

## YEP: Study Information Sheet Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Youth Engagement in Policy

The Youth Engagement in Policy Study, funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation (Foundation), is a one-year, community-engaged research project that will explore the ways in which the Foundation’s Foster Youth (FY) and Opportunity Youth (OY) Initiatives’ grantees involve young people in policy advocacy. Through a collaborative approach with adult and youth partners from five grantees, this project will provide opportunities for youth to critically examine the various strategies these grantees employ to partner with and support youth in policy advocacy, the outcomes of those efforts, and the organizational and contextual factors that influence those outcomes. The project will culminate in research-based learnings to inform future youth involvement in policy advocacy.

### The Research Project

From January 2024 to January 2025, Child Trends and the Foundation’s FY and OY initiatives are partnering with five grantee organizations to collaboratively conduct the project. The activities include:

- Creating a research group to guide the project.
- Developing a framework for youth involvement in policy advocacy that will guide data collection and interpretation.
- Conducting qualitative research to learn from the five grantee partners on the research group about their youth involvement in policy advocacy efforts.
- Identifying successes, barriers, and recommendations for incorporating youth in policy advocacy efforts based on our findings.
- Sharing research findings to advance efforts to engage youth with lived experience in policy advocacy and inform decision-making that meets youth needs.

### Role of Research Group

The research group will guide all the work on this project and be made up of five grantee partners (10 individuals total, one young person and one adult from each organization) and Child Trends as a technical assistance and research partner. We expect that each grantee partner will:

- Select one youth and one adult representative who has been involved in policy advocacy efforts at your organization and will be available to spend about 40 hours over the course of 11 months (they will be paid \$100/hour for their time).
- Partner in and support data collection to learn how your organization has involved and supported youth in policy advocacy efforts.
- Offer feedback and guidance on study findings to support interpretation of data, written product development, and dissemination strategies.
- Co-host a webinar to equip the Foundation’s grantees and partners with information to support their own involvement of youth in policy advocacy.

### Our Ask for Your Organization

We would love to engage your organization as a research group member. If you are interested in becoming a partner, we would love to chat more to discuss your potential role. If you have any questions, please reach out to Alyssa Scott at [ascott@childtrends.org](mailto:ascott@childtrends.org).

If you have questions about the [Authentic Youth Engagement in Policy Project](#), please contact co-Principal Investigators Amy McKlindon at [amcklindon@childtrends.org](mailto:amcklindon@childtrends.org) and Samantha E. Holquist at [sholquist@childtrends.org](mailto:sholquist@childtrends.org).

This study is supported by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation through its Foster Youth and Opportunity Youth Initiatives.

### What is Community-Engaged Research?

Community-Engaged Research (CEnR) is a collaborative approach to research that enables researchers and community members to develop and/or conduct research that is motivated by and meets the needs of a community. CEnR emphasizes both broad participation—aiming to redefine who is “allowed” to conduct and disseminate research—and decision-making power—aiming to provide community members the power to lead decision-making within the research process. CEnR focuses on supporting communities to use research to understand and drive positive, sustainable change.