

For Youth Initiative

CENTRAL HUB // GREATER TORONTO AREA

CUSTOMIZED EVALUATION

SUPPORTS (CES) PROFILES



ORGANIZATION NAME

For Youth Initiative (FYI)

PROGRAM NAME

Re-integrating the Socially Excluded (RISE)

STEPPING UP THEMES

- Diversity, Social Inclusion & Safety

PROGRAM TARGET POPULATION

- Youth living in poverty
- Racialized youth
- Newcomer youth

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Academic preparation

Workshops, tutoring, case management, goal setting and credit recovery

- Employment preparation

Skills development workshops, internship/job placements, business coaching, career mentoring and career mapping

- Family support

Parent workshops, meeting with youth's case lead, co-planning with youth, connecting with additional support systems

- One-on-one mentoring

Mentor recruitment and orientation, pairing of youth with corporate mentors, weekly mentoring, monthly group mentorship sessions, exposure to young professionals, engaging in social activities

CONNECT WITH RISE

www.foryouth.ca/rise_program

@FYIinTO



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

RISE is now in its third year providing holistic supports to youth, ages 12 to 17, who are in conflict with the law. The program takes a restorative justice approach while allowing youth to fulfill their extrajudicial sanctions and Community Service Orders. Its programming focuses on four key areas: employment and career, education, family wellbeing, and social engagement.



WHAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION?

“There is a wide range of community-based diversion programs but few program evaluations are publically available. This, and other challenges (like lack of access to criminal justice system data), make it difficult to make arguments about the effectiveness of community-based diversion programs. RISE’s evaluation will inform internal program development as well contribute to the sector’s understanding of designing and delivering community-based diversion programs for youth involved with the justice system.”



WHERE WE'RE AT IN OUR EVALUATION

RISE has completed a logic model, evaluation plan, and a process evaluation that has produced preliminary findings:

- 1) What's working: It was found that zero RISE participants have missed court dates.
- 2) Opportunities: The Monthly Mentoring sessions should work to be more engaging and incorporate opportunities for building group cohesion.
- 3) Opportunities: RISE's staff is working in collaboration with YouthREX to improve its data management protocols in order to make evaluation more efficient.



WHERE WE'RE AT IN OUR EVALUATION

RISE program participants who are newcomer youth require additional supports related to integration. RISE designed their program to support the specific and unique needs of newcomer youth and their families who are involved with the justice system. Moreover, in order to better understand the needs of newcomer youth involved with the law, FYI has started a newcomer youth-led participatory action research project called “Rising Researchers.” Rising Researchers seeks to understand the systemic barriers that propel newcomer youth into gangs and criminal activities.