

STANISLAUS COUNTY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT BLUEPRINT



STANISLAUS COUNTY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT BLUEPRINT 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4

Introduction

7

Timeline of Activities

8

Love Letter to Young People

9

Youth Empowerment Definition

10

Stanislaus County Youth Data

12

Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Alliance (YEA)

21

Next Steps

23

Acknowledgements

Are you creating safe, meaningful and supportive spaces for youth to lead and be partners in creating change across Stanislaus County?

Yes

No

Do you want to?

Did you read the Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Blueprint?

Yes

No

Yes

No

Scan the QR code below to join the Youth Empowerment Alliance today! We need your skills, experience, and insights to create long-lasting change!

Do you have skills, experience, and insights to share with others?

Yes

No



The Youth Empowerment Alliance believes all leaders across our county have skills, experience, and insights to share. Contact YEA@stanc2c.org for more information!

INTRODUCTION



The Stanislaus Cradle to Career Partnership is grounded in the belief that no single individual, program, organization or institution can single-handedly solve the complex, large-scale, education and workforce readiness challenges facing our community. Improving outcomes at scale requires innovation and sustained collaboration across organizations and sectors to achieve significant and lasting change.

Through the Stanislaus Cradle to Career Partnership, a key focus on **YOUTH EMPOWERMENT** emerged and the Youth Empowerment Alliance (YEA) was born.

The Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Alliance (YEA) brings organizations, government, philanthropic partners, young people, and adult allies together to drive a vision forward to achieve **YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**.

OUR PARTNERS

The Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Alliance (YEA)

Members include the following:



SMYL South Modesto Youth Leadership

Homero Mejia, Modesto City Schools,
Board Trustee

Chinyere Nnodim Jack, Stanislaus County
Board of Education, Board Trustee

Adolfo Lopez, Modesto City Schools,
Board Trustee

OUR STRUCTURE

The Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Alliance structure of support includes:

Cradle to Career Partnership serves as the structural foundation.

City Ministry Network serves as the trusted anchor organization to build strategic bridges to connect all organizations.

Youth Leadership Institute facilitates, trains, and designs the Blueprint for Youth Empowerment – a strategy and sustainability plan to ensure Youth Empowerment builds momentum, funding, and success.

Stanislaus Community Foundation, James. B. McClatchy Foundation, and the StriveTogether Challenge Fund invest resources in Youth Empowerment in Stanislaus County



TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

-
- July 2020** • Youth Empowerment Alliance (YEA) 1st convening - 21 Youth, educators, faith leaders, nonprofit leaders, government agencies, and philanthropic investors came together to discuss youth leadership across our county.
 - September 2020** • YEA 2nd convening - 26 leaders came together to discuss key themes, discuss capacity building needs, and preview a timeline for next steps.
 - December 2020** • YEA 3rd convening - 20 leaders came together to review data from 1 on 1's with 18 leaders from youth-serving organizations and discuss the landscape across the county.
 - January 2021** • YEA 4th convening - 35 leaders came together to review the roles and responsibilities of partners in this work and preview the Blueprint Design process.
 - March 2021** • YEA 5th convening - 25 leaders came together to review progress to date and the capacity building calendar.
• YEA Blueprint Design Team 1st meeting - A subset of the YEA gathered to create the Blueprint Design Team comprised of youth, nonprofit and gov't leaders to build a roadmap for youth empowerment.
 - April 2021** • YEA Capacity Building Training - Virtual Facilitation Tools!
• YEA Blueprint Design Team 2nd meeting - 9 leaders came together to vision our work forward.
 - May 2021** • YEA Blueprint Design Team 3rd meeting - 9 leaders came together to discuss mission, vision, values, strategies, and outcomes.
• YEA - Stanislaus C2C Youth Data Walk
• YEA - Regional Meetings - Patterson
• YEA - Regional Meetings - Turlock
 - June 2021** • YEA Capacity Building Training - Youth Development 101
• YEA Blueprint Design Team 4th meeting - 10 leaders came together to refine the mission, vision, values, strategies, outcomes, and concrete activities to accomplish in 2022.
 - July 2021** • YEA Blueprint Design Team 5th meeting - 15 leaders came together to review and provide input to Version 1 of the Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Blueprint.
 - August 2021** • YEA Blueprint Design Team 6th meeting - 12 leaders came together to affirm the final Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Blueprint and discuss roll out.
 - September - November 2021** • YEA 6th convening - come together to affirm the Youth Empowerment Blueprint. We now begin the work of strengthening our current youth empowerment strategies and building those that will last over the next decade.
 - December 2021 - March 2022** • YEA - First up, our first-ever Youth Empowerment Convening across Stanislaus County! Stay tuned!

