Building Intentional Communities



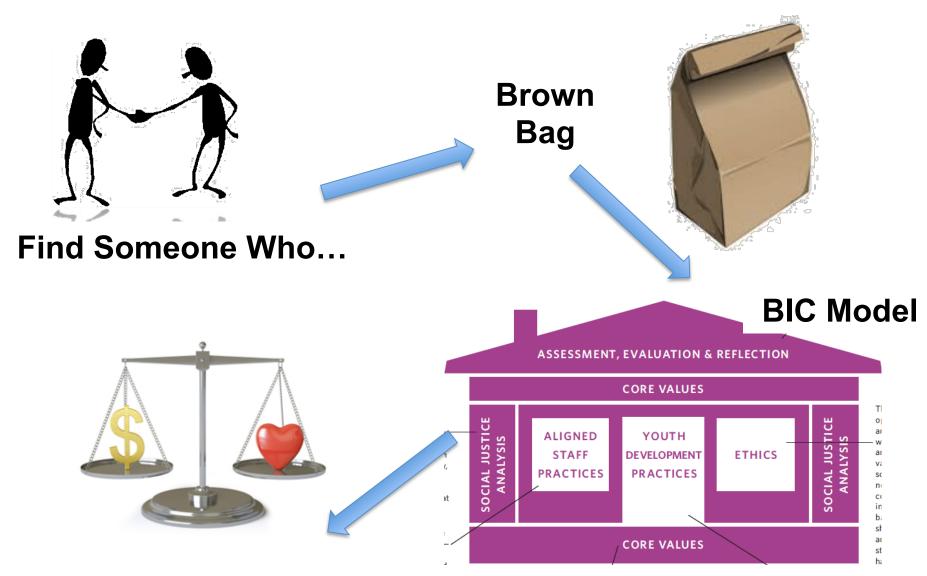
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Agenda



Values Card Sort

Warm Up: Find Someone Who...

Is Your Shoe Twin

What was the first meaningful youth leadership experience that you had? Why?

Is the Same Height as You

What is a challenge you are experiencing with your youth?

Brown Bag

Reach under your chair and find your "Community Card"

Move to your Community station

Each community will receive a bag of materials and a set of instructions. Your challenge is to complete all the instructions.

Be Creative!
Build Community!
Grapple with your Beliefs!

Theory of The Problem

Building an intentional community is an inside-out process, that must also factor in social context and external factors. There are a wide range of challenges programs must address and account for in any approach.

Problems of Environment: Schools and after school

programs send and model inconsistent messages.

Problems of Programming:

Staff do not have a cohesive response to behavior guidance. Curriculum and facilitation don't reinforce organizational values.

Problems of Funding: Shaky funding forces programs to continuously take on new initiatives.

Problems of Vision:

Mission/vision statements are not concrete or applied to organizational practices.

Problems of Community:

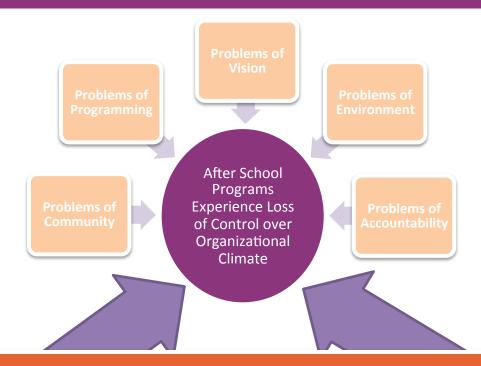
Escalating needs of families & youth put pressure on organizations to meet multiple needs.

After School **Programs** Experience Loss of Control over Organizational Climate

Problems of Accountability: Adults feel a loss of control

and athority to enforce values education.

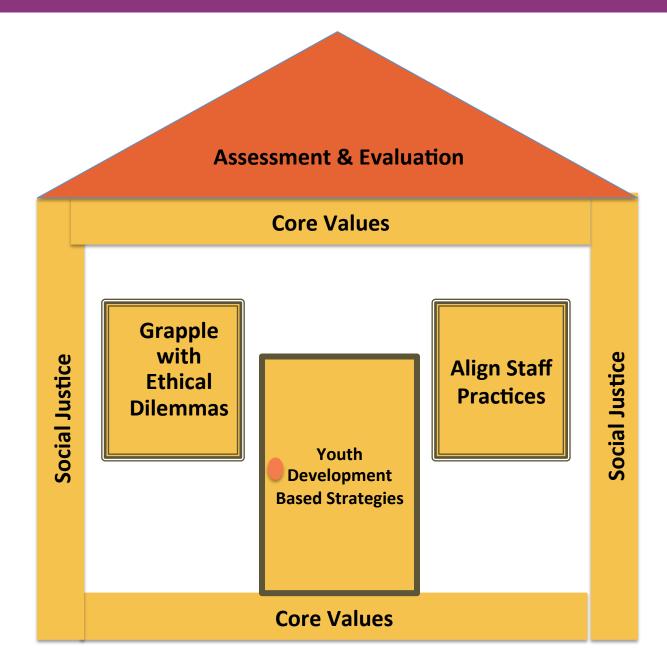
Theory of Change



Building Intentional Communities Model

- Establish a process to create intentional community that builds on existing frameworks and values of the organization
 - 1) Identify 3-5 core values that resonate with the Community
 - 2) Incorporate and integrate core values into all aspects of organizational culture: Leadership & Communication, Staff Interactions, Youth Interactions, Program Planning, Behavior Guidance
 - 3) Identify **key strategies** that will be used consistently across the organization to establish a sense of community
 - 4) Connect the strategies to larger issues of social justice and anti-oppression to ensure relevancy
 - 5) Provide opportunities for staff and participants to **wrestle with the application** of values and ethical complications

Theory of Change



Think back to the challenge you are experiencing with your youth.

What is a value, if deeply embedded in your young people, that could shift this challenge?

Walk around the room and select a value card, share with a partner.

Come chat with us at our Exhibitor Table!



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