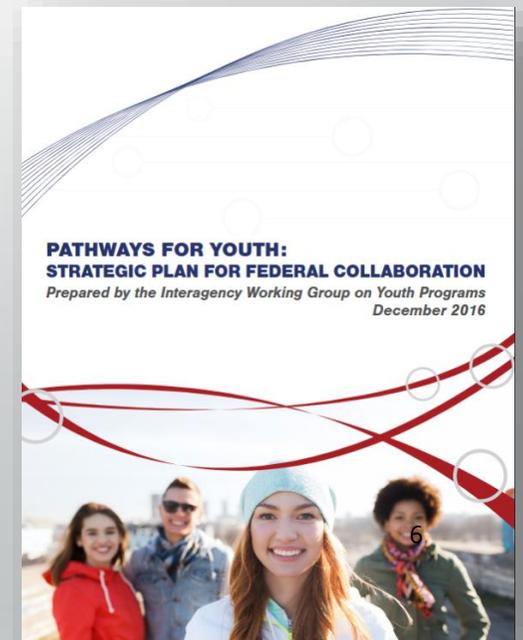
AGENDA

- Overview of the federal Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs
 - ASPE– 5 minutes
- Fausto Lopez, Senior Technical Assistance Consultant, AIR – 10 minutes
 - YPAR overview
- Camisha Harrison
 - Personal experience with YPAR – 15 minutes
- Dr. G. Roger Jarjoura, Principal Researcher, AIR – 15 minutes
 - Mentorship: Developmental Relationships
- Fausto Lopez, Senior Technical Assistance Consultant, AIR– 15 minutes
 - Transformative Social Emotional Learning: Considerations, training, implementation
- Camisha Harrison
 - Advice for adults and researchers
 - Final thoughts – 5 minutes
- Q&A – 20 minutes
- Conclusion and next steps – 5 minutes

INTERAGENCY
WORKING GROUP
ON
youth PROGRAMS

Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs (IWGYP)

- Executive Order 13459 signed by President Bush in 2008 - Improving the Coordination and Effectiveness of Youth Programs
 - Support enhanced collaboration to improve outcomes for youth
 - Identify and disseminate evidence-based strategies that support youth
 - Create a federal interagency website on youth ages 10-24
- 21+ federal departments and agencies are partners
- *Pathways for Youth: Strategic Plan for Federal Collaboration (2016)*



Children of Incarcerated Parents (COIP) Site on youth.Gov

- Partnership between the IWGYD and the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- Examples of Resources for COIP on youth.Gov
 - *Webinars* (e.g., Model Arrest Policy)
 - *Tip Sheets* for Teachers and Adults who work with COIP; Incarcerated Parents; Staff at correctional facilities; and Youth
 - *Guides* for Incarcerated Parents and their families
 - *Youth Voices and Profiles*
 - *Research* summarizing the impact of incarceration
 - *COIP community of practice* listserv



Other Youth Topics

- Choose - Go

Help us learn what works! What does your organization do to authentically engage youth? Click here to share.



Youth Topics / Children of Incarcerated Parents

Children of Incarcerated Parents



New Collaboration Profile: Just Beginning Fatherhood



- Children of Incarcerated Parents >
- Trauma >
- Exposure to Violence >
- Exposure to Drugs or Alcohol Abuse >
- Child Welfare >
- Services & Supports >
- Questions about Child Support >
- Presentations >
- Youth Perspectives >
- Tools, Guides, & Resources >
- References >

Did You Know?



Camisha Harrison

Youth with
experience in
YPAR



Roger Jarjoura, Ph.D.

Principal Researcher



Fausto A. Lopez M.Ed.

Senior TA Consultant &
Content Area
Specialist

Let's find out who's attending today

Please select your role.

- Researcher
- Educator
- Practitioner
- Policy Maker
- Other





YPAR Overview



Have you ever participated on or facilitated a YPAR process or project?

- Yes
- No



Youth Participatory Action Research

YPAR. Youth-led or Youth-driven participatory research programs (YPAR) where young people are trained to:

- identify major concerns in their communities,
- conduct research to understand the nature of the problems, and
- take leadership in influencing policies and decisions.

