

## PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE IN THE BEST YOUTH INITIATIVE ROLE DESCRIPTION

The BEST Youth Initiative utilizes a youth and family-centered approach, engaging and amplifying the voices and expertise of youth and families with lived experience navigating multiple siloed systems. The participation of people with lived experience (PWLE), as described below, will span the entire Initiative and be critical to its success. It is designed to assist you in identifying and recruiting PWLE to participate in your State Teams.

### How is the BEST Youth Initiative Partnering with People with Lived Experience (PWLE)?

To build an effective partnership, PWLE will be engaged, empowered and employed at multiple levels. There are (at least) five key types of engagement for PWLE in the BEST Youth Initiative on State Teams throughout this three-year pilot:

1. Full participation in State Team proposal development.

- Assist system leaders and other State Team members with crafting the initial proposal, including decisions on direction, approach, and intended outcomes.
- Assist system leaders in engaging other PWLE/networks to participate on the State Team.

2. Core members of State Team.

State Teams are required to include representatives from at least three public system agencies within the youth ecosystem and four people with lived experience – one youth from **each represented system** and 1 family/caregiver from one of the systems. As such, these 4 PWLE members will be deeply involved throughout each phase of the 3-year Initiative.

- *Discovery: Landscape Scan & Analysis*  
(Fall 2024)
  - Assist with developing interview protocols and questions.
  - Co-facilitate focus groups and interviews with PWLE.
  - Recruit other PWLE to participate in focus groups/interviews (allow for more full representation of voices).
  - Participating in Discovery process meetings: frame issues, analyze data and guide landscape analyses to identify opportunities and challenges.
- *Co-Design: Strategy & Implementation Planning*  
(Winter 2025 – Spring 2025)
  - Full participation in strategic planning meetings, with a special emphasis/focus on identifying outcomes for youth and families, and process or system changes and improvements.
  - Contribute to an actionable measurement plan that identifies goals and benchmarks.
- *Co-Create: Implementation & Learning*  
(Summer 2025 – Summer 2027)

- Active participation in implementation activities of State Team’s reform/innovation, assessing progress, making mid-course corrections, identifying, and sharing learnings. These efforts can include preparation for and/or debriefing from meetings, workshops etc. to support ongoing PWLE contribution.
3. PWLE Advisory to the state-specific Forum Team supporting the State Team. The PWLE Advisory will be comprised of the PWLE who are Core Members of the State Teams and six other PWLE (identified by Core PWLE) to provide a diversity of experiences to inform the process. These six additional PWLE will only participate in the Advisory which will:
    - Operate as a “Brain Trust” to inform/guide state-specific Forum teams throughout the facilitation of the State Action Labs – with a focus on promoting partnership, equity, and accessibility.
    - Act as Ambassadors to recruit and involve other PWLE in the Advisory and focus groups during Discovery/Co-Design.
    - Engage in capacity building, training, resource sharing to maximize participation in the State Action Labs.
    - Bring issues related to framing, strategy and outcomes for discussion representing a broader and more diverse group of PWLE.
  4. Participation in the Initiative-Wide Peer Learning Community. A forum to share information, brainstorm, and capture knowledge to improve practice and strengthen the systems that are part of the youth development ecosystem.
    - Exchange insights, tools, policies, and promising practices.
    - Discuss emerging data and research to inform quality assurance and systems change.
    - Discuss progress/accomplishments on implementation of reforms.
    - Identify and brainstorm about implementation challenges/barriers, including policy barriers and drivers.
    - Identify and reflect on how to coordinate and collaborate across the youth-serving ecosystem to holistically meet the needs of youth and families in a challenging environment
    - Discuss implications of the cross-systems landscape to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion.
  5. Shape state and federal policy
    - Participate in advocacy trainings throughout the National Launch and Action Lab.
    - Engage in policy related activities, including educating policymakers about cross-sector solutions to support people with lived experience.
    - Help inform the Forum for Youth Investment policy agenda.

**What is the Time Commitment for PWLE to Participate in the BEST Youth Initiative?**

PWLE State Team Time Commitments:

*Year 1 only* (Approximately 18 hours)

- 2-day in-person BEST Youth Initiative’s National Launch convening in Washington, D.C. July 30-31, 2024, including the kickoff for the Initiative-Wide Peer Learning Community.

- Participate in 2 focus group sessions as part of the Discovery phase of the State Action Labs.

*Years 1 – 3 (Approximately 80 hours/year)*

- Attend approximately 4 in-person State Team meetings per year.
- Participate in up to 8 State Team virtual meetings/consultations per year.
- Participate in semi-annual Initiative-Wide Peer Learning Community meetings. In each year of the Initiative, one of the meetings will be virtual and the other will be a 2-day in person convening (i.e., National Launch in year 1, and a convening in each subsequent year.)
- Participate in approximately 2 trainings per year (policy/advocacy guidance, skills development, professional development.)
- Time required to prepare for meetings and review materials.

PWLE Advisory Time Commitments (Approximately 30 hours/year):

- Participate in 1 focus group session in year one.
- Participate in approximately 4 virtual meetings per year.
- Participate in up to 8 Advisory consultations per year.
- Participate in approximately 2 trainings per year (policy/advocacy guidance, skills development, professional development.)
- Time required to prepare for meetings and review materials.
- Time required to share information among networks and garner further feedback.

(Please note that for PWLE who are members of the State Teams, they will be participating in both of these sets of activities.)

### **How will PWLE be Compensated in the BEST Youth Initiative?**

The Forum will compensate PWLE for their participation in the Initiative, as well as childcare and travel-related expenses.

- People with lived experience will be paid quarterly and compensated at a rate of \$50.00/hour.
- Travel expenses will include a per-diem for lodging, food, airfare, and ground transport.
- Childcare will be compensated at \$20.00/hour for participation in all in-person meetings.