

Essential Element 6
Your Role: Youth and Family Partnership

- Provide training to youth and families to participate in mentoring, program development, advocacy, etc.
- Create incentives to encourage youth and family participation in programs (e.g., provide stipends or college/job references).
- Provide formal recognition for the accomplishments of youth and families in the organization
- Involve youth and family members in developing and delivering staff and community trainings
- Youth and families should be given choices and an active voice in decision-making on an individual, agency, and systemic level
- Youth and family members who have been in the system have a unique perspective and can provide valuable feedback
- Partnerships with youth and families should occur at all levels of the organization.
- Use Family Group Decision Making

Court Processes

Partnering Strategy	Why it works.....	Action
In court, identify the incentives to be received for follow through and/or achievement of goals	Incentives support positive behaviors	Review progress in court and provide small tokens for accomplishments
Provide formal recognition for success both in and out of court	Motivates for continued success Re-packs invisible suitcase	Inform key parties of the families success via email, phone, or in person; acknowledge success in court on the record
Allow youth and family members who have been in the system to provide feedback as they have a unique perspective	Assist in developing self-advocacy skills as well as empowers children and families that have been impacted by trauma	Ask children and families what has worked well for their family. Allow children and families to provide program evaluation
Peer-to-peer support	Links new clients with families who have been through services to provide information, reduce stigma and isolation, and help families advocate for themselves	Link families to parent partner programs, peer mentor programs, support groups