



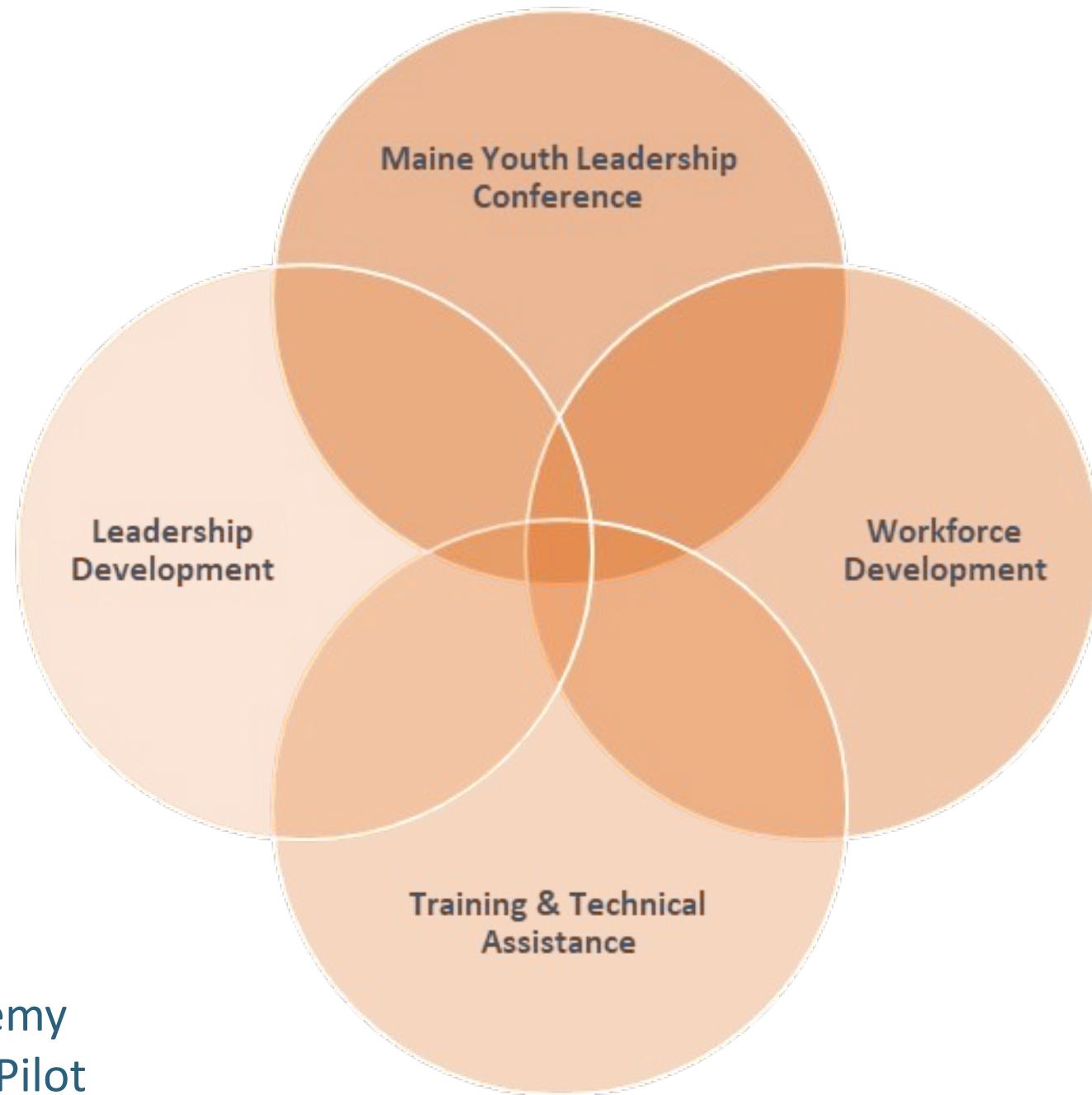
The Maine Youth Action Network

February 2024

Mission Statement

The **Maine Youth Action Network** strategically collaborates, convenes, and partners to build

