



City of Santa Cruz

Investing in the Next Generation

Self-Assessment Tool for City Leaders

Overview

Spend 5 minutes reflecting on how your city currently invests in young people and the youth voice. Use the following assessment tool to identify areas for growth and improvement.

Rate Your City's Investments in Youth

On a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high), check the number that best describes your city's youth investment in the following priority areas.

Youth Investment Priority Areas	1	2	3	4	5
Funding Priority: Is a percentage of your city budget/resources allocated to youth needs?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Equity & Access: Are your investments reaching all youth, especially underserved groups?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Program Quality: Do your youth programs offer safe, supportive, engaging environments?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Youth Voice: Are young people meaningfully included in your city's decisions about investments?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outcomes & Data: Does your city track data on youth well-being (education, jobs, health, belonging)?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Identify Strengths and Gaps in Youth Programs or Investments

One area where we do well:

One area with room for growth:

Choose a Next Step in Investing in Youth

Which of the following desired directions resonates most for your city?

- ☐ Increase the local youth voice (advisory councils, surveys, focus groups)
- ☐ Improve data & tracking (dashboards, shared indicators)
- ☐ Expand equity & access (targeted investments, removing barriers)
- ☐ Strengthen program quality (staff training, PYD approach)
- ☐ Align budget with youth priorities (child/youth impact assessment)



Use the QR code to access the Investing in the Next Generation Toolkit

Investing in the Next Generation Notes

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