

DETROIT YOUTH COMMUNITY VOICE SURVEY

STRENGTHS | NEEDS | SOLUTIONS

This survey asks Detroit youth, families, residents, educators, employers, and community partners what they see, what youth need, and what meaningful change should look like. Responses will guide program planning, partnerships, and community accountability. Estimated time: 10-12 minutes.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Participation is voluntary. You may skip any question. Do not include private or sensitive details about a specific young person. Respondents under 18 should not provide a name, phone number, or email address.

1. YOUR CONNECTION

Tell us how your experience connects to Detroit youth.

1 How are you connected to Detroit youth?

Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Youth age 13-18 | ☐ Young adult age 19-24 |
| ☐ Parent or caregiver | ☐ Detroit resident |
| ☐ Educator or school staff | ☐ Mentor or youth worker |
| ☐ Nonprofit or service provider | ☐ Faith or community leader |
| ☐ Employer or business owner | ☐ Public safety or justice professional |
| ☐ Funder or philanthropic partner | ☐ Other community member |

2 What is your age range?

Optional. Select one.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ☐ 13-17 | ☐ 18-24 | ☐ 25-34 | ☐ 35-44 |
| ☐ 45-54 | ☐ 55+ | ☐ Prefer not to say | |

2. STRENGTHS & PERCEPTIONS

Start with what Detroit youth already carry and contribute.

3 What Detroit neighborhood, ZIP code, or area are you most connected to?

Optional.

Neighborhood, ZIP code, school area, or citywide

4 How often do you interact directly with Detroit youth?

☐ Daily

☐ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ Occasionally

☐ Rarely

☐ I am a youth respondent

5 Which strengths best describe Detroit youth?

Choose up to five.

☐ Creative and artistic

☐ Resilient

☐ Entrepreneurial

☐ Natural leadership

☐ Caring and loyal

☐ Adaptable

☐ Technologically capable

☐ Culturally aware

☐ Ambitious

☐ Resourceful

☐ Community-minded

☐ Athletic

☐ Curious and ready to learn

☐ Able to influence their peers

6 How hopeful are you about the future opportunities available to Detroit youth?

1 - Not hopeful

☐

1

☐

2

☐

3

☐

4

☐

5

5 - Very hopeful

7 How well do adults and institutions listen to Detroit youth before making decisions that affect them?

1 - Not at all

☐

1

☐

2

☐

3

☐

4

☐

5

5 - Very well

8 What is one thing people commonly misunderstand about Detroit youth?

Type or write your response here

3. NEEDS & BARRIERS

Identify conditions around young people, not labels placed on them.

9 What are the biggest barriers facing Detroit youth right now?

Choose up to five.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Exposure to violence or unsafe environments | ☐ Lack of trusted mentors |
| ☐ Mental health stress or trauma | ☐ Limited jobs or paid opportunities |
| ☐ Transportation barriers | ☐ Lack of safe recreation spaces |
| ☐ Housing or food instability | ☐ School disengagement or learning gaps |
| ☐ Peer pressure or negative influences | ☐ Family stress or limited support |
| ☐ Substance exposure | ☐ Justice-system involvement |
| ☐ Racism or discrimination | ☐ Limited technology or internet access |
| ☐ Not knowing what opportunities exist | ☐ Adults making decisions without youth input |

10 Which deeper conditions contribute most to these barriers?

Choose up to three.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Poverty and neighborhood disinvestment | ☐ Unequal school resources |
| ☐ Too few consistent youth programs | ☐ Weak connections between schools and employers |
| ☐ Transportation gaps | ☐ Limited affordable mental health support |
| ☐ Family economic pressure | ☐ Community violence and unresolved trauma |
| ☐ Negative media narratives about youth | ☐ Lack of youth decision-making power |

11 When young people need help, where are they most likely to turn first?

Choose up to three.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Parent or family member | ☐ Friend or peer |
| ☐ Teacher or school counselor | ☐ Coach or mentor |
| ☐ Faith or community leader | ☐ Social media or online community |
| ☐ Professional counselor | ☐ Police or public agency |
| ☐ They may not ask anyone | ☐ Other |

12 What urgent need is not receiving enough attention?

Type or write your response here

4. ACCESS & SUPPORT

Rate how available these resources are to Detroit youth in your experience.