MAP

Red = YEA Blueprint Design Team

Purple = YEA

Black = Capacity Building Trainings

LOVE LETTER TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

Dear Youth,

You are not just the leaders of tomorrow, you are the leaders of today. Your energy, your mind, your ideas, and your passion are important and needed today. You are affected by what goes on in our society, therefore, you should have a seat at the table and a voice in the decisions that are made.

Who knows how to better serve youth than you? Who knows what is needed in our towns more than you? You have the power to be the change you want to see in the world, so join us on this Youth Empowerment journey across Stanislaus County and let's go make a difference together.

-Tahmirah Hamed, on behalf of the Youth Empowerment Blueprint Design Team



Tahmirah Hamed asks, "Who knows what is needed in our towns more than you?"

June 2021 - Ulisses, Marvin, Ben, and Mary visually show their vision of Youth Empowerment.



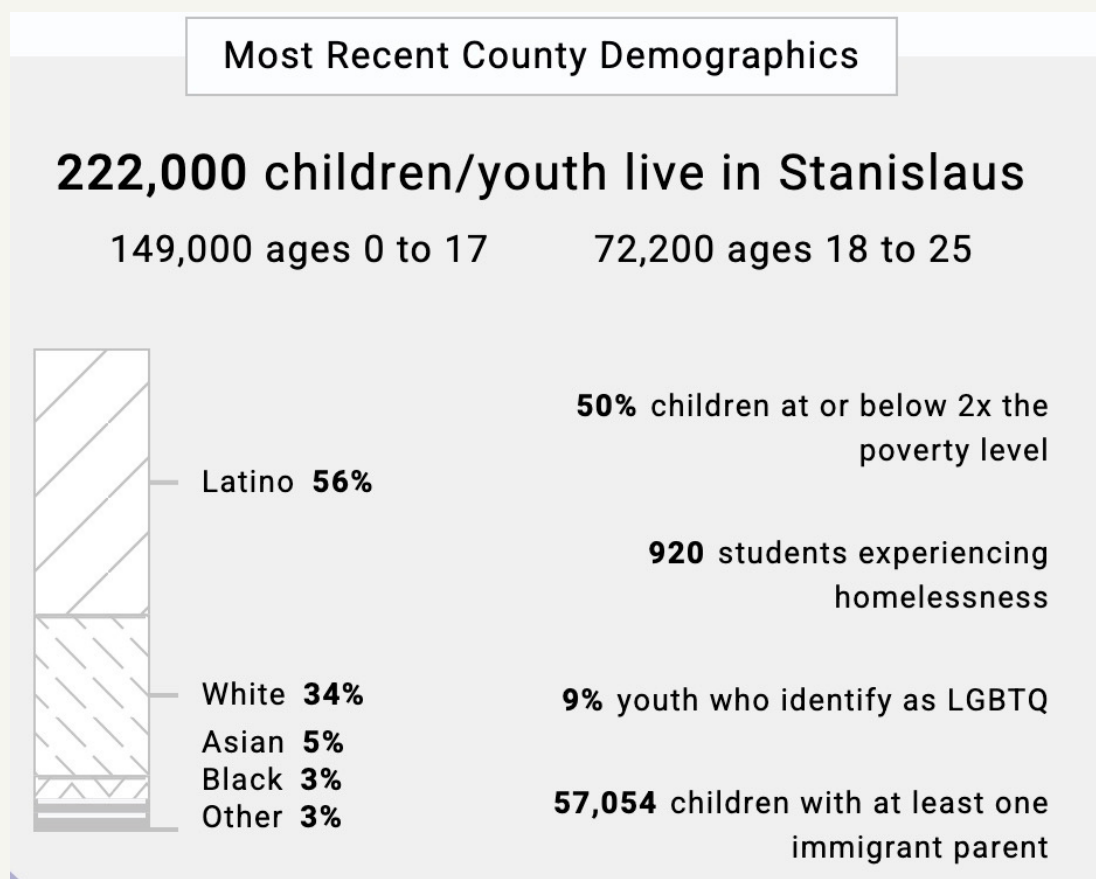
DEFINING YOUTH EMPOWERMENT:

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IS A
PROCESS BOTH FOR YOUTH AND
ADULTS TO CREATE SAFE,
MEANINGFUL, AND SUPPORTIVE
SPACES FOR YOUTH TO LEAD AND
BE PARTNERS IN CREATING
CHANGE ACROSS STANISLAUS
COUNTY.

STANISLAUS YOUTH DATA

With a county of over 222,000 young people, we reviewed recent data that provides insights on young people's educational, career, and life paths. The following data points illustrate the need to support and invest in young people and work to achieve Youth Empowerment across Stanislaus County.

2020–21 CALIFORNIA SCORECARD OF CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING Stanislaus County*:



*The 2020–21 CALIFORNIA SCORECARD OF CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING Stanislaus County was published by Children Now: <https://www.childrennow.org/portfolio-posts/2021-california-county-scorecard-of-childrens-well-being/>

STANISLAUS YOUTH DATA

2020–21 CALIFORNIA SCORECARD OF CHILDREN’S WELL-BEING Stanislaus County:



85% of Students did not consider suicide



63% of Students were not college- or career-ready



45% of Students were not feeling connected to their school



45% of Students who reported not perceiving school as safe or very safe



89% of Students who were not chronically absent from school



98% of Youth in foster care were not ready or conditionally ready for college-level math courses



43% of 18-to-25-year-olds not registered to vote in General Elections



72% of Student suspensions not due to "defiance or disruption"

We know youth and adults working as partners to develop strategies for change at the individual, community, and systems level is critical. Our Blueprint begins to envision a way forward, unleashing our current and future strategies for change.

WHAT IS THE STANISLAUS COUNTY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ALLIANCE?

The Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Alliance (YEA) brings organizations, government, philanthropic partners, young people, and adult allies together to drive a vision forward for change. We are defining young leaders broadly and between the ages of 16 – 26

MISSION



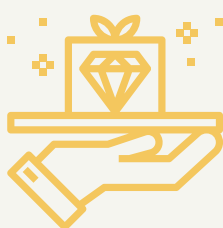
The mission of the Youth Empowerment Alliance (YEA) in Stanislaus County is to build and partner with young people to create change.

VISION



Our vision is that all young people in Stanislaus County will have the tools, resources, and connections they need to have a say in their educational, career, and life path to maximize their fullest potential.

VALUES



Inclusion – We create courageous, safe, diverse, equitable, and inclusive spaces to center the critical need to address racial, ethnic, gender, and economic inequities across our communities.

Youth-Driven – We ensure to have youth voice(s) share their ideas for change, share their lived experiences, and shape decisions while partnering with adult allies to achieve youth empowerment.

Relationships – We cultivate trusting relationships and build new ones to lift up and empower youth.

Integrity – We are driven to understand the realities that our communities face and we seek to ensure realistic outcomes for them in the future.

HOW DOES THE STANISLAUS COUNTY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ALLIANCE CREATE CHANGE?

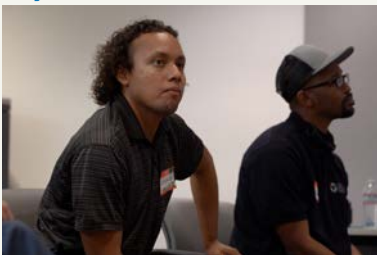
STRATEGIES



July 2021 - Ameena breaking it down



July 2021 - Ulisses and Wade focused on our future



July 2021 - Mary bringing joy to our work



Build Capacity

Invest in leadership, development, and advocacy programs for youth that promote youth agency and build capacity to create systemic change.