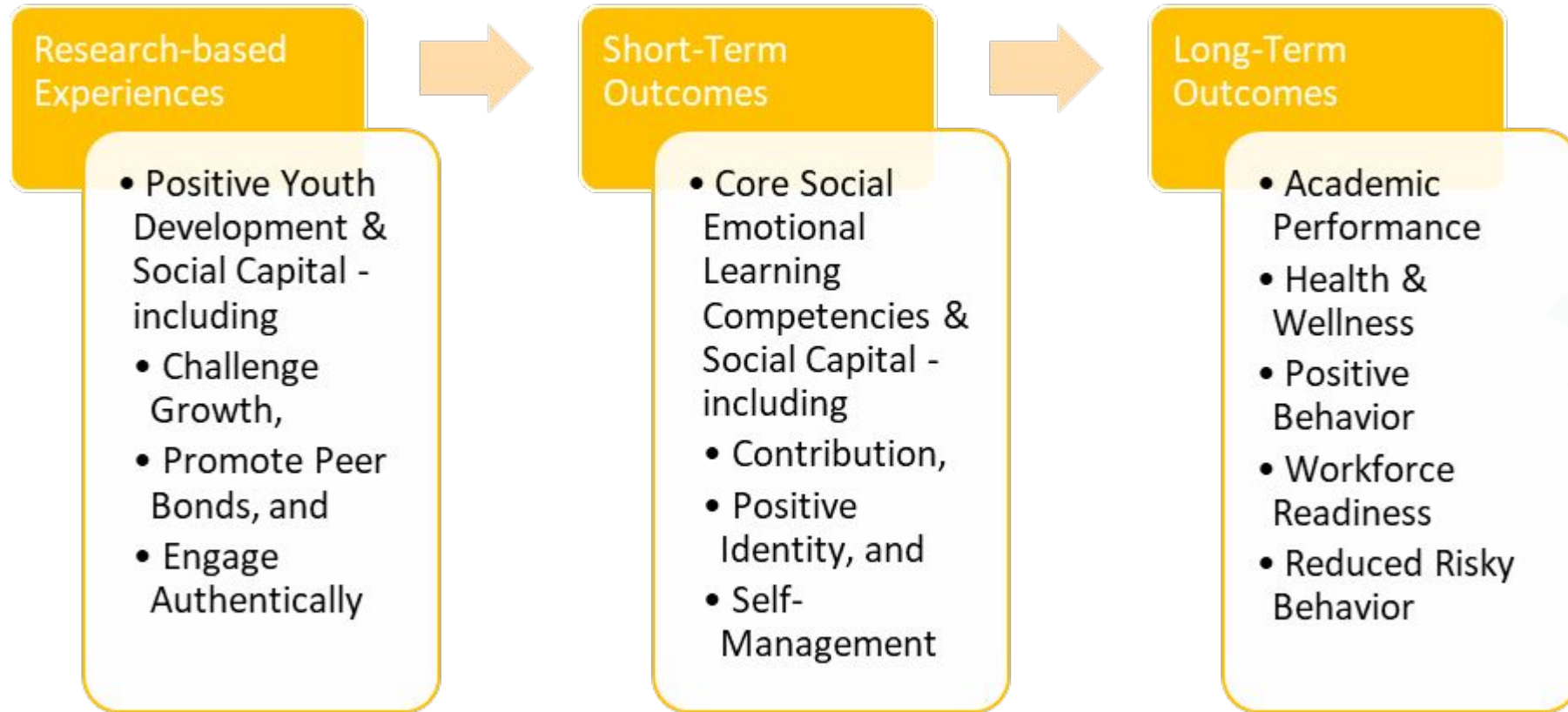
- young people's leadership on issues of social justice, public health, and restorative practices; and
- the capacity of adults, organizations, and systems to use positive youth development and social emotional learning principles in their work with youth.

