



# Advice *from* young people on sharing resources with teens



If you want to know what teens think and want — ***ask us!***



We can tell you places that help and how to make agencies more youth friendly. (*Call together a group of young people before you get started and after you have a draft of a card to see what we think.*)



We love knowing ***who or what to ask for by name.*** It's hard to call and have staff be confused or rude.



Only put places that ***do something***, not places that refer you somewhere else.

***Be clear about confidentiality right from the start*** about what and who can share what we tell you.



We check your social media ***before we reach out*** to you.

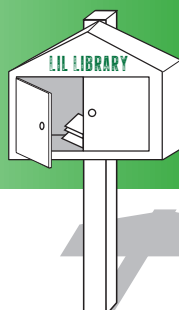
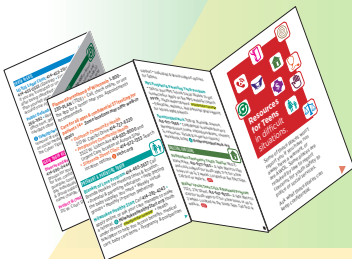


***Get the word out more about what you do!***

We want to see billboards, ads, tiktoks, reels, and posts on social media.



***We want to know about fun stuff too*** like movie nights, field trips, creating art and music, free food, sports, mentors, roller skating, and other free events open to us.



Make the card ***available*** lots of places like buses, school, and the library. Putting it online is great but ***don't forget paper copies*** since we don't always have internet access.

# We got this! Constructing a resource card for youth in your community

Looking to create, grow, or enhance a resource card specific for youth who are at risk or have been trafficked?

Follow along for practical tips and advice from resource specialists, youth workers, and service coordinators across the state.

## Relationships matter.

When getting started, it's natural to get stuck on quantity, lack of, or feel like you've not identified all possible options. Before making cold calls, consider who you already know, and the personal connections others may guide you to.

If new to the role, appreciate the benefits of developing connections with outside service providers and staff at other agencies as an opportunity of this project.

Relationships are built when agencies recognize and experience each other's expertise. Confidence in sharing information about others' services will come as a result of mutual trust in the relationships you build.

## Establishing intention.

If you're starting fresh, or tasked with updating a resource card, clarify your goals and message first. Consider your audience and see the card from a teen perspective; what will they need to know? Will they need parent/guardian permission to sign up? Can someone who is a runaway from home or placement participate? Will they speak their language? Think it through!

Cast a wide net\* to find supportive resources. You might find some agencies or programs specifically for young people

**CAUTION: Have you gotten caught in a resource loop?**  
Make sure places don't refer young people right back to the place they started.

who are at risk or have been trafficked. Across Wisconsin, youth service providers have also found success through creativity and being open to uncommon connections.

## Capacity and readiness.

Agencies and individual service providers might wonder if they are ready to support young people who are at risk or have been trafficked. Conversations to collect community resources for your card can be an opportunity to build capacity and share knowledge through training and support. Be clear about what agencies and service providers are doing well, how they can improve, and where they can find educational support.

If an agency isn't ready, or programs change, you might need to make the call and take a resource off the card temporarily or indefinitely. Resource cards evolve as your community response changes.

## Not a one-time thing.

Maintaining resources is an on-going process. After establishing what listed services providers say they do, it

is also important to find out **through experience** if they follow through. Be sure to also check in with young people about **their** experiences with listed resources. Decide how you will check-in periodically to update contact information and vet current programs.

## Other tips & FAQs

### What does a soft/warm handoff really look like?

- Person centered language: "I want to introduce you to someone ..."
- Involves trust of the person/agency you are bringing into the young person's life
- May be a more or less hands on transfer depending on your closeness with the youth and their preferences for you to be involved

### How do I collect the information and where do I put it?

- It may be inherited from a prior card or internal list
- Ask for time with your "go-to" resource person
- Look for existing resource mapping efforts through statewide and national organizations or resource repositories (*i.e.* 211, 988, DCF, DOJ, national hotlines)
- Ask young people!
- Choose your preferred method to keep track of gathered info and consider how it will be made available to those maintaining the card in the future (*i.e.* Saved document, spreadsheet, cloud-based document, agency shared drive, etc.)

\*geographically wide net (some youth find themselves in other areas), needs responsive net, 24/7 safety net (text lines, chats, hotlines)

**NOTE to users:** a youth resource card is different than a detailed resource list for professionals making complex or targeted referrals. A youth resource card gets **basic** info into the hands of young people. Individual service providers may also choose to deliver info about their programs directly to youth thru social media, as a part of an online directory, or in more detailed brochures.



To see an example of a long standing, evolving youth resource card, scan this code.