

# YOUTH COUNCIL FAQS

Empowering young  
leaders. Strengthening  
our communities.  
Building Georgia's future.



**LeadershipNext**

a GeorgiaForward Youth Leadership program



## 1. What is a youth council?

A youth council is a group of young individuals who represent the voice of youth within their municipality. Members have the opportunity to participate in community service projects, advise government officials on youth-related issues, and help facilitate civic engagement in their community. Youth councils can create youth-driven initiatives within their community.



## 2. Why create a youth council?

Young people represent around one-fourth of Georgia residents. Youth councils promote civic engagement, encourage collaboration between municipal government and young residents, and develop future community leaders. Cities that consistently invest in their young residents create more successful communities, as a result.



## 3. How do youth councils promote civic engagement?

Youth councils give you a formal role in local government, offer hands-on learning experiences with elected officials, help develop leadership skills, and increase communication between youth and adults. Councils also facilitate young residents' participation in community initiatives and events.



## 4. Who benefits from a youth council?

Youth benefit because their voices are heard in local government, they understand the value of public service. Elected officials and city staff benefit because they build relationships with youth and receive input about youth-related initiatives. The community benefits by building future leaders for their municipality through the council's projects.



## 5. Is your community ready?

Indicators on whether a community is ready include local leaders recognizing the need for youth insight in community decision-making and whether they are willing to create programs or adopt ordinances to promote youth involvement in local government.



## 6. Do we need City Council approval to start a Youth Council?

Yes, most cities adopt a resolution or ordinance to formally establish the youth council, granting it an official standing within the local government. This document outlines the council's structure, membership, and funding. If your community has an existing youth leadership program, consider utilizing youth in those programs to form a youth council to serve as an advisory council to local elected officials on all matters concerning youth.



## 7. How is a youth council funded?

The most successful youth councils have various sources of funding that usually include dollars from the city's general fund along with contributions from the community.



## 8. What if I have more questions?

GeorgiaForward offers resources and support for cities interested in starting a youth council including our guidebook and the Youth Council Accelerator. Visit [GeorgiaForward.org](http://GeorgiaForward.org) for examples, templates, and more resources.



## READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP?

Scan the QR code to fill out the [Youth Council Accelerator Interest Form](#) and connect with GeorgiaForward today!



YOUTH COUNCIL  
ACCELERATOR  
INTEREST FORM