Authentic Youth Civic Engagement: A Perceptions Inventory

Please read each of the following statements. Using the scale that follows, place the number- 0,1,2,3, or 4- in the space immediately preceding each statement that best represent your perception of the current reality in your community.

0= I’M NOT SURE WHETHER THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE OR FALSE.
1= I BELIEVE THIS STATEMENT IS “NOT AT ALL TRUE” IN MY COMMUNITY.
2= I BELIEVE THIS STATEMENT IS “SOMEWAY TRUE” IN MY COMMUNITY.
3= I BELIEVE THIS STATEMENT IS “MOSTLY TRUE” IN MY COMMUNITY.
4= I BELIEVE THIS STATEMENT IS “VERY TRUE” IN MY COMMUNITY.

Public officials and community leaders view youth as a valuable resource to improving the community for everyone.

Designated individuals within city government are responsible for carrying out youth and community engagement.

City leaders see youth voice as more than just a single program and have taken active steps to embed it into municipal, school, neighborhood and community systems.

A local champion for youth civic engagement has enough authority to rally support among city departments and in the community.

The city provides an array of meaningful opportunities for all youth to join pro-social activities.

Youth have access to transportation and other resources needed to support their active involvement.

Capacity exists to provide adequate training to prepare youth to participate in meaningful roles and assist them in navigating adult-focused municipal settings.

Staff focused on youth have broad networks and experience enabling them to recruit and establish positive relationships with diverse youth.

A network of caring, skilled adults exists to help youth have a role within local government and community decision-making.

Next Steps
Pursue additional input, especially from youth, to assess statements with a 0.

High rates of 3s or 4s indicate that your city is ready to advance authentic youth civic engagement. Consider the various models available in NLC’s collected Brief Introductions to youth civic engagement.

Ratings of 1s and 2s indicate city leaders and staff may need to make improvements in culture before the city is ready for authentic youth civic engagement. Review the Authentic Youth Civic Engagement Guide for guidance.