

## YEP: Study Information Sheet

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and Child Trends are leading a research project to learn more about how youth are engaged in policy advocacy efforts and the outcomes of those efforts. For this study, youth engagement refers to the active involvement of youth in advocating for policy change through various activities directed towards a range of policymakers such as developing policy agendas or campaigns, coalition and relationship building, and serving on decision-making bodies. As a part of this study, you are invited to join an interview to share your experiences with youth engagement in policy advocacy.

The interview will focus on:

- How youth have been engaged in policy advocacy and change efforts
- What factors contribute to youth engagement opportunities
- How youth engagement has influenced policy advocacy efforts and outcomes

### **Why am I being asked to participate?**

You are being asked to participate in this interview given your experience engaging in policy advocacy efforts with a Conrad N. Hilton Foundation grantee organization. We want to hear from youth, ages 18 or older, and staff who are currently or have previously been involved in advocacy efforts. This discussion will last about 1 hour and will be led by a staff member from Child Trends. You will receive a \$50 gift card as a thank you for your participation.

### **Do I have to join the study?**

You do not have to participate in, or join, the study. You can also leave the interview, ending your participation in the project, at any time without reason. Choosing not to participate will in no way impact you. You can also skip questions you don't want to answer during the conversation. Before the start of the interview, we will also ask if you want to participate. You can say no.

### **What will be done with the data collected?**

The experiences you share will be combined with other interview data to create findings, or new learning from the project. Findings will be used to create organization profiles that highlight different organizational strategies and practices to engage youth in policy advocacy and inform future efforts to engage youth in policy advocacy in systems like the child welfare, education, employment, and other youth-serving systems.

### **What are the benefits and risks of participation?**

You will not benefit personally from participating in an interview. You may feel uncomfortable answering some questions, but you may skip any questions you are not comfortable answering or end your participation in the interview at any time.

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.

Risks associated with participation include:

- Possible loss of confidentiality and privacy
- Psychological discomfort, which is feeling mentally or emotionally hurt

We have plans in place to reduce these risks and ensure a good experience for all participants to the best of our ability.

**How will you protect my privacy?**

The research team leading the interview will keep information you share confidential, or private, and we will never share your name.

The interview will be virtual, held via Microsoft Teams, where the conversation will be recorded. If you are not comfortable with the conversation being recorded, you can let the research team know and we will not record the discussion. Once the audio from this recording has been written up, the recording will be destroyed.

In addition, the research team leading the interview will be taking notes during the conversation. These notes will be kept secure. We will share a summary document of what we learn in our interviews so that they can use the information you share in their work. We will remove your name before sharing the summary document; however, given the small number of participants, it is possible they will be able to make an educated guess that you provided the information.

We will not use your name in any reports. We may use some anonymous quotes (without names) because it is a good way to highlight important themes from our discussion. While we're talking, please let us know if you say something that you wouldn't want us to quote or share, and we will be sure to keep that information private.

**How will my identifiable private information be protected?**

Your name, email address, and phone number, collected as part of this research will not be used or made available for future research studies.

**How will you address my psychological discomfort?**

We worked with trusted members of your community to develop questions being asked of you to reduce the chance of anyone experiencing psychological discomfort. We know you may still feel uncomfortable, so you will be given the option to skip any question you do not want to answer. You can also leave the interview at any time.

**Who should I contact if I have questions?**

If you have questions, please contact Amy McKlindon, a Research Scientist at Child Trends. Her contact information is below.

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Research Scientist  
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Text: 610.209.0000