

# Military-Connected Youth Town Hall Series

## DIY Edition

### Condensed Facilitator Guide

After participants have been divided into breakout groups:

1. For those facilitators working with the youth breakouts, lead your group to the appropriate room/area where you can have your small group conversations. For those working with the adult participants, make sure they know to remain in the main room/area for your group conversations.
2. Introduce yourself as the facilitator and thank participants for taking time out of their schedules to provide input. Their input is valuable in helping us understand the unique issues facing military-connected youth.
3. Introduce the note taker and share that the conversation will be documented on note paper/Google doc/etc. However, reassure participants that comments will be kept anonymous and that the notes will not identify the person who made the comment.
  - a. Link to **sample** Google doc (if you're a note taker, you can use this example Google doc to create one of your own):  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1e1pryHn\\_8KZgtDc7qdERjWHs1gLbHQGLJ\\_5aFCahRUE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1e1pryHn_8KZgtDc7qdERjWHs1gLbHQGLJ_5aFCahRUE/edit?usp=sharing)
4. For youth facilitators, if you have any questions while in the breakout group, just ask the adult(s) who are with you for assistance.
5. You should spend about 9 minutes on each of the five questions.
6. With 5 minutes left in the breakout session, you may want to pause and allow time for your note taker to review what was said and help your group choose a spokesperson who will report the key takeaways from your group's conversation to the entire group back in the main room/area.
7. Thank the participants again.
8. Lead your group back to the main room/area (if not already there).

## 5 Questions to ask YOUTH participants:

1. What is something significant that has changed for you in the past two years?
  - a. Probing question: What is something good/a positive change that happened? Something that makes you proud? (Note if there is a second probing question)
2. What has been your largest source of stress over the past year?
  - a. Probing question: At home, with friends, with school?
  - b. Acute or generalized? (e.g., did this happen to you/someone you know, or are your stressors more general?)
3. What do you need from the adults in your life in order to feel supported and set up for success?
  - a. Probing question: From your parents? Educators? Youth program leaders? Etc.?
4. How have your feelings about school changed over time?
  - a. Probing question: Are you as engaged now as you once were? More engaged? What do you appreciate about school? What things about school cause you anxiety or negative feelings?
  - b. Does being a military connected youth bring a unique perspective to that?
5. What would you like the adults in your life to know and understand about your experience as we move forward?
  - a. Probing question: Describe how being military connected has shaped your experience.

## 5 Questions to ask ADULT participants:

1. What is something that changed for you in your youth practice during the past three years that you hope will continue?
2. What has been the greatest challenge that you've seen the youth in your program struggle with during the past two years?
3. What would you want the youth you work with to know and understand about your experience as we move forward?
4. Any success stories you could share about getting youth back involved with in-person programming?
5. What questions do you have for each other?