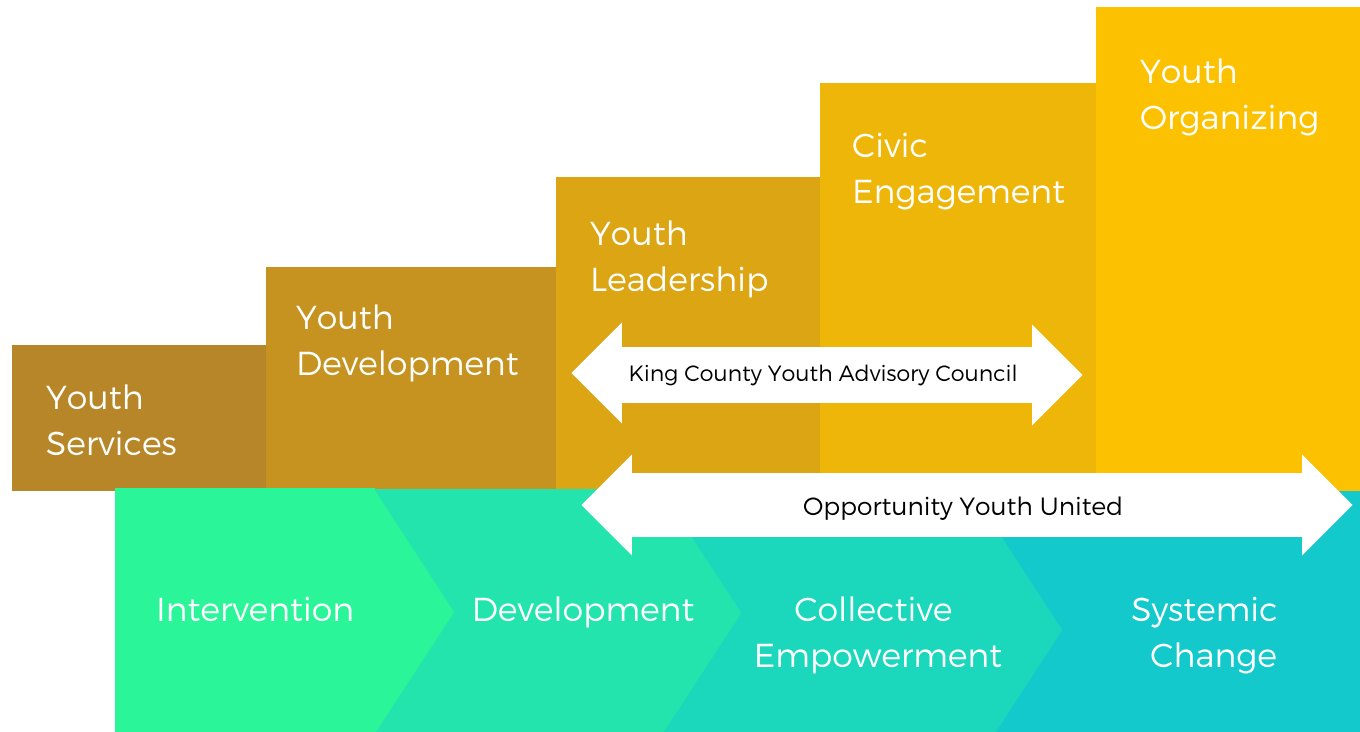# Youth Engagement Framework



When SOAR formed the King County Youth Advisory Council (KCYAC) in 2013, our goal was to create a space where young people between the ages of 16-24, many who identified as opportunity youth, could gather together, advise, and act on issues facing youth in King County. As our organization grew, SOAR partnered with Opportunity Youth United to convene OYU Seattle, a pipeline that connects KCYAC to the national opportunity youth movement. To support the leadership development of our young folks from both groups, we employ the Youth Engagement Framework which which takes a young person from simply receiving social services to actively engaging and mobilizing within their community around causes of interest to them.

| Youth Services | Youth Development | Youth Leadership |
|---|---|---|
| • Defines young people as clients<br>• Provides services to address individual problems and pathologies of young people<br>• Programming defined around treatment and prevention<br>• Youth services are a form of intervention. | • Provides services and support, access to caring adults and safe spaces<br>• Provides opportunities for the growth and development of young people<br>• Meets young people where they are<br>• Builds young people's individual competencies<br>• Provides age appropriate support<br>• Emphasizes positive self identity<br>• Supports youth-adult partnerships<br>• Youth Development is a combination of intervention and development work. | • Builds in authentic youth leadership opportunities within programming and organization<br>• Helps young people deepen historical and cultural understanding of their experiences and community issues<br>• Builds skills and capacities of young people to be decision makers and problem solvers<br>• Youth participate in community projects<br>• Youth Leadership is a combination of development and empowerment work. |

| Civic Engagement | Youth Organizing |
|---|---|
| • Engages young people in political education and awareness<br>• Builds skills and capacity for power analysis and action around issues young people identify<br>• Begins to help young people build collective identity of young people as social change agents<br>• Engages young people in advocacy and negotiation<br>• Civic engagement is a combination of collective empowerment and systemic change work. | • Builds a membership base<br>• Involves youth as part of core staff and governing body<br>• Engages in direct action and mobilizing<br>• Engages in alliances and coalitions<br>• Youth organizing is systemic change work |

Derived from "Core Principles for Engaging Young People in Community Change," by the Forum for the Youth Investment; graphic by SOAR