Create Space For Youth To Lead

Bring together and center youth voices at formal and informal decision-making bodies.

Amplify and Centralize Youth Voice in Policy Decisions

Invest in the narrative of young people's ability to create change by sharing the ways they shape policy decisions on social and traditional media consistently across the county.

Organize and Grow the Alliance

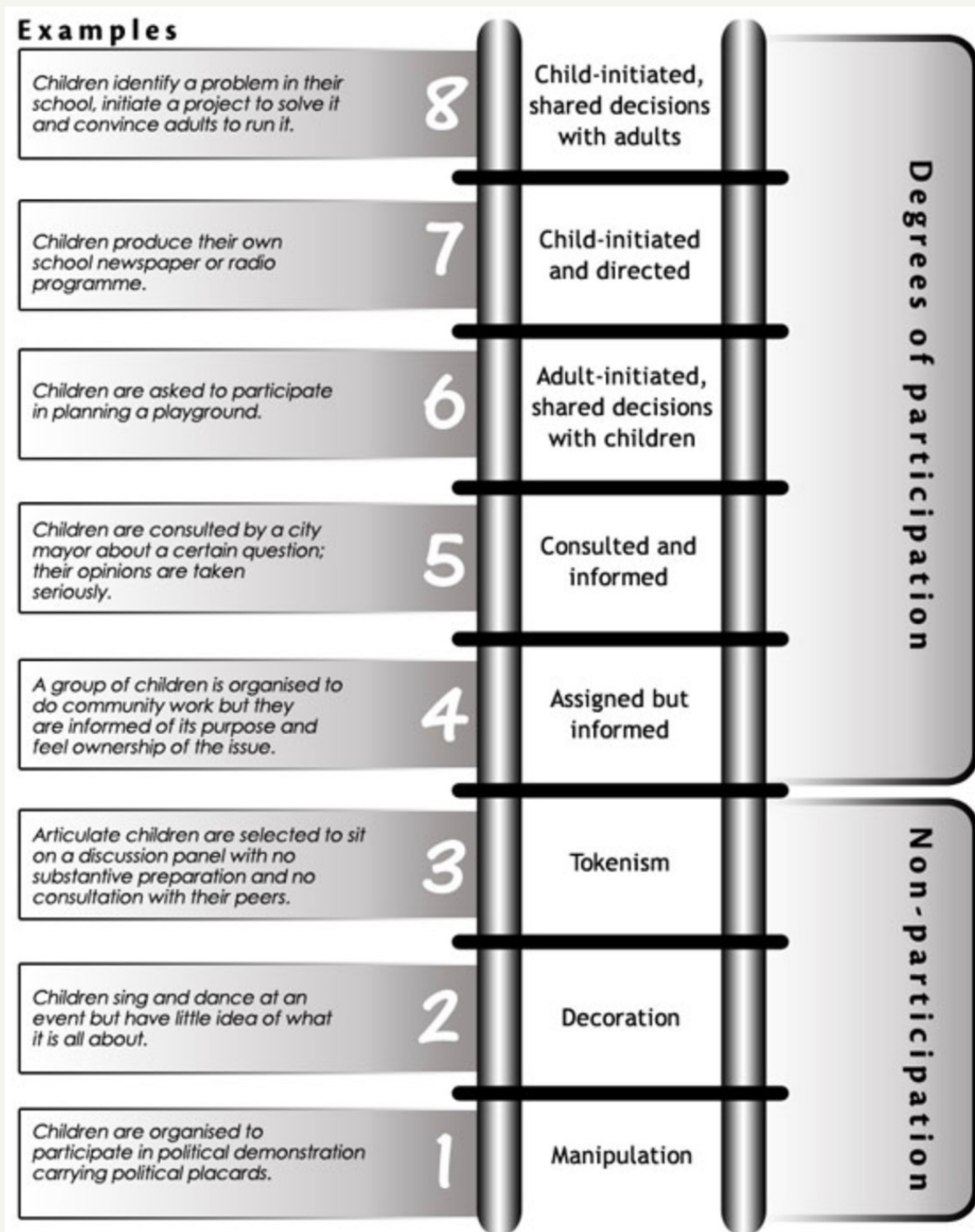
Coordinate and grow the YEA as a whole and regionally by setting up systems of communication, accountability, collaboration, and capacity building in order to drive change across all youth-serving agencies and partners.