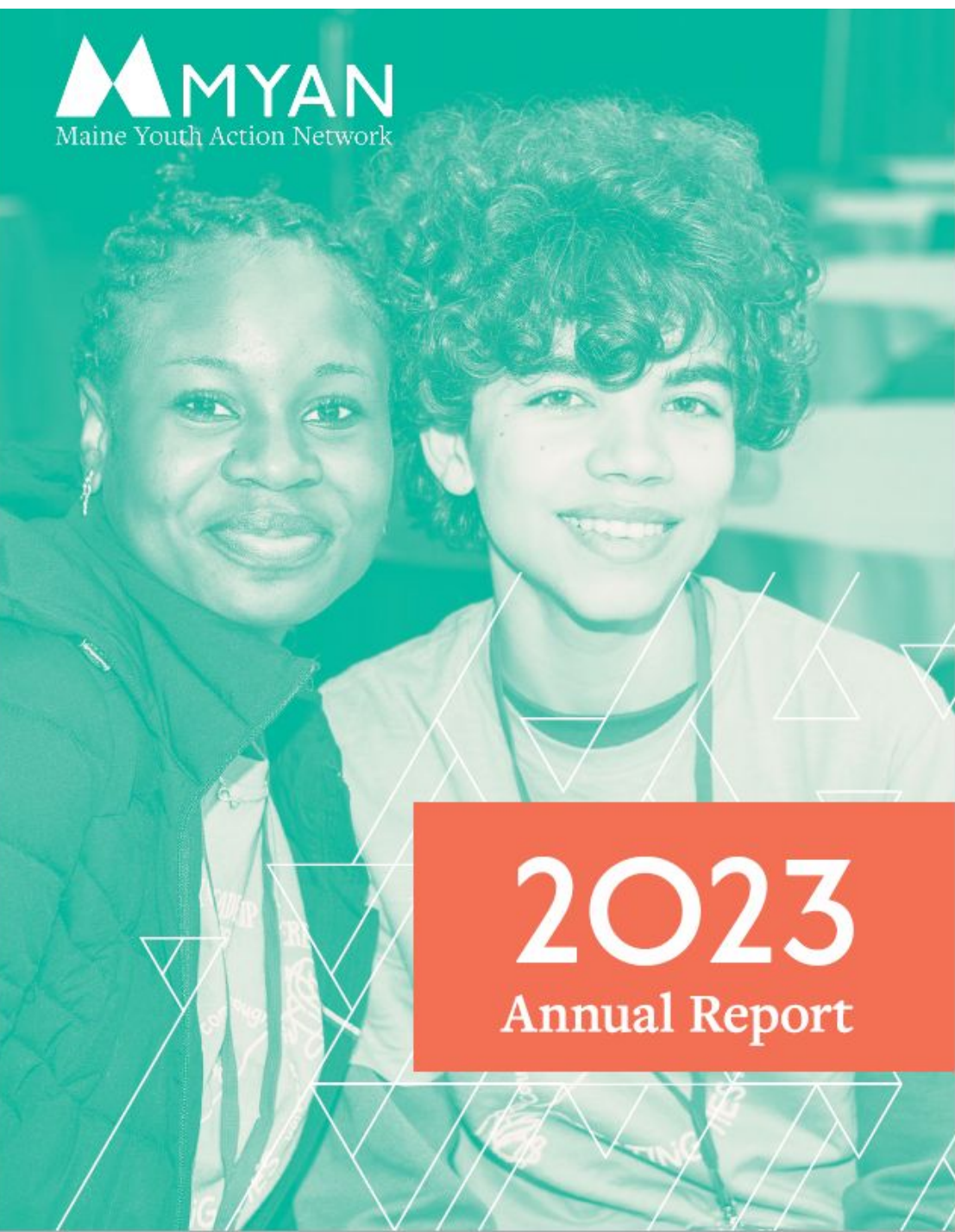


Launching in 2024:

- Facilitator Training Academy
- Peer Resource Coaching Pilot
- Youth Workforce Advisory Board

Hello Insight - Youth Thriving: Theory of Change





2023
Annual Report

*Learn more
about our
current portfolio
of initiatives
here!*

Maine Youth Leadership & Development Council

Realizing healthy, thriving youth communities through collective impact

Partnering Organizations



Wabanaki Public
Health & Wellness



GENERATIONAL NOOR

promoting community change





The Yellow Tulip Project (YTP) is a determined youth-driven 501 c-3 with a mission to smash the stigma surrounding mental illness – and to build a network of people who realize that hope happens when youth and community leaders work together. By leveraging innovative approaches to mental health programming, we engage young people and communities with interactive exhibits, arts + storytelling initiatives, and nature-based projects.

Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness focuses on creating opportunities for Wabanaki youth to connect inter-tribally as well as within their own tribal communities to integrate leadership skills they've gained to carry on to our next generations. We support youth-led and youth-serving programming that builds young people's resilience and strengthens youth leadership on issues of public health, restorative practices, and social justice.



Wabanaki Public
Health & Wellness

Generational Noor is a youth-led and community-centered nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the immigrant and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) community in Maine. Our mission is to destigmatize conversations around mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) and provide culturally competent resources to support individuals in their recovery journey. Generational Noor aims to Find the best way to make accessible, retain, engage, and support BIPOC individuals seeking to end their substance dependency. With a focus on youth leadership and empowerment, we aim to create safe spaces where individuals from diverse backgrounds can come together, learn, and grow.



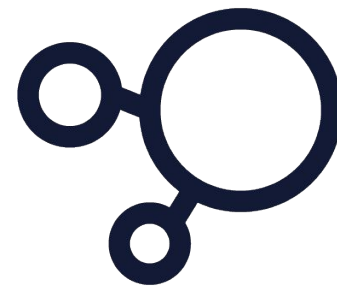
GENERATIONAL NOOR

promoting community change



Community Organizing Alliance (COA) is a social justice, civic engagement organization that centers the voices and experiences of BIPOC & low-income Mainers to ensure they are empowered and engaged in their communities.

