

# Definition of Youth-Guided

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**Youth Guided** means that young people have the right to be **empowered**, **educated**, and given a decision making role in the care of their own lives as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all youth in the community, state and nation. This includes giving young people a **sustainable voice and then listening to that voice**. Youth guided organizations create safe environments that enable young people to gain self **sustainability** in accordance with the cultures and beliefs with which they identify. Further, a youth guided approach recognizes that there is a continuum of **power** that should be shared with young people based on their understanding and maturity in a **strength** based **change process**. Youth guided organizations recognize that this process should be **fun** and **worthwhile**.