**Youth Voice into Action**

This priority is designed under the principle that youth are active participants in their own development and well-being and their voices are important to effecting sustainable change in youth behavior, community and school culture.

Through this priority districts will commit to using a model of Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) to engage youth as partners in understanding issues that impact academic, social, and or personal wellbeing and becoming agents of change. YPAR is an innovative approach to positive youth and community development in which young people are trained to conduct systematic research to improve their lives, their communities, and the institutions intended to serve them. With YPAR, young people are the researchers and changemakers. It results in research findings that can illuminate the issues and solutions that are important to young people.[[1]](#footnote-2)

**Funded participants will be required to:**

* Partner with a DESE approved consultant to implement a model of YPAR;
* Bring together a team or teams of youth and adult advisors;

**We ask that when you are recruiting youth and adults for your team, you think about:**

1. Are there Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) youth and adults on your team?
2. Are there youth and adults with different abilities on your team?
3. Are there members of your team who have not had a chance to share their wisdom with the community?
4. Are there members of your team who are emerging leaders?
5. Are there a variety of perspectives represented on your team?
6. Have you ensured that there are no barriers to participation for any member of your team?
7. Are there a variety of grade levels represented? Will the members of your team build capacity for growing this program in future years?

* Assess and monitor youth adult partnerships of the team/s and actively work to ensure youth are empowered to share thoughts and opinions without fear and they and their voice are valued equally as the adults;
* Support youth and their adult advisors in training to learn the model;
* Support youth and their adult advisors in research, decision making, action planning and implementation;
* Participate in DESE sponsored/offered professional learning communities and networking opportunities;
* Participate in DESE sponsored/offered events designed to engage community, celebrate/reflect on process and projects and enhance and support implementation of actions;
* Locally hold forums or other events to engage the community and celebrate/reflect on process and projects;
* Make recommendations for how identified issues, concerns or priorities could be addressed and supported through state level actions; and
* Submit report, presentation and or other form of documentation summarizing their project for DESE internal use and that can be disseminated to showcase projects.

**Fund use**

* Stipends/compensation for advisors (for approximately 100 hours) and students
* Materials and supplies (up to $10,000)
* Contracts with DESE-selected vendor(s) to support training and implementation of selected YPAR model.

**Funding**

Applicants may apply for up to $75,000, including $25,000 for the DESE-selected vendor(s), if applicable. If the applicant has already done this work previously, they do not need to budget for this vendor and may only apply for up to $50,000.

**Vendor Set-Aside**

*DESE is in process of approving one or more vendors with which grantees under this category will work to provide training and support for this project. Grantees must budget the following that will go directly to the approved vendor:*

* $25,000 (flat rate) to DESE-selected vendor(s) to support training and implementation of selected YPAR model.

**Definition**:

From <https://yparhub.berkeley.edu/home>:

“Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) is an innovative approach to positive youth and community development in which young people are trained to conduct systematic research to improve their lives, their communities, and the institutions intended to serve them. This website will help guide you along the way: reflecting on your group’s capacity to engage in YPAR, forming a team, planning your YPAR project, and using the findings to advocate for change in your community. With YPAR, young people are the researchers and changemakers. YPAR builds skill development among youth in inquiry, evidence, and presentation. Most importantly, YPAR is action-oriented. It results in research findings that can illuminate the issues and solutions that are important to young people.”

**YPAR models**:

Getting to Y

Berkeley YPAR <https://yparhub.berkeley.edu/home>

**Evidence and additional information**: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10KnGfodjR5y3nXvNoc0USg6la56DvFDA/view?usp=sharing>

<https://edtrust.org/the-equity-line/youth-participatory-action-research-ypar-as-a-means-to-college-and-career-readiness/>

<https://www.upforlearning.org/resource-center/evaluations/>

1. <https://yparhub.berkeley.edu/home> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)