

# Continuum of Youth Involvement in Evaluation

Use this matrix to assess your evaluation plan. How participatory is your approach? Are their opportunities to be more inclusive of youth perspectives along the way?

	Youth as objects	Youth as recipients	Youth as resources	Youth as partners
Relationship	Youth are evaluation objects	Adults allow youth to participate in selected evaluation activities	Adults view youth contributions as beneficial, but retain control	Youth and adults share responsibility for the evaluation
Evaluation Questions	Evaluation questions are based on adult needs for information	Evaluation questions are based on what adults think they need to know to help youth	Evaluation questions are developed with input from youth	Evaluation questions are developed jointly by adults and youth
Methodologies	Evaluation methods are determined by adults; activities are performed by adults	Adults determine methods, and create situations in which youth can learn from involvement	Youth help decide on evaluation methods and help with evaluation activities	Youth and adults decide on and perform evaluation activities jointly
Analysis of Data	Adults analyze data in ways that make sense to them	Adults determine how data will be analyzed, and create situations in which youth can learn from involvement	Youth help decide how data will be analyzed and help with analysis	Youth and adults jointly analyze data
Evaluation Use	Adults use findings for their own benefit	Adults use findings in a way they believe is most beneficial to young people	Young people provide input on use of the findings	Youth and adults use findings for their mutual benefit
Benefits	Youth receive no benefit from involvement in the process; youth indirectly benefit from the findings.	Youth receive limited benefit from involvement in the process; youth indirectly benefit from the findings.	Youth receive moderate benefit from involvement in the process; youth directly benefit from the findings.	Youth receive significant benefit from involvement in the process; youth directly benefit from the findings.

**Source:** The Innovation Center for Community and Youth Development (2005). *Reflect and improve toolkit*. Retrieved from [http://www.theinnovationcenter.org/files/Reflect-and-Improve\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://www.theinnovationcenter.org/files/Reflect-and-Improve_Toolkit.pdf)