

Collaborative Learning Lab (CLL)

What is the Collaborative Learning Lab?

A team of Treehouse facilitators and researchers are inviting young adults to engage in a codesign process that will build capacity for youth-adult partnership at Treehouse. Beginning in February 2022, the group will gather to foster community and grow our understanding of how to partner and learn with young adults to inform Treehouse's goals and objectives.

What are some of the goals of the Collaborative Learning Lab?

The overall goal of our collaboration is to broaden the vision, practices and capacity for engaging and learning alongside youth and young adults who have experienced foster care. We will do this by:

1. Centering young adult voices by learning about their ideas, insights and experiences.
2. Documenting process, sharing findings and recommendations on systems-level issues that young people prioritize.
3. Developing a deeper understanding of practices to engage young adults by not only centering their experiences but inviting young adults to participate in decision-making.
4. Advancing the iterative process of evaluating and modifying Treehouse's organizational goals by aligning them with young adults' recommendations.
5. Developing tools and best practices to advance youth-adult partnership.

Who is involved in the Collaborative Learning Lab?

The CLL team is a combination of young adults, policy and strategy and programs staff, and educational researchers. While we are still in the process of finalizing co-design participants, the current list is:

- 20 young adults
- 4 Treehouse Facilitators
- 2 UW College of Education Researchers

Be a Voice for Youth in Foster Care

Are you a young adult, between the ages of 18-25, who has experienced foster care? We welcome you to apply to join the CLL!

Express interest at treehouseforkids.org/cll-application

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Eligibility Criteria

- Any young adults who has experienced DCYF, federal or tribal foster care in Washington state.
- Age: 18 –25 years old.
- Specific young adult groups encouraged to apply: LGBTQIA, BIPOC, immigrants and refugees, parents, English language learners, tribal members.

What is the project timeline and commitment?

- Outreach and recruitment will begin in January 2022.
- The lab will launch in February 2022 with an onboarding and kick-off meeting.
- A CLL facilitator will schedule a 1:1 meeting with participants to answer questions and learn how Treehouse can support full participation.
- Six to eight 90-minute sessions will occur bi-monthly from February to June.
- In June, young adults will participate in presenting findings, tools, recommendations and/or best practices.
- Offboarding in June will consist of celebrating, honoring and reflecting on the CLL experience.
- After the group concludes, the research team will curate the documentation and provide a synthesis of the process.

How will young adults benefit from the Collaborative Learning Lab?

- Young adults will be compensated for their time and expertise.
- Young adults will receive support in barrier mitigation (e.g.: childcare, transportation).
- Young adults will collaborate with peers, researchers and organizational advocates to generate new knowledge and influence system wide practices.
- The lab will center young adult voices while attending to relational power dynamics.
- Continued connection opportunities will be made available.

CLL Planning Team

Kateri Joe, Tribal Engagement Manager
Yvonne-Monique Aviva, Program Director, Youth Adult Services
Fred Kingston, Director of Systems Change & Youth Engagement
Claire Smith, Youth-Adult Partnership Manager
Brandon Joachim, Social Impact Analyst
Lauren Plitkins, Research Fellow, University of Washington College of Education
Malcom King, Research Fellow, University of Washington College of Education

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