Positively Engaging Youth in the CFSR
Benefits To Engaging Youth In The CFSR Process:

- Unique perspective
- How services can best be provided
- System change
- What works, what does not, and their service needs
- Opportunity to consider new strategies
- Empowerment
- Speak on behalf of Agency
Engaging Youth in The CFSR Process:

State child welfare agencies can engage youth currently being or those that have been served by the child welfare system by identifying and then working with existing youth organizations and advisory boards.
States can engage youth in the Statewide Assessment process by:

- Identify existing statewide youth organizations willing to assist with youth engagement
- Work with State or local foster youth ombudspersons
- Train staff on working collaboratively with youth
States can engage youth in the Onsite Review process by:

- Prep youth to participate
- Conduct stakeholder interviews with youth
- Invite youth to the State’s exit conference
States can engage youth in the PIP or Program Improvement Plan process by:

- Include on the PIP team & work groups
- Invite youth from Chafee State Plan team to participate in PIP to address overlapping areas of improvement
- Engage in reviewing PIP progress quarterly
Putting Youth in the Game: Things to Consider

- Scheduling
- Transportation & logistics
- Compensation
- Other $ issues
- Staffing
- Professionalism
- Finding “Best Use of Skills”
Putting Youth in the Game: Rules for Play

- Know the rules
- No practice/no play
- Defense is just as important as offense
- Fouls happen
- Go to the tape
- Don’t play injured
- It’s no fun sitting on the bench
- Communicate success
Web Resources

California Youth Connection
www.calyouthconn.org

Youth Leadership Advisory Team – Maine
www.ylat.org

FosterClub
www.fosterclub.org

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative – Michigan Recommendations
http://www.jimcaseyyouth.org/docs/michigan_voice.pdf

National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development
http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd
Now Here!!

CFSR Youth Involvement Toolkit