

ETHICS AND RESEARCH WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN CHALLENGING CONTEXTS

policy checklist

This checklist has been designed to help you implement the recommendations from the CYCC Network's knowledge synthesis report Ethics and Research with Young People in Challenging Contexts. You can use it to guide your organizations programs and policies for conducting research with vulnerable children and youth.

- 1)** Organizations that work with youth can act as advocates for youth involved in research or evaluation. They can work to redress power imbalances that exist between researchers and youth, and can ensure that the interests of youth are represented throughout the research process.

Our organization has a procedure for learning how we can best support youth we represent.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our organization has a policy for dealing with the requests of researchers seeking youth research subjects.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our organization is engaged throughout the research process to ensure that the interests of youth are represented in the design of research, in the conduct of research, and in the dissemination of research.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our organization has a procedure for learning from the experiences of youth involved in research.	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 2)** There are key ethical issues that require consideration within any research project involving youth. These issues are:

- Informed consent
- Payment and compensation
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Harms and benefits

Our organization works to understand how key ethical considerations affect the youth we represent in research and evaluation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our organization has a sufficient understanding of these issues so that we can advocate for the interests of the youth we represent to external researchers.	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 3)** Youth should be compensated for participation in research. The most appropriate form of compensation may vary (eg. cash may be appropriate in some circumstances, while material gifts like school supplies may be more appropriate in others).

Our organization engages with the youth we represent to learn what the most appropriate forms of compensation for participation are.	<input type="checkbox"/>
We advocate for the most appropriate form of compensation for the youth we represent.	<input type="checkbox"/>

4) There is no one-size-fits-all process for ensuring the informed consent of youth to participate in research. Generally, youth must be provided with information, must interpret this information, and must then make a decision regarding their participation. Each part of this process is complicated by the ability of youth to understand information provided by researchers and by power differentials between youth and researchers.

Our organization works with researchers to develop an appropriate and effective means of informing potential research participants.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our organization requires that researchers provide information to potential research participants that is clear, age appropriate, and manageable in terms of time and content.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our organization ensures that youth do not feel pressured to consent to participation in research. We ensure that they feel able to say no.	<input type="checkbox"/>

5) Maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of research participants is sometimes important. At other times youth may wish to have their names attached to research that they help create. Privacy considerations are unique to each research context.

Our organization requires that researchers and evaluators engage with youth to create an acceptable strategy for dealing with privacy.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our organization requires researchers to tailor their strategy for dealing with privacy and confidentiality to the experiences of the youth we represent.	<input type="checkbox"/>

6) It is important to ensure that calculations of harms and benefits of participating in research and evaluation are based on realistic assessments of both. Both researchers and youth participants should have shared understandings of potential risks and benefits.

Our organization engages with researchers to ensure the goals of researchers and the interests of research participants are as aligned as possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our organization requires researchers to help youth develop realistic expectations of how they will benefit from participation in research.	<input type="checkbox"/>

7) Policies and procedures regarding research ethics may need to change to reflect the experiences and learnings of every program or organization.

Our organization will reflect on and learn from our experiences as we implement the above recommendations for conducting research with vulnerable young people. We will review our practices and procedures regularly and revise them when needed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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