Coordinate Research and Amplify Data

Coordinate and amplify key data that highlights the strengths and opportunity gaps in programs and services, so that we can prioritize actions to ensure young people and families thrive.

WHERE ARE YOU ON THE LADDER TO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT?

As we work to achieve Youth Empowerment, we must first assess our work, using a variety of tools to better learn from young people and leaders about creating pathways to ensure youth are a part of change in their own voice, own leadership, and their own vision for our communities. One tool we reference below is Roger Hart's Ladder of Young People's Participation*:



*Sociologist Roger Hart wrote a book called *Children's Participation: The Theory And Practice Of Involving Young Citizens In Community Development And Environmental Care* for UNICEF in 1997. This groundbreaking work put the work of young people and adult allies around the world in the context of a global movement for participation, offering needed guidance and criticism of many efforts. The "Ladder of Children's Participation," also called the "Ladder of Youth Participation," is one of many significant tools from the book.

WHAT DOES THE STANISLAUS COUNTY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ALLIANCE WANT TO ACHIEVE FROM 2021 - 2022?

July 2021 - Deijah, Martha, Harry, and Craig visualize Youth Empowerment.



August 2021 - Ulisses, Tahmirah, Amanda, and Diana edit Version 3 of the Youth Empowerment Blueprint.

GOAL → ACTIVITY → RESULTS

<p>★ Stanislaus County YEA will bring 60+ youth together across the County to join the Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Alliance by June 2022</p>	<p>YEA will lead targeted outreach to bring 60+ youth ages 16 - 24 together in February 2022 to learn about YEA, share their stories as leaders, and decide on strategies to amplify their stories.</p>	<p>Survey 60+ youth about their skills, experiences, connections, and needs across Stanislaus County.</p>
<p>★ 30+ organizations become formal members of YEA</p>	<p>All 30+ organizations that are a part of the YEA make a commitment to participating in YEA, are aligned with the YEA's mission and vision, and share the programs and services they offer to young people in our county.</p>	<p>30+ member commitments</p> <p>Survey 30+ organizations and compile list of programs and services</p> <p>Distribute list of services to 26 school districts in county</p>

WHEN DOES THE STANISLAUS COUNTY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ALLIANCE MEET?

The Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Alliance (YEA) has developed three methods to connect leaders, build capacity, and design and implement the Blueprint

1.



Connecting Leaders who serve youth

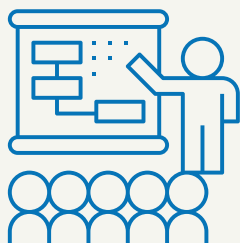
REGIONAL AMBASSADOR MEETINGS

We connect leaders across regional territories, identify and collaborate on the unique community strengths and needs of each region

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ALLIANCE MEETINGS

We bring together 20+ network partners to grow, build, and connect leaders across youth-serving organizations

2.



Build Capacity

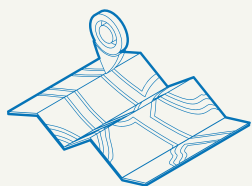
CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS

We provide individual and organizational capacity building trainings to cultivate leadership amongst youth-serving organizations

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

We provide individual and organizational technical assistance to support the local youth development, leadership, and advocacy work

3.



Design the Youth Empowerment Blueprint

BLUEPRINT DESIGN TEAM MEETINGS

We bring youth and adults together to share experiences, make decisions, and design the Youth Empowerment vision for our county

SNEAK PEAK AT THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT BLUEPRINT PROCESS



"WE WANT TO KNOW THE COMMITMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THIS WORK"
HARRY HANGWAN, YOUTH LEADER

"TREAT US AS YOUR PARTNERS"
BEN SALEMME, YOUTH LEADER



July 2021 - Youth and adult leaders review the first draft of the Blueprint.

