



NATIONAL
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RESOURCE CENTER
A Program of **OJJDP**

Amplifying Youth Perspectives: Launching the NMRC's Elevating Youth Voice Guide

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National Mentoring Resource Center & Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

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- The NMRC builds on OJJDP's history, leadership, and investments in quality youth mentoring.

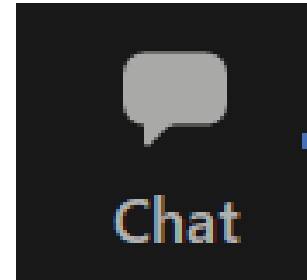
National Mentoring Resource Center Overview

Key Components:

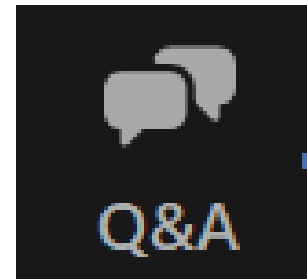
- National Mentoring Resource Center Website
 - Practitioner Focused Blog
 - Grantee Dedicated Part of Site
 - Numerous Research-Based Resources
 - Evidence Reviews on Programs, Models, and Populations
- Research Board
- Training and Technical Assistance!
 - No-Cost Assistance For Your Mentoring Program

Remember!

- Please take **3-4 minutes to complete the anonymous survey** to let us know how we did at the end of the webinar.
- In about a week, you will receive an email with information on how to download the **slides, recording, and resources** on the OJJDP NMRC website, at www.nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org

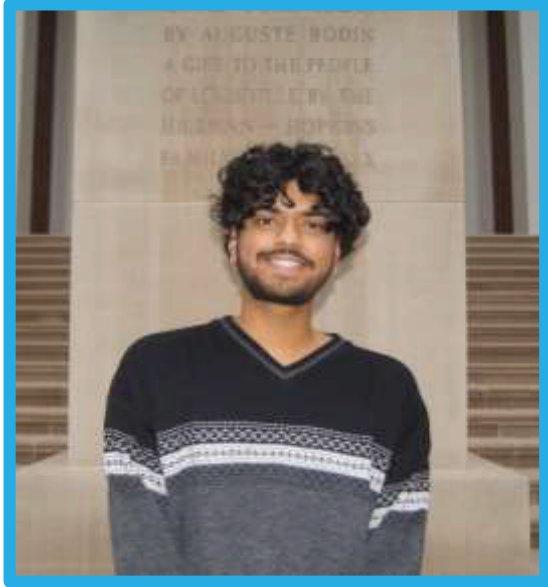


- Introduce yourself!
- Talk with one another
- Share resources
- Respond to presenters