Mobilize Recovery is a grassroots recovery organization committed to changing how Mainers think about recovery, one voice at a time. Our youth caucuses, located in Augusta, Machias, and Brewer, are led by and for young people impacted by substance use who are working to create community-based opportunities for young people to be themselves by developing relationships and connections with others.




**MOBILIZE
RECOVERY**



At OUT Maine, we have an ambitious goal: to create more welcoming and affirming communities for Maine’s diverse queer youth in all of their intersectional identities by changing the very systems that serve them. We take a statewide, three-pronged approach: **support** LGBTQ+ youth and their families and allies; **empower** the youth to be their most authentic, resilient selves; and **educate** the professionals who change young people’s lives through their support. OUT Maine is a leader in designing programming and training that lifts up queer youth in Maine’s isolated and under-resourced regions. OUT Maine. Building the welcoming and affirming communities urgently needed for Maine’s LGBTQ+ youth.

The Catherine E. Cutler’s Youth and Community Engagement team and Justice Policy Program support multi-system involved youth to build their sense of belonging and the skills needed to thrive in young adulthood. Through two initiatives, the Youth Leadership Advisory Team and the Young People’s Caucus, staff partner with young people directly impacted by the foster care and legal systems. Youth leaders from both programs present to system officials about their unjust experiences and opportunities for change within the education, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems.





**All Maine students
must be able to
cultivate belonging,
culture, and
community within their
educational
experiences.**

For young people to thrive, the educational spaces they attend must evolve. The 2023 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey results identified that only 49.5% of high school students reported feeling that they mattered to their community.

This is a reversible trend. By using a mix of system change strategies, our collective impact work aims to significantly increase young people's experiences of belonging and connection within community.

Change Policy/Implementation



Share Power/Resources



Shift Narratives/Mental Models



Increase the percentage of Youth who report that they feel they matter to their community. (Target: 57.3%)



All Maine students can cultivate belonging, culture, and community within their educational experiences.



Supporting Maine students to cultivate belonging, culture, and community within educational experiences.

Change or Implement Policy:

- Implementation Toolkit: Harm reduction & Naloxone training for school communities.

Share Power and Resources:

- Seed Funding: Participatory grantmaking council awards to youth-led holistic prevention projects.
- Peer Resource Model: Pilot non-clinical mental health coaching initiative.
- LGBTQ+ Network Building: Develop GSTA support network & host regional convening opportunities for youth & advisors.
- Tribal Network Building: Advance inter-tribal connections within Wabanaki Confederacy and beyond for emerging youth leaders.
- Immigrant Network Building: Establish Black and immigrant support network & host regional convening opportunities for youth & families.
- Civic Engagement Cohort: Advance advocacy & coalition building skills with Black and immigrant youth leaders.

Shift Mental Models and Narratives:

- Storytelling for Change: Support and amplify educational experiences of youth experiencing foster care and/or legal systems.
- Stigma Reduction Campaigns: Training & implementation of student advocacy toolkits to promote mental wellness and reduce associated stigmas.

Funding Impact & Allocations

These eight identified youth-partnering organizations will use MRC funds as allocated to advance the system change goals outlined on the previous slide.

Each partner within this cohort is developing annual deliverable metrics associated with their contributions to be included in the final scope of work for the two-year funding cycle.

Appropriate administrative rates will be included in final budget and in line with written guidance offered by the Maine Recovery Council.

Lead Partner	Funding Allocation
Yellow Tulip Project	\$ 20,000.00
Wabanaki Public Health & Wellness	\$ 20,000.00
OUT Maine	\$ 20,000.00
MYAN	\$ 20,000.00
Mobilize Recovery	\$ 20,000.00
Generational Noor	\$ 20,000.00
Cutler Institute	\$ 20,000.00
Community Organizing Alliance	\$ 20,000.00
Annual Programming Budget	\$ 160,000.00



Sustainable Change: Strategies in Motion

2024 - 2026

Through Maine Recovery Council funding, collaborating partners will launch and/or expand the initiatives identified above. Each partner organization's contributions serve to advance a collective impact goal: creating the environmental conditions necessary for all Maine youth to thrive in their educational settings.

Together, the Maine Youth Leadership & Development Council aims to strengthen the infrastructure of supports for youth and their adult partners. In the coming years, the partners will also increase investments in professional development for adult staff, functional opportunities hub for youth and young adults, and adequate and anti-racist evaluation of the work. Together, we believe progress can be made and sustained.

Learn more:

<http://www.myan.org>

<https://myldcouncil.org>

Thank you!