In addition to improving community settings and resources, the YPAR process is intended to yield developmental benefits for the young people who participate (Abraczinskas & Zarret, 2020; Ozer et al, 2018).

Youth Participatory Action Research

YPAR projects provide participants with opportunities to:

- Expand their knowledge and contribution
- Develop critical thinking and empathy
- Develop interest and inspire action
- Evaluate and generate insights based on direct experiences

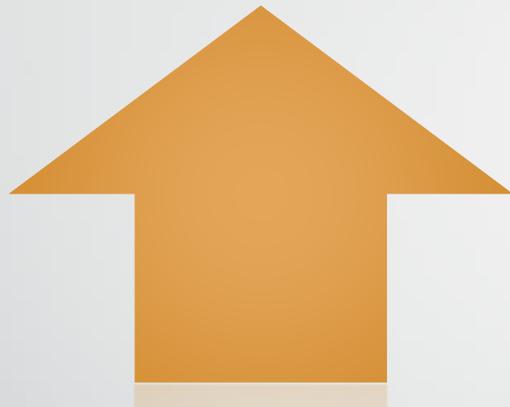
Youth Participatory Action Research : Key Principles

- 1. Inquiry based.** Youth investigate one or more topics by collecting information, data, and evidence
- 2. Participatory.** Youth share power with adults by making choices/decisions about the topic, methods or actions, project planning, results dissemination, or social action
- 3. Transformative.** The program results in a project, product, or policy to change knowledge and practices to improve the lives of youth

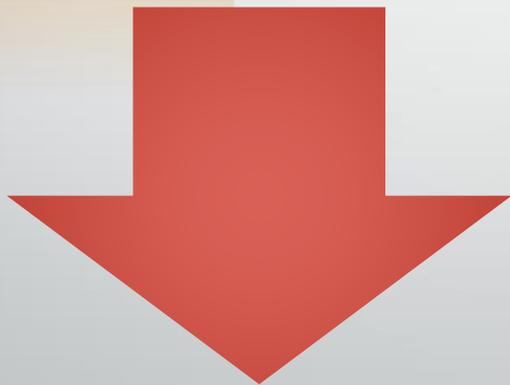
YPAR Benefits

- Relationships between youth and adults
- Community involvement and contribution
- Autonomy and capacities for leadership
- Academic Enrichment
- Social Determinants

Increases Students' Capacity to Learn



- Social-emotional skills
- Motivation
- Leadership
- Prosocial behaviors
- Academic achievement



- Conduct problems
- Emotional distress
- Drug use

YPAR Methods

- Needs Assessment
- Literature Reviews
- Surveys
- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Field Notes (e.g. journal entries)
- Photovoice
- Analysis
- Action (e.g. culminating project)



YPAR Highlights



YPAR: Personal Experience





Mentorship: Developmental Relationships

Developmental Relationships

YPAR puts the power in the hands of youth. Success requires that youth feel empowered to understand their own value, understand power dynamics, and are supported by positive youth-adult partnerships.

