

City of Alexandria, Virginia

Youth Engagement There's Levels to This

A Presentation for
Out of School Time Providers Forum



Youth Engagement





Identifying Your Why

[Simon Sinek – Start With Why](#)

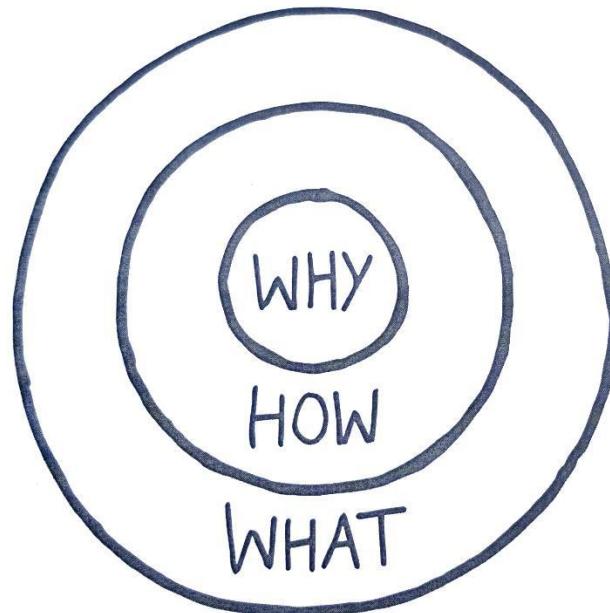
Golden Circle



Why – identify your program purpose, cause or belief

How – identify your strengths, values and guiding principles

What – identify what your program offers or what role you play in the lives of youth





Program Assessment Activity

In your group please discuss:

- Why we do what we do
 - What is our purpose, what do we believe about youth?
- How we do what we do
 - What strengths, values and principles are we using to engage youth?
- What we do
 - What do we do to engage youth?



