

(The following questions are intended to guide the conversation. Based on the participants' responses, some question can be left out or others, not found here, can be asked.)

Youth Focus Group Questions

Participant background information (some personal info-may be best for near the end of session, or this info may come out naturally as the conversation progresses).

Highest level of education_____

Are you on OW?

Are you a father?

Do you have a criminal record?

Do you have driver's license /vehicle?

Have you ever worked?

Is your goal

- employment?
- apprenticeship?
- more education?
- owning your own business?
- moving out on your own?

other?_____

Exploring Assumptions:

What do you think is an assumption (stereotype) about youth? Is it true?

Do you think youth have a harder time finding a job than the rest of the population? (Do you think your age is a challenge to finding a job?)

Why?

Motivation to make a change /participate in a program *(engaging)*

How many hours per week do you spend looking for a job (includes attending employment agency programs)

What are some barriers you have to finding a job?

Why did you leave school?

Is the amount of education you have enough for the job you're looking for?

If you need more education where will you go?

What do you need to know before returning to school/ training/ education?

What's stopping you from getting more education?

How do you feel being on OW?

How do your peers feel about you being on OW?

What the pros and cons of being on OW?

Have you ever talked yourself out of applying for a job? If so - why?

Why did you decide to come to this program? *(If applicable- example ATN, Goodwill, YOU)*

Finding the program *(marketing to youth)*

Who can you count on?

Where do you look to find the programs you need or jobs?

Which program would you attend –one that you found on the internet that seems to fit your needs or one that a friend recommends? Why?

Have you ever participated in a literacy or training program? Have you ever participated in an employment agency program? If yes, have you ever told anyone about these services? If not, what would you tell them about these services?

(If no, explore with them what they think the programs are, and why they haven't used them.)

Do you think it would be useful for you to be able to learn and to work on getting a job at the same time?