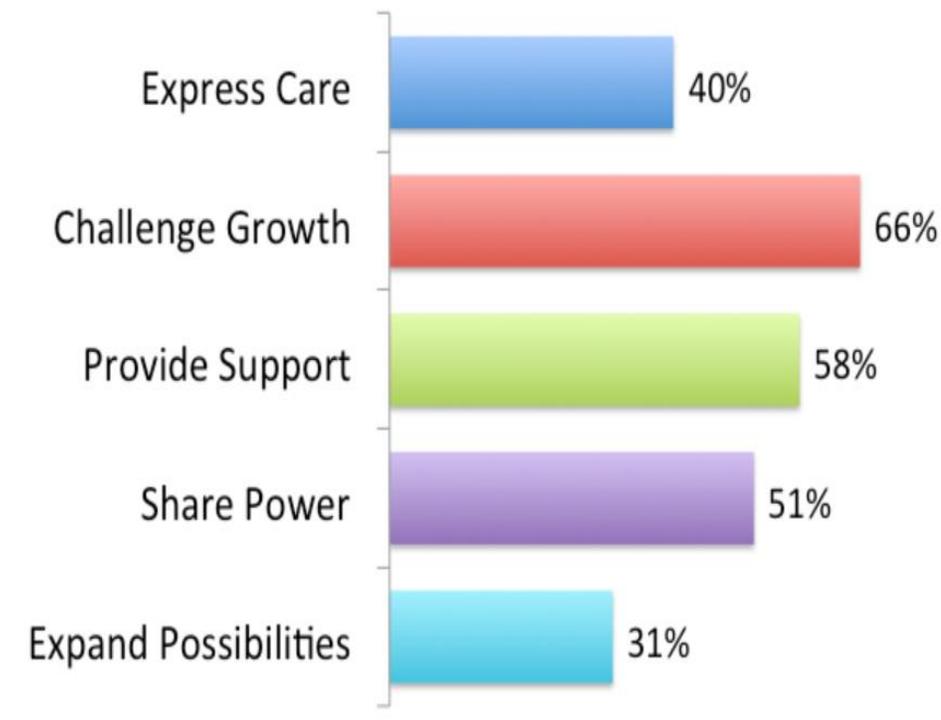
The Developmental Relationship Framework (Search Institute, 2020) provides guidance on how to build and sustain relationships with young people.

