

## bringing definition to youth and adult

**purpose** • To help partners, groups, and organizations begin to define the terms “youth” and “adult”

**time** 30 minutes

**group size** 10 to 40 participants

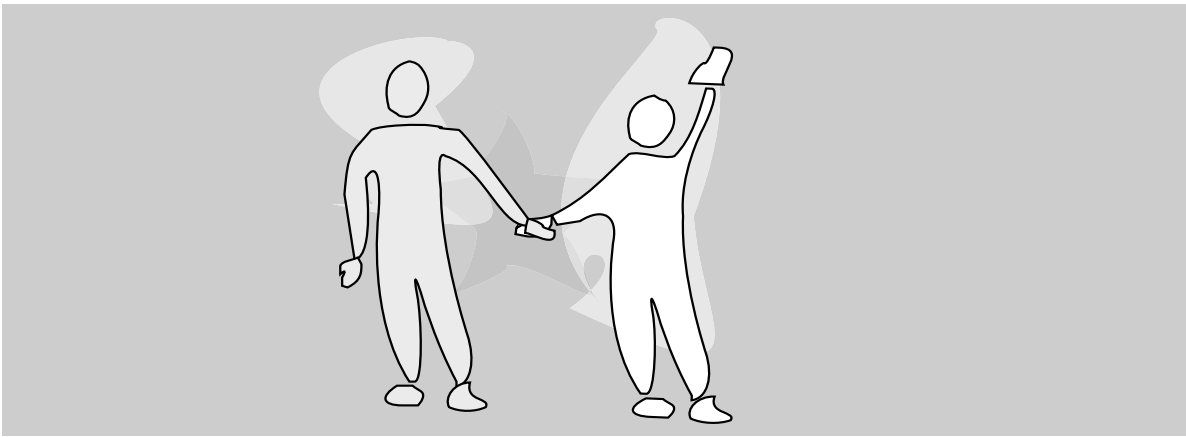
**materials** • Flip chart paper  
• Markers  
• Tape  
• Art supplies (optional)

### introduction

Explain to the group that forming and working in youth–adult partnerships reveal the challenges and benefits of working with the opposite age spectrum. A common difficulty is not having a definition of what a “youth” or an “adult” is. This activity explores various definitions of youth and adults. Groups may end up with a common definition, or they may realize that everyone’s definition is going to be different.

### step one

Divide participants into small groups (no more than 10 members per group). Provide each group with a sheet of flip chart paper, markers, and art supplies. Explain to the groups that they will be given a specific time frame (depending on the number of small



groups; allow about 10 minutes to prepare and 2 minutes per group to present) to develop a definition of youth and a definition of adult. Ask the groups to write this definition on the flip chart paper.

Once each group has written its definition, ask each small group to prepare a presentation representing its definition. This presentation can be anything from a skit or song to a poem or bumper sticker message. Encourage groups to be as creative as possible.

### **step two**

Ask the groups to post their definitions on the wall and have each group give its 2-minute presentation to the entire group.

### **reflection and discussion**

Process the activity in the large group using the following questions:

- What word, phrase, or image caught your attention?
- What similarity do you see across the definitions? What differences do you see?
- How is this information important to you in your youth–adult partnership?
- How might you use these definitions in your youth–adult partnership?