

Lock in and Listen: A Youth-Led Empowerment Initiative

PROBLEM STATEMENT: Existing support systems for youth are often siloed between organizations and schools, preventing a cohesive response to youth needs. Furthermore, youth voices are frequently excluded from the leadership roles required to create the very movements intended to serve them

Objective

To break down organizational silos and establish a county-wide, youth-led support system that empowers youth to be the primary leaders behind sustainable community change.

Project Metrics

- **Participation:** Measure the total number of youth actively involved in leadership and coalition roles.
- **Qualitative Impact:** Conduct surveys to assess youth feelings of being seen, heard, and empowered within the system.

Leverage Point

- School-Based Mental Health
- Youth Led & Empowered Experience
- Peer Support Programs

Design Mandates

Youth Agency & Co-Creation

Ideas

- **Youth Leadership Structure:** Create a system with tiered leadership levels leading to graduation, including post-graduation mentoring opportunities.
- **Youth-Led Coalitions:** Establish the Youth LED Crisis Action Coalition (YLCAC), featuring youth-driven ideas directed by a "Chris".
- **Digital Well-being Movement:** Address the connection between mental health and social media through youth-led movements (e.g., addressing the impact of platforms like Snapchat).
- **Convening:** Host conference-style settings to put youth leadership at the forefront of designing change.

Who/What - Lead

- On the Margins
- Center for Well Being
- Free to Be

Who/What - Project's Core

- SCOE
- Voices
- Kaiser
- Positive Images
- West County Health Centers