1. Express Care
2. Challenge Growth
3. Provide Support
4. Share Power
5. Expand Possibilities

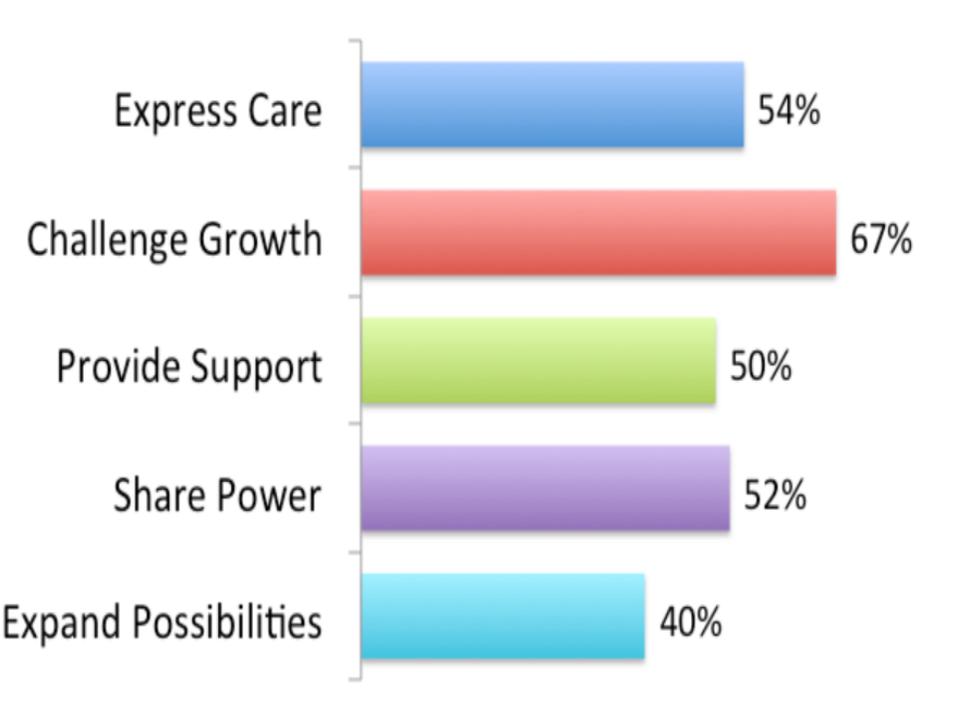
Developmental Relationships

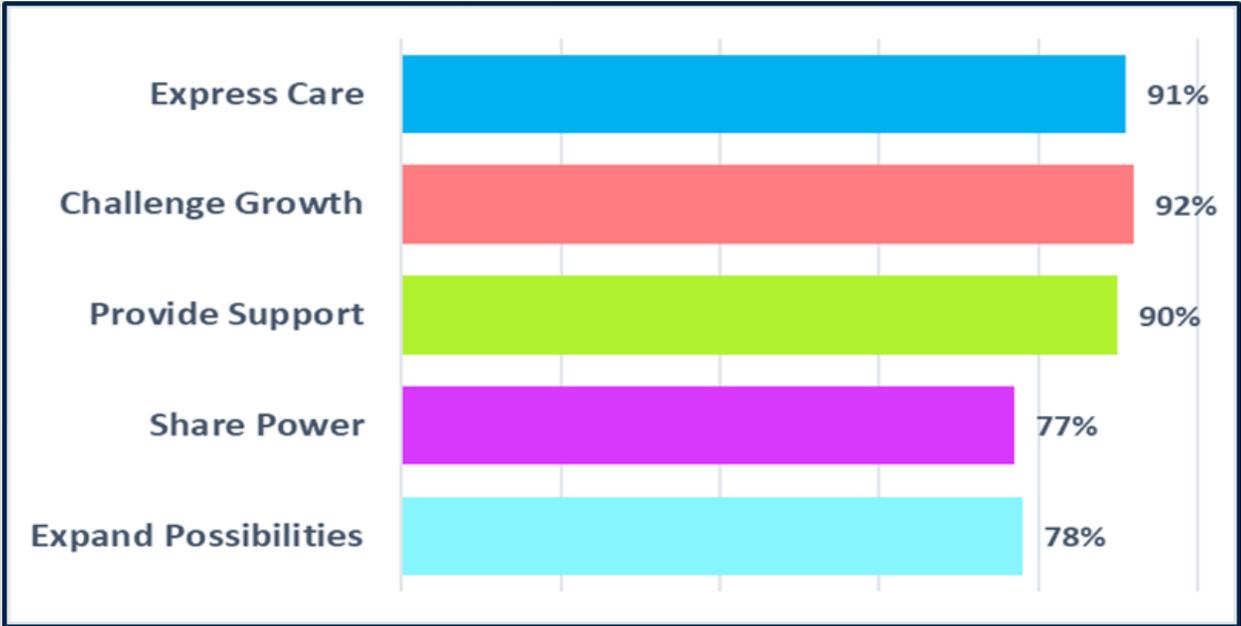
<p>1. Express Care</p> <p>Show me that I matter to you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be dependable..... Be someone I can trust.• Listen..... Really pay attention when we are together.• Believe in me Make me feel known and valued.• Be warm..... Show me you enjoy being with me.• Encourage Praise me for my efforts and achievements.
<p>2. Challenge Growth</p> <p>Push me to keep getting better.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expect my best Expect me to live up to my potential.• Stretch Push me to go further.• Hold me accountable ... Insist I take responsibility for my actions.• Reflect on failures Help me learn from mistakes and setbacks.
<p>3. Provide Support</p> <p>Help me complete tasks and achieve goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Navigate..... Guide me through hard situations and systems.• Empower Build my confidence to take charge of my life.• Advocate..... Defend me when I need it.• Set boundaries Put in place limits that keep me on track.
<p>4. Share Power</p> <p>Treat me with respect and give me a say.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect me Take me seriously and treat me fairly.• Include me Involve me in decisions that affect me.• Collaborate Work with me to solve problems and reach goals.• Let me lead Create opportunities for me to take action and lead.
<p>5. Expand Possibilities</p> <p>Connect me with people and places that broaden my world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspire Inspire me to see possibilities for my future.• Broaden horizons Expose me to new ideas, experiences, and places.• Connect..... Introduce me to more people who can help me develop and thrive.

Ratings by Youth on Relationships with Teachers



Ratings by Youth on Relationships with Leaders of Youth Programs





Ratings by Youth on Relationships with Program Staff Trained in Developmental Relationships

