



Young Adult Leadership Council

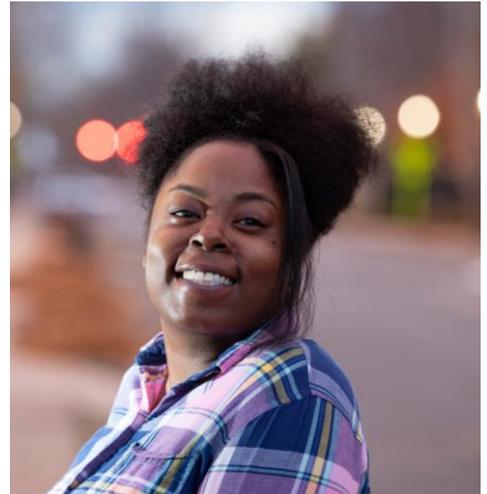
COMPASS ROSE COLLABORATIVE

SUCCESSFUL REENTRY PROGRAMS PRIORITIZE A YOUTH-CENTERED APPROACH

A youth-centered approach puts young adults in **partnership with caring adults** involved with the reentry programs they are experiencing. The young adults and their case workers and mentors co-create a vision of what opportunities look like for them, based on where they are.

Young adults who become decision-makers in programs that impact and serve them have positive experiences around self-expression, inclusion, validation, being heard and seeing their ideas come to fruition. Organizations that want to work with youth and integrate youth voices into their work can follow these principles, enumerated in the National Youth Employment Coalition's pioneering Youth Leadership Initiative and publication, *We Know What Needs to be Done*.¹

- **Equity and inclusion**
- **Collaboration and support**
- **Co-design**
- **Assets and strengths**
- **Power sharing**



In 2019, the [Compass Rose Collaborative](#) incorporated a Young Adult Leadership Council into its reentry programs. Comprising currently enrolled participants and alumni selected from the Compass Rose Collaborative communities, the council meets monthly to develop activity plans, network, provide feedback, and advise program staff. These young adults are vital partners in developing strategies, methods, and approaches for the program. Participation in the leadership and other councils gives youth a sense of ownership and the chance to identify challenges and opportunities in their own communities, becoming problem solvers as well. FHI 360 also facilitates other leadership council opportunities for the young adults in the program, such as participation in national advisory councils, sharing their stories through a youth voices campaign, co-facilitating sessions and webinars, and so forth.

If you are interested in learning more about the Young Adult Leadership Council, please [contact us](#).

¹National Youth Employment Coalition, Youth leadership Initiative (2021) National Youth Employment Coalition | What We Do (nye.c.org).