

Planning Checklist: Implementing Youth Impact Assessments (YIAs) in Your Community

This checklist is meant to support community leaders and government officials as you use youth impact assessments to uncover the expected and unintended consequences of a proposed policy, program, or practice on children and youth. To learn more about youth impact assessments, please visit <https://kidsimpact.org/impact-assessments/>.

Phase I: Start-Up

- Designate YIA lead within your organization.
- Introduce YIAs to key stakeholders.
- Identify youth to be involved in YIAs.
- Create YIA workgroup and a plan for how it will operate.
- Decide how young people will help shape the effort.

Phase 2: Design

- Decide where responsibility for carrying out YIAs should “live” (e.g., local government agency, legislative body, or community-based organization until government officials adopt the strategy).
- Decide policy issue or budget area to focus on, such as housing insecurity or American Rescue Plan funding.
- Decide level of government to focus on (e.g., county, city, school board, state).
- Find champion in government.
- With champion, design how YIA program will work.
- Develop questions for assessing proposals, including those that highlight racial equity.
- Choose community goals (e.g., ensuring children have access to mental health services, achieving racial equity, etc.) to use as reference points against which to assess impacts of proposed policies.
- Coordinate training for staff and stakeholders conducting the assessments.
- Decide whether/how to beta test your YIA’s design.

Phase 3: Implementation

- Complete beta test, if applicable.
- Fine tune YIA plan based on beta.
- Apply YIAs to policy proposal(s), budget area(s), and/or American Rescue Plan funding.
- Share assessment findings with policymakers and interested parties.
- Identify and document “what works” and lessons learned.

Ways Kids
Impact Initiative
Can Support Your
Youth Impact
Assessment Efforts

- Help find and use resources available at <https://kidsimpact.org/tools-to-help-you-get-started-using-youth-impact-assessments/>.
- Provide strategy assistance.
- Collect and share lessons learned from efforts to implement YIAs.
- Connect you to other communities implementing YIAs.

Contact Kids Impact Initiative at info@kidsimpact.org with questions and requests for assistance.