



Engaging Hard to Reach Populations

Session Resources

1. [A Guide to Supporting Engagement and Resiliency in Rural Communities](#)
Rural communities face a unique set of challenges given their lower population density and larger amounts of undeveloped land. While there is no one-size-fits-all approach to rural communities, this guide is a step toward designing outreach and engagement activities that are authentic and right sized for a particular community to make every community more resilient.
2. [A Way Home: Youth Homelessness Community Planning Toolkit](#)
This resource provides guidance on establishing a clear framework and definition of youth engagement; how to define youth engagement; an outline of the characteristics, benefits, and models of youth engagement practice; ethical considerations; and practical strategies for youth engagement, with special focus on those of diverse backgrounds (Indigenous, LGBTQ2S, newcomer youth, youth with special needs, young parents, and youth in care or custody and experiencing homelessness).
3. [Approaches to Recruiting 'Hard-To-Reach' Populations into Research: A Review of the Literature](#)
This resource shares findings from a literature review on a range of techniques to recruit hard-to-reach populations. Although geared toward health services, many practices may be applicable in child welfare.
4. [Child Welfare: LGBTQIA2S+](#)
LGBTQIA2S+ youth enter the child welfare system for reasons like those of other children and youth—that is, their birth families cannot provide a safe, stable, and nurturing home. In some cases, families reject, neglect, or abuse young people when they learn that they identify as LGBTQIA2S+ or are questioning their romantic/sexual orientation or gender identity. This webpage provides information and resources to support youth who identify as LGBTQIA2S+ in child welfare systems.
5. [Engaging Father and Male Caregivers](#)
Father engagement is a vital and integrated aspect of parent, family, and community engagement work. Male family members and father figures serve key roles in the healthy development of their children and families and have much to add to their Head Start communities. Explore these resources to learn ways to enhance your program's father engagement efforts.
6. [Engaging Hard-to-Reach Families and Children](#)
This report from Australia documents one of three themed studies undertaken as part of the national evaluation (2004–2008) of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004–2009 for the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The study explores how Communities for Children, Invest to Grow and Local Answers projects and activities have engaged clients who may be considered hard-to-reach.
7. [Engaging Youth Experiencing Homelessness: Core Practices and Services](#)
This report from National Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) Council describes practices and services that health care organizations serving people who are homeless have developed to involve homeless youth with systems of care. It provides strategies used by practitioners in the field on how to establish relationships with youth, design services and arrange physical environments, and measure engagement at the individual and agency levels. The authors derived the information outlined in the report from the Engaging Homeless Youth Advisory Work Group, the 2014 HCH Conference and Policy Symposium, a field survey, interviews with six HCH grantees, and a literature review.