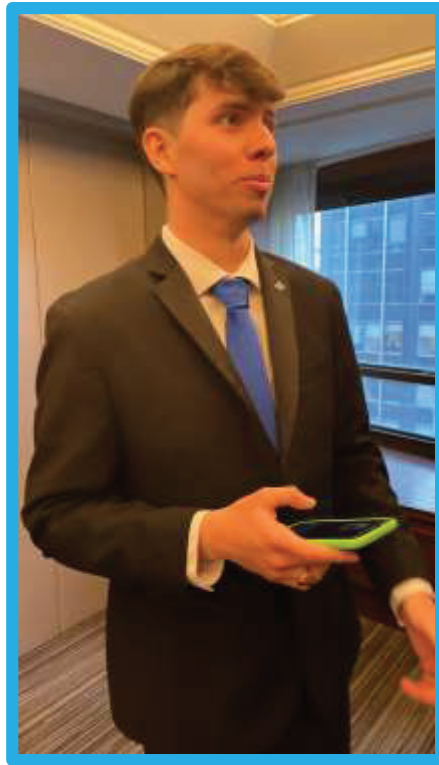


- Ask the presenters questions
- Upvote questions you'd like to see answered

Introductions



Kamal Amirneni



Gabriel Capella



Aaryan Nema



Martha O'Connell

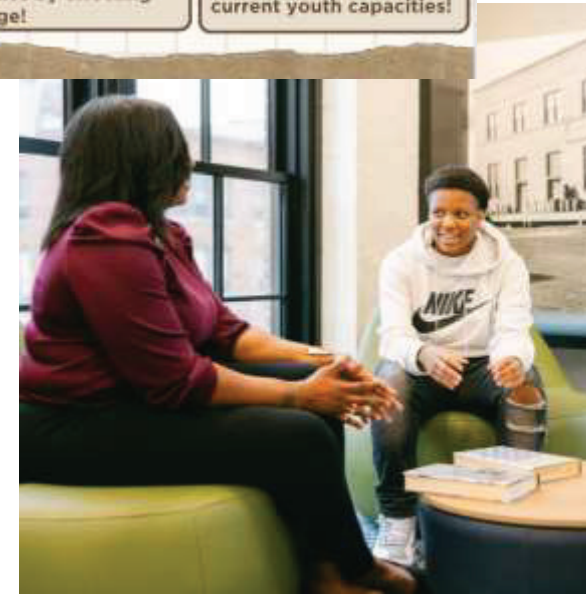
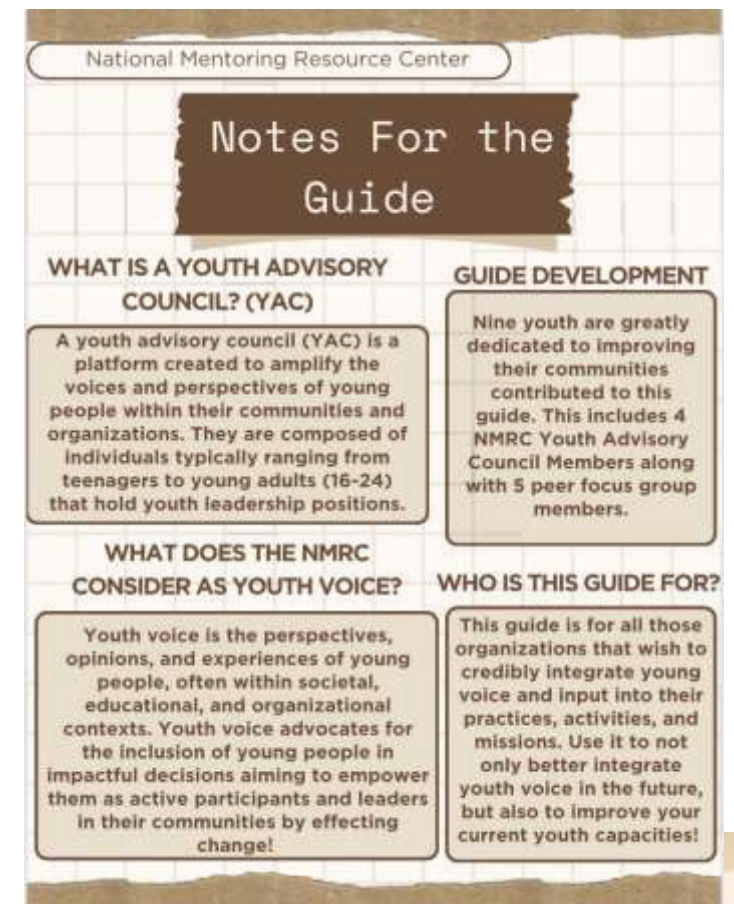
Appreciation for Karina Nova's Leadership

- **Impact Project Implementation Manager, NMRC at MENTOR National**
- **Honoring the Life and Legacy of our Late MENTOR Colleague, Karina Nova**



