

CONCRETE •LYFE•

Concrete LYFE Youth First Framework

Inspired by the Havana Banana & Fans First 5E Framework

Our approach puts youth first, ensuring nonprofit programs create meaningful opportunities for success. Adapted from the 5E principles, this framework focuses on eliminating poverty barriers, equipping youth with lifelong skills, and creating pathways to long-term success.

Pre-Framework: Assessment & Readiness: Before implementing the Youth First Framework, nonprofits must conduct:

- Needs Assessment: Identify key challenges affecting youth in their community.
- Risk Assessment: Analyze risk factors (poverty, crime, education gaps, mental health needs).
- Barriers Assessment: Determine what prevents youth from accessing resources and achieving success.
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This foundation ensures that programs address real challenges with real solutions.

1. Eliminate Barriers: Remove obstacles that keep youth from thriving.
 - Ensure accessibility: Free programs, transportation, flexible schedules, and digital options.
 - Offer wraparound services: Mental health, food security, housing, and legal support.
 - Simplify processes: Reduce bureaucracy and paperwork that discourage participation.
 - Leverage community partners: Schools, faith groups, and grassroots organizations to bridge gaps.
2. Engage Deeply: Create strong relationships and a supportive environment.
 - Mentorship: Every youth needs a trusted adult to guide them.
 - Safe, welcoming spaces: Foster trust, belonging, and consistency.
 - Reflect identity and culture: Programs should resonate with youth's backgrounds.
 - Involve family and community: A strong support system is essential.
3. Empower Action: Turn knowledge into wisdom and create economic mobility.
 - Teach life skills: Financial literacy, decision-making, resilience training.
 - Focus on career growth: Job placement → Career development → Wealth-building.
 - Offer paid internships & apprenticeships: Provide pipelines to high-growth careers.
 - Encourage leadership: Youth should shape their own future.
4. Experiment & Innovate: Adapt to keep programs relevant and impactful.
 - Continuous innovation: Regularly update programs to meet youth needs and industry trends.
 - Flexibility: Adapt to new challenges while staying compliant with guidelines.
 - Incorporate emerging fields: STEM, AI, digital arts, and skilled trades.
 - Let youth lead: Involve them in shaping how programs evolve.
5. Ensure Lasting Impact: Regular evaluation is key to success and growth.
 - Evaluate the model: Measure both short-term and long-term impact.
 - Use reports for accountability: Show measurable success with data.
 - Track alumni success: Follow youth 5, 10, and even 20 years later.
 - Long-term impact: Recognize that success may not be immediate, but it will come over time.