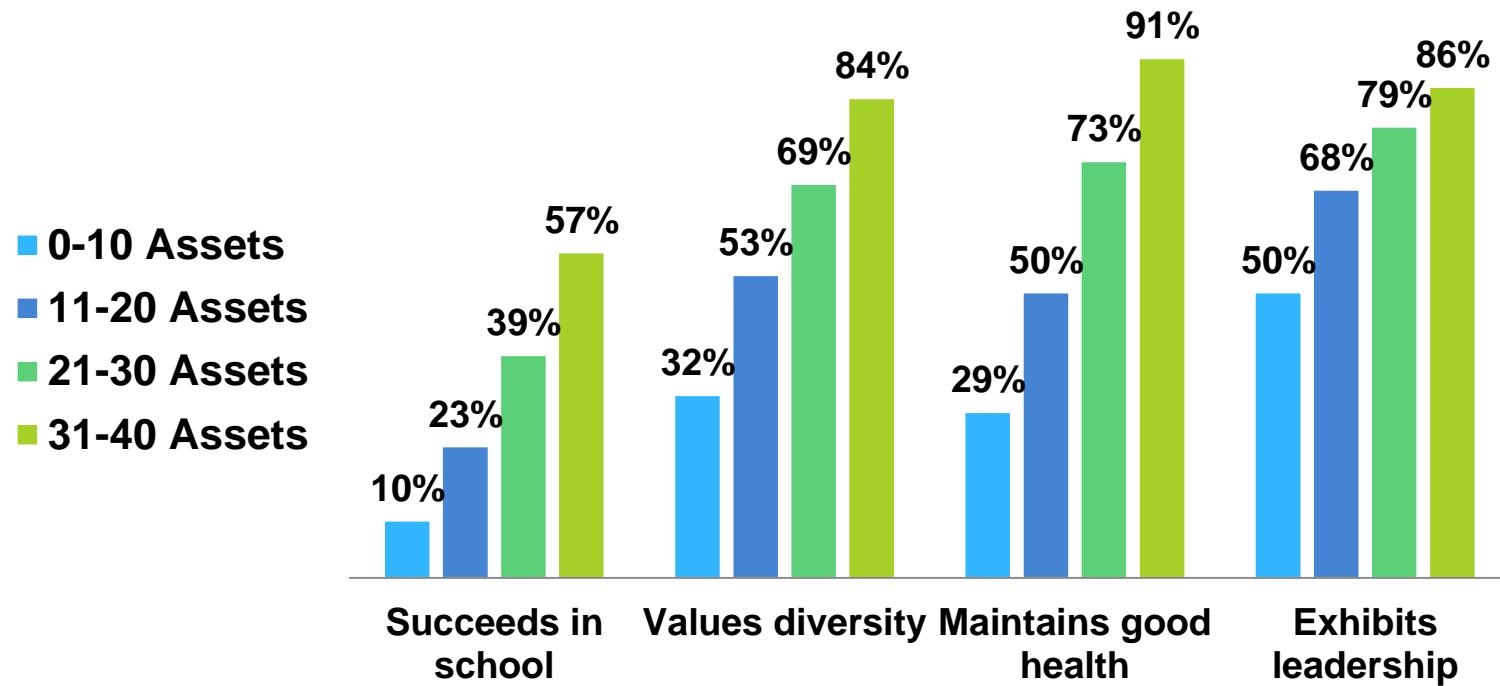


Developmental Assets



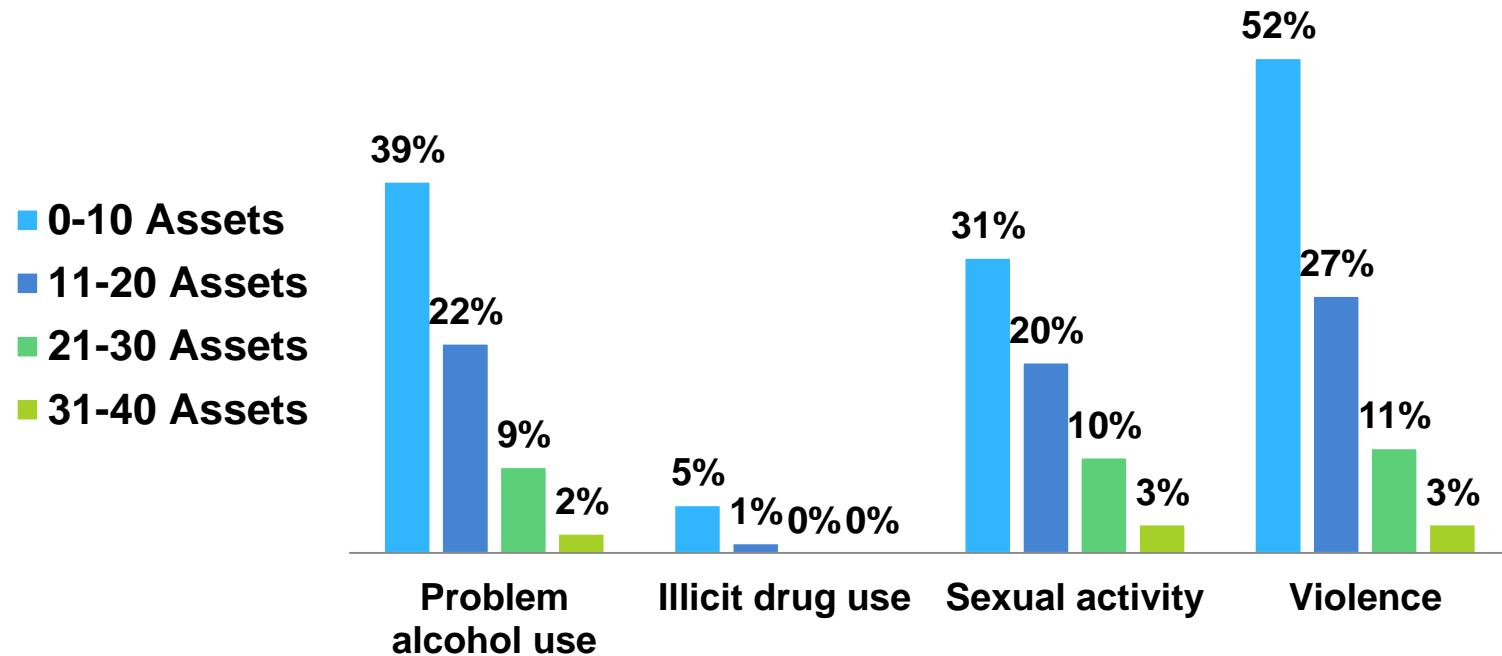
assets: noun \a-,sets \1: valuable people or things 2: advantages, resources
3: **ESSENTIAL** building blocks for **HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT** of children & youth

The Power of Assets to Promote





The Power of Assets to Protect





Developmental Relationships

- Authenticity is key
- Built on trust
- Require intentionality

Developmental Relationships Framework:



Express Care



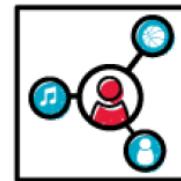
Challenge Growth



Provide Support



Share Power



Expand Possibilities

"He made me feel like I was a better person, like I was worth something—worth more than I had put myself out to be."

"Even if it's really hard, the [staff] will most likely try to motivate you to do the right thing. . . . Even though you might think it's hard, they know you can do it."

"She helped me out with a nice place to live for 30 days when it was 21 below zero and I had nowhere to go."

"My [youth leader] is, like, 'I'm here, you're here, we're equal.' And if we're working on something together I can tell her, 'No, this isn't going to work.'"

"She puts you around people who've reached the places you wanna go in life. . . . And when you see people who come from the same places that you do, . . . it gives you hope."

Getting Youth Buy In: Finding Sparks and Learning Comfort Zones



- Sparks: The deep passions and skills that each and every young person has.
- Comfort, Growth and Panic Zones





Leveling Up

- Keeping youth engaged takes
 - Consistency
 - Transparency
 - Input
 - Evolution
 - Sustainability & Longevity



Youth Engagement in DCHS



- Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)
- Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP) & Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA)
 - Keep it 360 Club
- Peer Leadership
 - Peer Advisor Program
 - Peer Educators Program

Youth Development Contacts



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