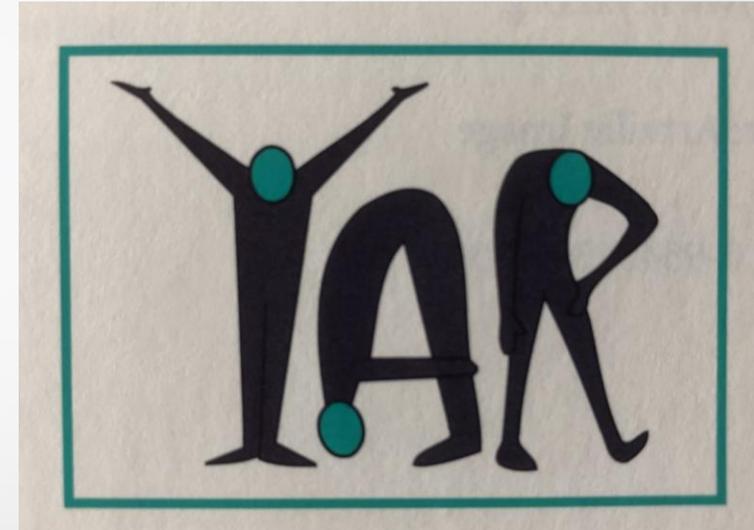
Ratings by Youth on Relationships with Mentors Trained in Developmental Relationships



An Example: Youth as Resources

Impact on Youth:

- Sense of accountability and civic engagement
- Improved life skills
- Sense of pride and acceptance
- Capacity to care
- New ability to partner with and relate to adults
- New hope for the future





Transformative Approach

Applied Learning & Skill Development

YPAR offers a promising approach for building Social Emotional Learning (SEL) skills. YPAR projects are aligned to SEL because they help students develop pro-social relationships with peers and adults through the active collaboration and problem solving.

YPAR consists of students engaging as co-researchers and decision makers in some or all stages of the research cycle (Fine & Torre, 2004). This includes:

- Identifying a social problem impacting their own personal lives
- Collecting and analyzing data to understand the root causes
- Engaging in action strategies to address the problem (Langhout & Thomas, 2010).

Transformative SEL

Transformative SEL explicitly addresses power, privilege, prejudice, discrimination, social justice, empowerment, and self-determination and should help all youth build awareness of privilege and bias, address racism, and develop the ability to navigate diverse settings and expectations in culturally competent ways and work effectively in diverse teams (Jagers, Rivas-Drake, & Williams, 2019)

Social and Emotional Competencies

Self-Awareness

Understanding one's emotions, personal and social identities, goals, and values.

Self-Management

Skills and attitudes that facilitate the ability to regulate emotions and behaviors.

Social Awareness

Having the critical historical grounding to take the perspective of those with the same and different cultural backgrounds and appropriately empathize and feel compassion.

Relationship Skills

Interpersonal sensibilities needed to establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships and navigate diverse settings.

Responsible Decision Making

Knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to make caring, constructive choices about personal and group behaviors across, diverse, social interactions.

Promising Approaches

Efforts such as transformative SEL, which seek more equitable educational experiences for all young people and can support these efforts through:

Cultural Integration

- Connect student's cultural assets to academic concepts and skills, such as designing history lessons that resonate with students' backgrounds.
- Encourage student reflection on their own lives and society.
- Support student cultural competence by facilitating learning about their own and other cultures.

Classroom Community Building

- Conduct morning meetings.
- Set individual and classroom goals and expectations.
- Engage in collaborative problem solving.

Promoting Ethnic-Racial Identity Development

- Recognize and assess the impact of one's beliefs and biases.
- Understand one's strengths.
- Ground and affirm one's cultural heritage(s).

- Ground and affirm one's cultural heritage(s).
- Understand one's strengths.
- Recognize and assess the impact of one's beliefs and biases.

Implications

Future research would benefit from examining:

- The role and preparation of adult facilitator of the YPAR process
- Application of key principles, best practices, and engagement strategies
- Potential growth in skills and competencies prior to and after engaging in YPAR (e.g. leadership, civics, identity development)
- Connections between culturally responsive practices and social and emotional development
- Linkages between developing a social justice lens and the exhibition of pro-social skills



Advice for Adults and Researchers

Please share what questions you have about YPAR that you would want answered before embarking on a new YPAR project.





Question & Answers

Next Steps

- Please visit www.youth.gov/coip for additional resources and to join the join the COIP community of practice listserv
- Information regarding upcoming YPAR funding opportunity will be posted
- This webinar recording and slides will be posted
- Quick feedback form

youth.gov/COIP

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