

Strategic Planning with the Youth Board: ***Nominal Group Technique and Multi-voting to Identify and Prioritize Issues***

Materials needed: Flip chart, voting dots, blank sheets of paper, and markers. It is also best to set-up the room to allow for small group (4-6 participants) discussion to take place.

- Step 1:** Break group into 3-6 smaller groups with approximately 4-6 member per small group. This is done easiest by numbering the group off one by one.
- Step 2:** Develop an Open-Ended Question for the entire group.
QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE CRITICAL ISSUES IN THIS COUNTY?
- Step 3:** Allow three minutes to allow individuals to think about the question and their response.
- Step 4:** Ask individuals to write down their issues on a sheet of paper. This means one issue per sheet. Ask them to write it large enough so it can be shared in the small group later. Allow three to five minutes for individuals to write down as many responses as they possibly can.
- Step 5:** In the small group, ask individuals to share their responses using a round robin technique. This ensures everyone has a chance to share and explain their responses.
- Step 6:** Ask the group to discuss and combine similar responses. Once that is done, ask them to prioritize the top 3-5 responses within the small group to take to the large group. *You can use a multi-vote technique here if needed.*
- Step 7:** At this point, you will want an individual from each small group to list and discuss the top 3-5 issues that surfaced from their small group exercise. *Again, you may need to combine similar items, but make sure the original author agrees to combine it into another issue.*
- Step 8:** Pass out 10 voting dots and ask participants to think about where they want to place these dots in order to develop priorities for the Youth Board.
- Step 9:** Ask participants to go to the flip chart and place their 10 dots by any issues they wish. Make sure they understand that they can distribute their dots however they wish. That means they can place their 10 dots by one issue or distribute them amongst a number of issues as they see fit. *For example, an individual may decide to place five dots by one issue, three dots by a second issue, and two on a third issue.*
- Step 10:** Tally results and list top three to five priorities based on this process. These priorities should serve the Youth Board as a starting point to develop Outcome and Output Programs for the county and the Youth Board to address.