13 Overall, how safe and supported do you believe Detroit youth feel in their daily lives?

1 - Not safe/supported

1

2

3

4

5

Unsure

5 - Very safe/supported

14 How would you rate youth access to each resource?

Select one rating in each row.

RESOURCE OR OPPORTUNITY	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT	UNSURE
Trusted mentors						
Mental health support						
Safe recreation spaces						
Jobs and paid internships						
Transportation						
College and trade exposure						
Financial literacy						
Tutoring and school support						

15 Where do young people currently feel safest, most welcomed, or most supported?

Name places, programs, people, neighborhoods, or types of spaces

16 What resource, opportunity, or relationship is missing most?

Type or write your response here

5. SOLUTIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Move from identifying needs to choosing practical action.

17 Which investments would make the greatest difference over the next three years?

Choose up to five.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Long-term one-on-one mentorship | ☐ Paid jobs, internships, and apprenticeships |
| ☐ Mental health and trauma support | ☐ Safe evening and weekend programming |
| ☐ Transportation to programs and opportunities | ☐ Tutoring and academic support |
| ☐ Financial literacy and entrepreneurship | ☐ College, trade, and career exposure |
| ☐ Arts, music, sports, and creative outlets | ☐ Conflict resolution and restorative practices |
| ☐ Parent and caregiver support | ☐ Youth-led community projects |
| ☐ Technology access and digital skills | ☐ Travel and experiences beyond familiar surroundings |

18 Who must share responsibility for creating change?

Choose up to four.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Youth themselves | ☐ Parents and families |
| ☐ Schools | ☐ City and state government |
| ☐ Community organizations | ☐ Employers and businesses |
| ☐ Faith communities | ☐ Funders and philanthropy |
| ☐ Public safety and justice institutions | ☐ Detroit residents collectively |

19 What can adults, institutions, and community leaders realistically change within the next 12 months?

Type or write your response here

20 What decisions, projects, or solutions should young people help lead?

Type or write your response here

21 Three years from now, what would meaningful progress look like?

Type or write your response here

6. STAND UP GUYS & COMMUNITY ACTION

Help shape a program that reflects youth and community priorities.

22 Which Stand Up Guys program elements would be most valuable?

Choose up to five.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Trusted mentorship | ☐ Critical thinking and decision-making |
| ☐ Financial literacy | ☐ Job and career readiness |
| ☐ College and skilled-trade exposure | ☐ Trips and cultural experiences |
| ☐ Counseling and mental health referrals | ☐ Tutoring and school support |
| ☐ Conflict resolution and emotional regulation | ☐ Parent and caregiver engagement |
| ☐ Youth leadership and service projects | ☐ Entrepreneurship and business skills |

23 Where should programming be offered?

Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Schools | ☐ Community centers |
| ☐ Faith-based spaces | ☐ Libraries |
| ☐ Recreation centers | ☐ Employer or training sites |
| ☐ Neighborhood-based mobile programming | ☐ Online and in-person combination |

24 How would you or your organization be willing to support this work?

Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Mentor | ☐ Volunteer |
| ☐ Host a career visit | ☐ Offer jobs or internships |
| ☐ Teach a workshop | ☐ Provide transportation or meals |
| ☐ Donate funding or supplies | ☐ Refer youth or families |
| ☐ Share community data or expertise | ☐ Participate in a future listening session |
| ☐ I am not ready to participate | ☐ Other |

25 What else should Stand Up Guys understand before building the first Detroit cohort?

Type or write your response here

OPTIONAL FOLLOW-UP - ADULTS AGE 18+ ONLY

Leave contact information only if you want Stand Up Guys to follow up. This section is not required.

NAME

ORGANIZATION

EMAIL OR PHONE

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- ☐ I give permission for Stand Up Guys to contact me about this survey or future involvement.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR VOICE.

Return completed surveys to standupguysmentoring@yahoo.com or a designated community survey collector.