

# TAKE 5: Practicable Takeaways for Youth Work in a COVID-19 Era

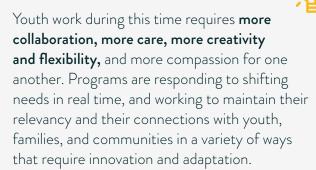
**FACTSHEET** 

Content developed by Clementine Utchay, YouthREX Research Assistant, from *Reimagining Youth Work in a COVID-19 Era*, a YouthREX webinar series that took place in the summer of 2020.

From July to September 2020, YouthREX hosted a six-part online conversation series on how the Ontario youth sector is adapting to shifting contexts as a result of COVID-19.

Different youth programs and advocates explored how they are pivoting their approaches to youth engagement, programming, and advocacy; the issues that are emerging as priorities in their work; the lessons they are learning (and unlearning); and ways they are adapting in real time during this unprecedented period. Here are 5 key takeaways from this series:

### BE CREATIVE AND FLEXIBLE



# LISTEN TO YOUTH AND MEET THEM WHERE THEY'RE AT

Youth have multiple and compounding needs. Adapting programs to meet youth where they're at during this time is especially important. **There's no one-size-fits-all approach**, but listening to youth and working in a way that responds to their needs and concerns can facilitate ongoing engagement and participation.

## **ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY**



## **ENGAGE IN EVALUATION**

resources, and supports in other ways.

Youth programs that pivoted online are implementing new strategies and ideas; by documenting the outcomes, they can share lessons learned in real time. Acknowledge that youth also have critical insights to offer: ask what they need, what's going well, and what can be improved, and then measure your program outcomes based on their perspectives.

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#### LEVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS

Youth workers have had to take on roles they might not have before, including being **resource navigators** in supporting youth to access additional resources and supports from other community agencies.

Partnerships with other organizations/programs can help in responding to need, supporting changes in program delivery and strategies for youth engagement, and facilitating collaboration for funding opportunities.