8. [Engaging Youths with Serious Mental Illness in Treatment: STARS Study Consumer Recommendations](#)
This research article aims to identify better methods of engaging youth in mental health services by asking experienced mental health consumers for suggestions for clinicians. Five primary themes emerged in participants' recommendations: (1) use an age-appropriate approach that reflects youth culture and lifestyles; (2) foster development of autonomy; (3) take a personal, rather than diagnostic, approach; (4) be empathetic and authentic; and (5) create a safe and supportive environment. Findings suggest that many strategies recommended for working with adults may benefit young people but that developmentally appropriate modifications to these approaches are needed to foster treatment engagement among youth.
9. [Family Outreach Series: Strategies for Outreach to Families Experiencing Homelessness](#)
This resource is part of a Family Outreach Series from National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement covering strategies for outreach to families. It contains a definition of outreach, specific examples of outreach to families experiencing homelessness, and research-informed strategies.
10. [Family Outreach Series: Strategies for Outreach to Families Living in Rural or Remote Areas](#)
This resource is a part of a Family Outreach Series from National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement covering strategies for outreach to families. It contains a definition of outreach, specific examples of outreach to families living in rural or remote areas, and research-informed strategies.
11. [Family Outreach Series: Strategies for Outreach to Families with Limited English Proficiency](#)
This resource is a part of a Family Outreach Series from National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement covering strategies for outreach to families. It contains a definition of outreach, specific examples of outreach to families who have limited English proficiency, and research-informed strategies.
12. [How can child welfare systems support families in rural areas?](#)
This article from Casey Family Programs highlights challenges faced by child welfare systems in rural areas and shares key strategies found to be successful in supporting families. Some key strategies include making culture change specific, measurable, and mandatory, attending to the importance of relationships, and partnering with community-based providers to maximize resources.
13. [Immigrant Child and Child Welfare Systems: Emerging Needs and Promising Policies](#)
This report compares a variety of state and local approaches to working with immigrant families and describes an integrative approach.
14. [LGBTQIA2S+ Resources](#)
The National Quality Improvement Center on Tailored Services, Placement Stability, and Permanency for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Two-Spirit Children and Youth in Foster Care (QIC- LGBTQ2S) was a 5-year grant established in collaboration with the Children's Bureau to develop, integrate, and sustain best practices and programs that improve outcomes for children and youth in foster care with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. This page presents resources developed by the QIC-LGBTQ2S in partnership with people with lived experience who helped implement the work of the QIC within their local implementation sites.
15. [LGBTQ+ Youth Engagement Virtually and In-Person](#)
This fact sheet provides information about engaging youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, or other diverse identity in both virtual and in-person settings.
16. [Mental Health Resources for Black, Indigenous, People of Color \(BIPOC\)](#)
In addition to COVID-19, recent events have brought heightened attention to the specific stressors faced by BIPOC communities, who may be experiencing heightened fear, anger, and grief at this time. This guide highlights a range of resources that may be useful to individuals identifying as BIPOC who are

seeking support for mental health concerns and/or coping with race-related stressors, whether current and/or historical, as well as those hoping to share available resources to their patients.

17. [Missed Opportunities: Education Among Youth Experiencing Homelessness in America](#)

This research-to-impact brief is the result of a collaboration between Voices of Youth Count and Chapin Hall that details the relationship housing stability has on education achievement and the opportunities missed by system partners. Several recommendations are offered, including opportunities for partnership with child welfare for support, cross-system collaboration, and early intervention. The education system is often one of the last systems still engaged with a young person who is hard to reach.

18. [Missed Opportunities: Pregnant and Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness in America](#)

This resource details the unique challenges faced by young people experiencing homelessness who are pregnant or parenting. The findings suggest that many of the nearly 4.2 million adolescents and young adults in America who experience some type of homelessness during a 12-month period are pregnant or young parents. Many of those young parents are homeless with their children, and pregnant and parenting youth experiencing homelessness are a particularly vulnerable population. Supporting these young people and their families is critical to ending homelessness among youth in the U.S.

19. [Strategies to End Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth: A Toolkit for Collaborative Action](#)

This practical how-to guide offers best practices and learnings gleaned from a decade of working to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth. The toolkit includes a collection of advocacy tools, on-the-go worksheets, case studies, and other resources to boost the planning and implementation of a tailored, collaborative community reform strategy that advocates, policymakers, service providers, and leaders can use in their communities to lay the groundwork for change.

20. [The Foster-Care-to-Prison Pipeline](#)

This paper examines the current climate that wards of the state live in and further explores how foster care creates a direct pipeline for children to become offenders in the juvenile justice system. Included are suggestions for improvement and a discussion of how the foster care system may move forward in the best interest of its children.

21. [The State Index on Youth Homelessness](#)

Young persons who experience housing instability and/or homelessness, particularly if a young person also has the added experience of out-of-home placement, can also be a population that is challenging to reach and engage in supportive services. This resource, a collaborative effort between True Colors United and The National Homelessness Law Center, allows states to review data and information specific to their jurisdiction around law, policy, and systemic matters and is also inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community in its research.

22. [Trafficking and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children](#)

This compilation of resources from The National Center for Homeless Education shares how to identify and confront human trafficking.

23. [What Do Child Welfare Leaders Need to Know About Supporting Families When Caregivers Are Facing Immigration-Enforced Detention or Deportation?](#)

This resource discusses situations in which child welfare professionals may encounter a child whose parent or caregiver has been detained or deported and reviews core principles from case law around the intersection of child protection and parental detention and deportation. The resource also lists several resources for additional information on this topic.