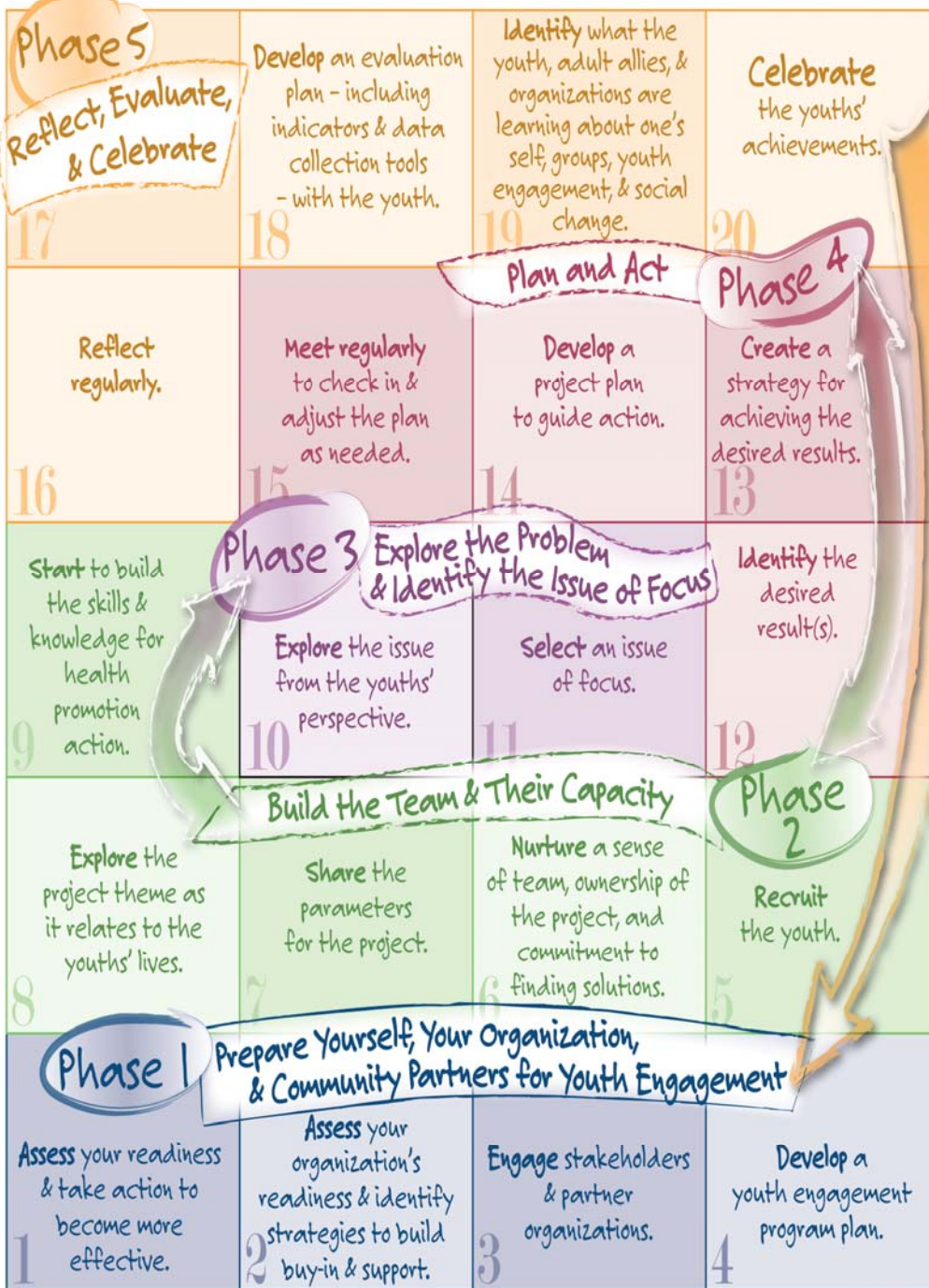


Youth Engagement Process

The goal of the youth engagement process is not to 'race to the end.' Rather, the process is as important as the end product. The process works best when it is responsive, dynamic and non-linear. Expect movement back and forth between the phases.



Questions & Considerations

Phase 5

How does what happened (outcome and process) compare to what you expected to happen?
 What role will the youth have in designing and implementing the evaluation?

Phase 4

What project planning and coordination skills do the youth need to successfully move their idea to reality?
 What actions fit with the project's time frame, financial and human resources, etc?
 How will the identified strategy enhance protective factors and foster resiliency?
 Be willing to think outside of the box and to support the youths' project ideas.

Phase 3

Encourage youth to think beyond the immediate causes of issues to identify root causes.
 Focus on assets to build on and not just problems and deficits.
 Look for and build upon successes. Can the group realistically influence the identified issue?
 How will the identified issue enhance protective factors and foster resiliency?

Phase 2

Which youth does the project need to reach to be successful?
 What strategies are needed to reach marginalized or disengaged youth?
 What do the youth need to know, do, or feel to be effective in this project?
 What training do the youth need upfront and what can be provided 'just in time'?

Phase 1

What level of decision-making will the youth have?
 Which aspects of the project will the youth define?
 Which aspects are pre-determined (e.g., funding requirements)?
 Who among the partners is best positioned to work directly with the youth?
 How will you know that you have been successful? (see Phase 5)