

CHARTING DECISION MAKING AND POWER SHARING

(Adapted from the Points of Light Foundation's Young People as Decision Makers Youth Outreach handout: "Mapping Youth for Youth Involvement")

OVERVIEW

This activity "maps" where people in the community participate in making decisions.

OBJECTIVES

To identify strengths in the community's current system of engaging people in the decision-making process

To identify opportunities for increased sharing of power

TIME REQUIRED

Approximately one hour

WHAT	TIME	HOW	MATERIALS
Step 1: Setting the context	5 min.	<p>Begin the activity with a short discussion about decision making. Say to the group, "Think about the process of making decisions. Is it easy or hard? Why? Are there decisions about what goes on in this community that you are part of? Are there decisions that you are glad are made for you? Are there decisions that others make that you think you or others should be able to participate in making? Why? What does decision making have to do with power?"</p> <p>"For the next 50 minutes, we are going to explore some of these ideas in greater depth, creating maps of where decisions are made in this community, who is making them, and what that means for our work and the community as a whole."</p>	
Step 2: Mapping	20 min.	<p>Review the directions written on Handout 6C, asking for examples as you go, and creating the beginning of a sample map on a piece of flip chart paper that the whole group can see.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Think about the organizations and groups in the community that make decisions that affect the community. Include the organizations and groups that you are a part of and those that you are not part of. In the square below, draw a representation of these groups and organizations. You can draw them as they exist on a map, or you can do a drawing that is a symbol for what they represent to you. 2. With a different color pen, list the groups of people in each of those organizations who are involved in making decisions. 3. With another color pen, make a star to indicate the areas where opportunities exist to increase participation in decision making and sharing of power. <p>Ask if people have questions, and indicate that they will have about 15 minutes to do the exercise.</p>	<p>Copies of Handout 6C</p> <p>Flip chart paper</p> <p>Markers</p>

continued on page 231

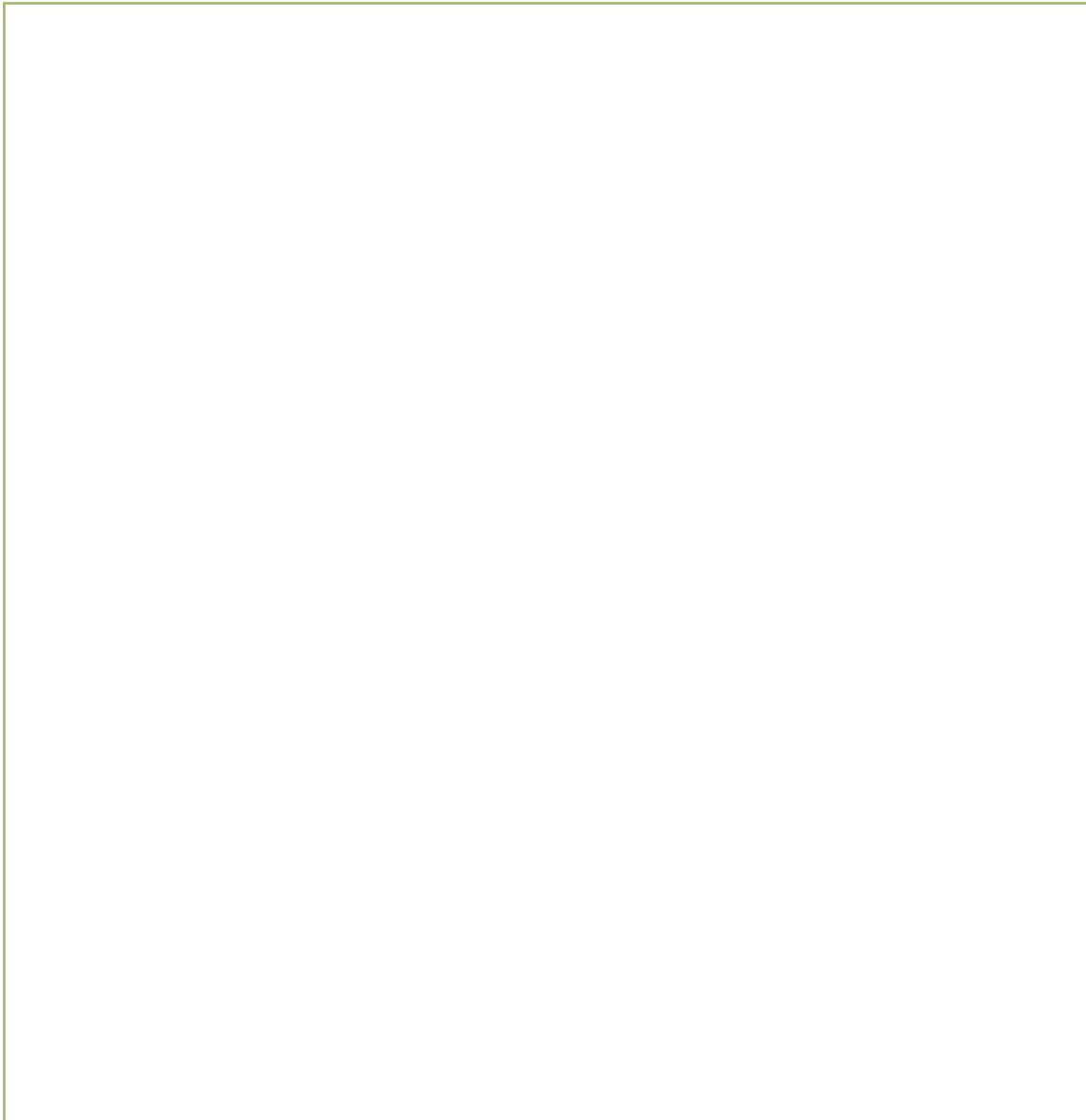
WHAT	TIME	HOW	MATERIALS
Step 3: Sharing	20 min.	If the group is small, offer each person a chance to share his or her map with the group. If it is large, split into smaller groups with a facilitator in each group.	
Step 4: Reflection	10 min.	Ask the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ What images from the maps stand out to you? ■ Were there any surprises for you as people shared? ■ What similarities did you see in people's maps? ■ What differences? ■ In general, who is making decisions that affect the community? ■ Why is that the case? ■ Who is being left out of the decision-making process? Why? ■ In what areas should more people be involved in decision making? ■ What are some strategies that we can use to increase shared power in this community? 	

Possible Adaptations of This Activity

- Use it specifically to look at how youth, women, people of color, or any other group is involved in decision making and power sharing. See Section 2, Page 19 for facilitators' notes for examining youth participation.
- Use it in combination with the resource mapping activity in Section 2, page 15 to examine specifically how people who represent different sectors of the community are involved in decision making and power sharing.
- Use it in combination with a strategic planning activity (Section 4, page 171) to identify the root causes of some of the barriers that the community faces.

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2. With a different color pen, list the groups of people in each of those organizations who are involved in making decisions.
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Handout 6C

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