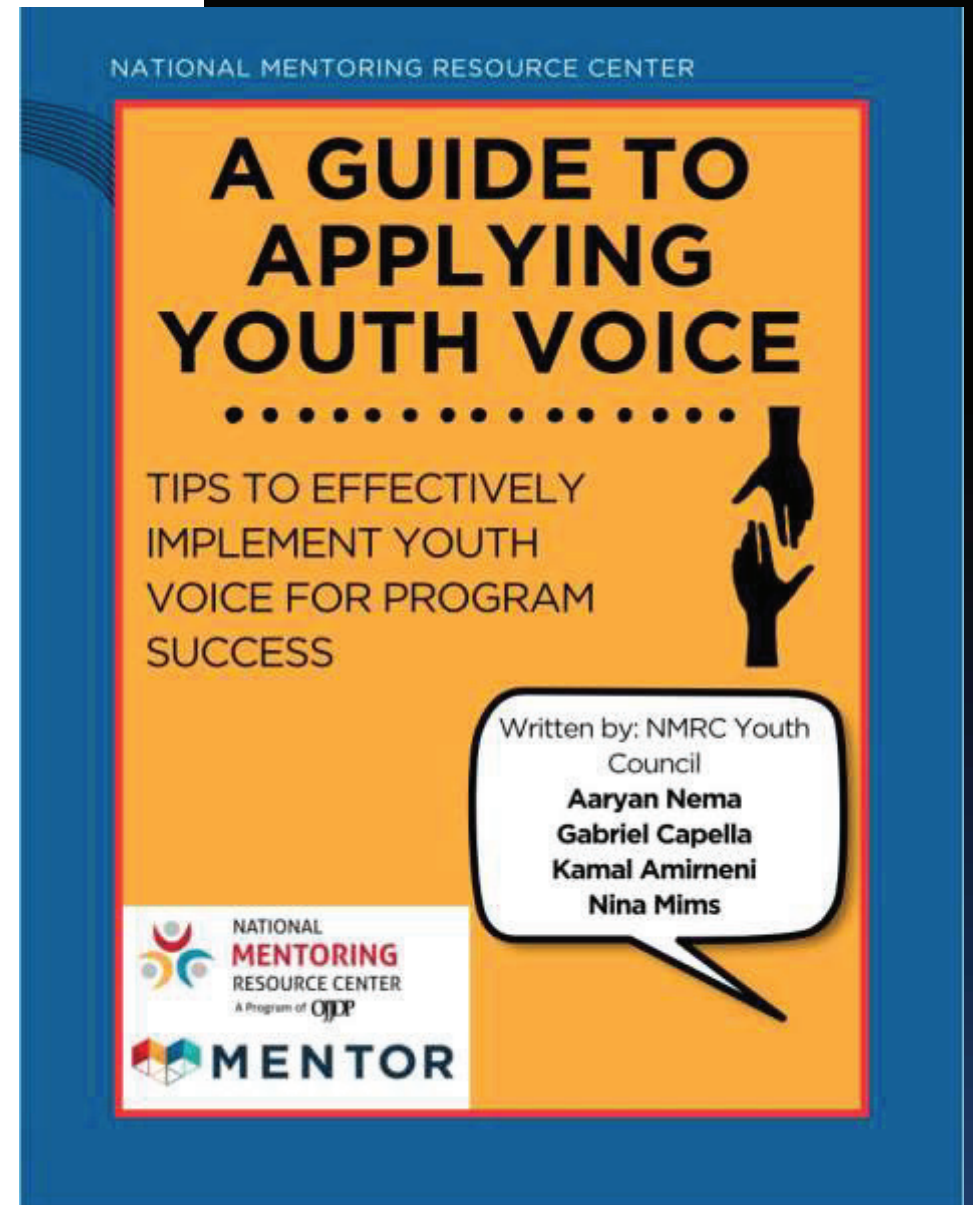
An Introduction to the Guide

- What was the purpose of the guide?
 - The tips and recommendations in this guide may be applicable to general opportunities for youth integration, but primarily this guide focuses on youth voice elevation through a youth advisory council.
- What we defined as youth voice for this guide?
 - The perspectives, opinions, and experiences of young people in their early 20s and below.
- What is a Youth Advisory Council?
 - A platform created to amplify the voices and perspectives of young people within their communities and organizations. They are composed of individuals that hold youth leadership positions.
- Who is the guide for?
 - Organizations that want to involve young voices in their practices.



Creating the Guide

- Conducted focus groups on youth voice
 - Received input from young people and leaders in the mentoring field
- Pulled out common themes and drafted content
- Edited and finalized content
- Created the final design on Canva
- Received feedback, editing as needed



Role of Supervisor

- Initiation of Project Idea
 - Gather and incorporate project ideas from the previous NMRC Youth Advisory Council cohort
- Resources Provided
 - Offered council members the opportunity to participate in a group OJJDP grantee NMRC Technical Assistance (TA) session on youth voice, providing insight into areas programs would like support in when it comes to integrating youth voice in programming.
 - Provided a Project Management Space (Teamwork).
 - Shared examples of prior NMRC Youth Advisory Council Guide publications.
 - Co-supervisor available to assist with administrative needs.
- Guide Concept
 - Based on the data collected in the TA group and the youth participant focus group sessions, council members developed the theme for the guide.
- Guide Development Process:
 - Meet with council 3 - 4 times a month (30 min - 1 hr.)
 - 15-30 hours of asynchronous work for the content of the guide to be developed and refined.