STANISLAUS COUNTY YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

District 1 - Oakdale, Riverbank, Waterford

- City of Modesto Parks and Neighborhoods
- Modesto Sound
- Riverbank Unified School District

District 2 - Turlock, Hughson

- Jessica's House
- Prodigal Sons and Daughters
- The Rock Church
- Young Life

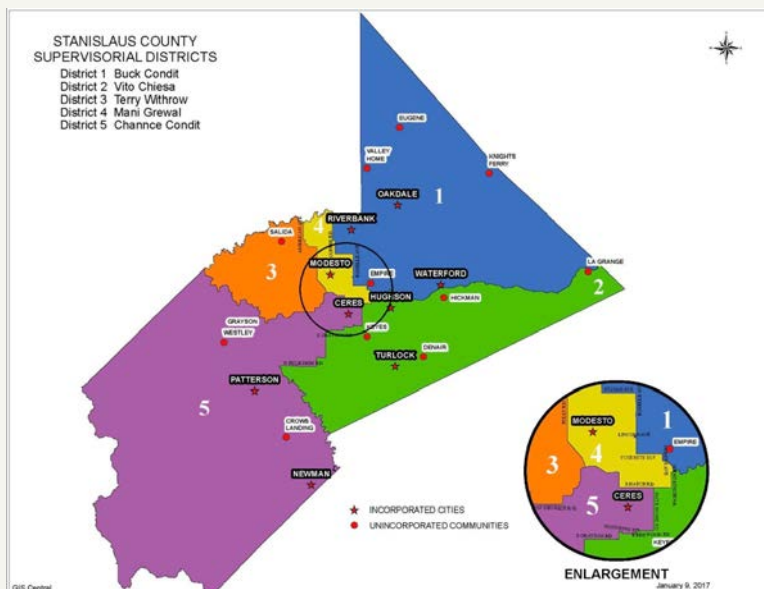
District 3 - Salida

District 4 - Modesto

- Modesto City Schools
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Stanislaus County
- City Ministry Network
- City of Modesto Parks and Neighborhoods
- Love our Schools
- Modesto Sound Live
- Nate Nvil Solutions
- Project Uplift Mentoring
- She Became
- Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Program
- Teen Empowerment
- The Men's Group
- Tuolumne River Trust
- Youth for Christ

District 5 - Ceres, Patterson, Newman

- Ceres Unified School District
- Invest in Me
- Patterson Collaborative
- Patterson Parks and Recreation
- Stanislaus Behavioral Health
- Stanislaus Police Activities League



Countywide

- Ableworks
- Aspire Schools
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Stanislaus County
- California State University Stanislaus, located in D2,
- Center for Human Services
- Central Valley Pride Center
- Haven Women's Center of Stanislaus
- James B. McClatchy Foundation
- Love Stanislaus
- Mi Familia Vota
- Opportunity Stanislaus
- Project Uplift Mentoring
- Project YES
- She Became
- Stanislaus Community Foundation
- Stanislaus County Library
- Stanislaus County Office of Education
- Stanislaus County Police Activities League

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ALLIANCE AND GET ADDED TO OUR MAILING LIST!



WHAT IS HAPPENING RELATED TO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN STANISLAUS COUNTY?

The Stanislaus Youth Empowerment Blueprint is designed to evolve as youth needs do every single day. We are defining young leaders broadly and between the ages of 16 - 26. During 2019 - 2020 we saw the impacts of COVID-19 across our county, and throughout pandemic were able to focus in on our blueprint, have tough conversations, and map our way forward. While the Blueprint is underway, there are several ways youth empowerment is embedded across the county:

- **Able Works** has been on a mission to equip individuals with financial education, life skills and assets that enable one to live free from oppression and poverty. They carry out this mission through their core programs for college age youth pursuing a non-traditional path to college and career and high school students.
- **The Boys & Girls Clubs of Stanislaus County** provide children a place to learn, play, explore, and build new skills designed to instill in each child a belief in their future success, personal responsibility, and a sense of community outreach. We offer tutoring, as well as programming in the areas of character development and leadership, health and life skills, education/career development, sports and fitness, and the arts.
- **City Ministry Network** leads a variety of community programs and services. Youth Empowerment is critical to them and is reflected through their Latino Leadership Initiative working to strengthening our community by increasing the number of Latino Leaders that serve our communities through civic leadership.
- **The City of Modesto** is currently in the process of reinstating the Modesto Youth Commission with support from local leaders to ensure youth have a voice in decisions that affect their lives.
- **Haven Women's Center** provides supportive intervention services to youth survivors of sexual abuse or exploitation, childhood domestic violence or adolescent relationship abuse. Haven also facilitates violence prevention groups and healthy relationships educational programs in K-12 schools throughout Stanislaus County.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN STANISLAUS COUNTY CONTINUED

June 2021 – Stanislaus Community Foundation's NextGen on Board Fellows zooming!



- Invest In Me, is a non-profit organization focused on self-empowerment, leadership, and civic engagement in Stanislaus County. Invest in Me provides participants with opportunities for self-development and growth on a personal and professional level, build skills so participants become leaders in their school and communities, and provides guidance and mentorship to support a successful transition to higher education and/or career path.
- Stanislaus Community Foundation's NextGen on Board Fellowship recruits, trains, and places the next generation of young leaders on local nonprofit boards.
- Stanislaus Cradle to Career Partnership centers young people in solutions around ensuring our systems support all young people to reach their fullest potential.
- Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Program is an ethnic-based organization that serves to provide wellness, educational, and career opportunities to youth of color within Stanislaus County.



NEXT STEPS

1

2

3

Individual

We commit to highlighting the assets our young people bring to our communities.

Community

We commit to sharing the Youth Empowerment Blueprint and expanding our thinking as new members from our community of youth-serving organizations join us.

Systems

We commit to evolving the vision for youth empowerment across Stanislaus County to ensure we change systems to include youth and adult leaders at the table.

We collectively make commitments to achieve and make progress on the Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Blueprint and actualize our mission, vision, values, and strategies.

Our commitments are reflected across the individual, community, and systems-level changes to achieve youth empowerment.

The road is long but filled with youth and adult partners.

CALL TO ACTION

Are you interested in creating safe, meaningful and supportive spaces for youth to lead and be partners in creating change across Stanislaus County?

August 2021 - Edie, Harry, Mary, Jhanae, and Megan edit Version 3 of the Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Blueprint.



Do you want to see youth thrive and share their voice for change in their communities?

Do you enjoy partnering and learning from others?

Do you have skills, experience, and insights you want to share in shaping Youth Empowerment in Stanislaus County?

If you checked the boxes, please join us:

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ALLIANCE AND GET ADDED TO OUR MAILING LIST!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We want to thank the Youth Empowerment Alliance for their interest, willingness, and dedication to young people across our county. We also want to thank the Blueprint Design Team for many versions of good work and partnership. Lastly, we want to thank those who invest in this work consistently including:

- James B. McClatchy Foundation
- StriveTogether Challenge Fund/Stanislaus Cradle to Career Partnership
- Stanislaus Community Foundation.

In addition, special thanks to the following:

- Thank you Stanislaus County Cradle to Career Partnership and Stanislaus County Office of Education
- City Ministry Network
- Blueprint Design Team: Amanda Hughes, Ameena Pierstorff, Ben Salemme, Craig Orona, Chimanga Miller, Chris Bolles, Daijah Briley, Edie Hughes, Fallon Ferris, Hannah Lopez, Harry Hanwang, HollyGrace Currie, Iridessa Monty, Jhanae Bowen, Julia Chambers, Kylee Perez, Maria Cortez, Marvin Jacobo, Mary Pedraza, Maya Oliveras, Megan Lowery, Nithay Medam, Rana Banankhah, Robert Ochoa, Ruhi Sheikh, Tahmirah Hamed, Ulisses Vasquez, Wade Patton, Yzelia Garcia

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to build Youth Empowerment across Stanislaus County.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

MARY PEDRAZA
STANISLAUS CRADLE TO CAREER
EMAIL: YEA@STANC2C.ORG
PHONE: 209-238-1719

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ALLIANCE AND GET ADDED TO OUR MAILING LIST!

