Tips for Youth Development Program Staff

- Create programs and an environment where all young people feel a sense of belonging. For example, display images from the community or play music suggested by youth when they are arriving.

- Set behavior expectations for youth participants in group settings. Consider asking youth to help develop the expectations.

- Create opportunities for youth to interact in the group, such as icebreakers, recreation and dialogue or reflection points.

- Provide safe opportunities for youth to interact in positive ways with adults to create a network of support for young people. Ensure that adults welcome youth as they arrive and call them by name, invite youth and adults to lead programs or groups together.