Youth Involvement

- How can youth be developed in leadership roles?
- How can youth increase their tangible impact in their community?
- How can youth help program relevancy?



Ways a YAC Can Be Structured?



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POSSIBLE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES



PRESIDENT

Leads council meetings, sets agendas, represents the council to the organization.



VICE PRESIDENT

Works coherently with the President and assumes their responsibilities in their absence



SECRETARY

Takes meeting notes, maintains records and attendance, and ensures communication among members.



TREASURER

Manages the council's budget, leads fundraising efforts, coordinates purchases and ensures financial transparency.



ROTATING LEADERSHIP

Team members take turns leading different projects/meetings, this keeps all team members engaged and develops leadership characteristics in all team members.



SUB-COMMITTEES

Separate groups for things like event planning, community outreach, and a social media team allows members to specialize in topics and projects that interest them.

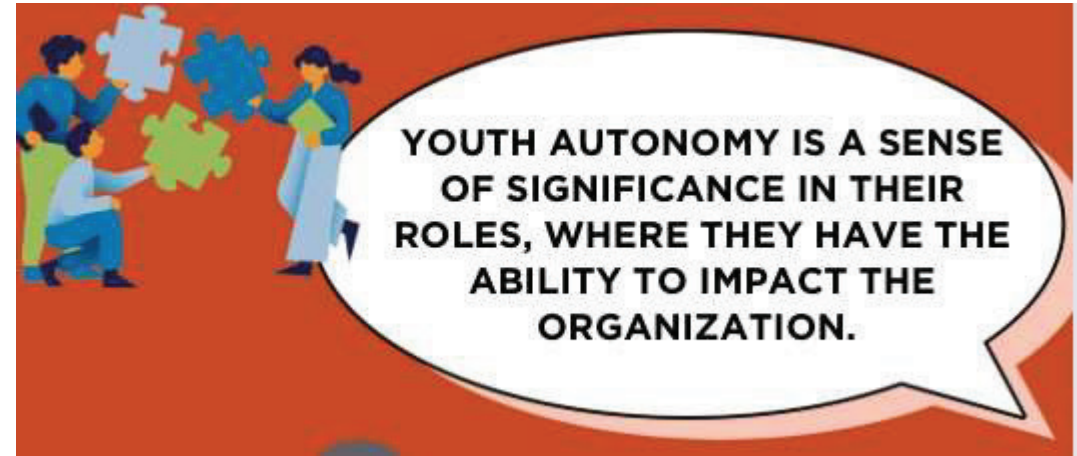


MENTORSHIP PAIRING

Members of the council can learn from experienced members or adults that have leadership roles in the organization or council.

Provide Youth Autonomy!

- What is youth autonomy and how can youth be empowered through it?



Recruiting Youth

- When is the best time to recruit youth?
- What should an application look like?
- How can we utilize the summer to benefit the youth?



Compensation

- Compensation is crucial for recruiting and retaining youth
- Youth feel valued as an equal team member, can be motivating
- Monetary:
 - Stipends/Scholarships
 - Overcomes financial barriers to joining
- Nonmonetary:
 - Gift cards, Food, Letters of Recommendation
 - Professional development opportunities
 - Mentorship



Feedback! Feedback!

- COLLECT and IMPLEMENT
- Make sure youth are given opportunities to share their opinions!



Audience Q&A



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We Need Your Input!

- What would you like to see covered more in-depth in the guide?
- What topics are you not seeing covered that you think should be included?



We Need Your Input!

- What advice would you give to other mentoring practitioners that are managing or wanting to start a YAC?



We Need Your Input!

- What advice would you give to young people who want to join a YAC?



Thank You!

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