



Partnering with People with DCF Lived Experience: Resource List

[What is Lived Experience?](#)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines people with lived experience as “those directly affected by social, health, public health, or other issues, as well as the strategies to address these issues. This lived experience provides them with valuable insights that extend beyond their professional or educational backgrounds, offering a unique perspective rooted in their personal identities and life histories. These insights can potentially inform and enhance systems, research, policies, practices, and programs.”

Category	Resource	Organization
Brief	Methods and Emerging Strategies to Engage People with Lived Experience	Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Brief	Engaging Lived Experience in Public Policy Discussions	Alliance for Children’s Rights
Brief	How Can Organizations Assess their Readiness to Co-Design?	Casey Family Programs and ChiByDesign
Brief	Strategic Sharing	Casey Family Programs & Foster Care Alumni of America
Toolkit	A Starter Kit on Engaging People with Lived Experience in Child Support Programs	Office of Child Support Enforcement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Tipsheet	What are the four pillars of authentic engagement with communities and individuals with lived experience through co-design?	Casey Family Programs & ChiByDesign
Tipsheet	“Nothing About Us Without Us”: Tips for involving people with lived experiences of trauma in policymaking and program design	Pathways to Resilience Learning Network
Tipsheet	So You Want to Include a Lived Experience Expert	National Association of Counsel for Children
Tipsheet	A Tool for Youth Engagement and Empowerment	Capacity Building Center for States
Tipsheet	Strategies for Authentic Integration of Family and Youth Voice	Capacity Building Center for States
Tipsheet	Listen, Engage and Reflect Tip Sheet	Child Welfare Virtual Expo
Webpage	Lived Expertise - Constituency Engagement	Casey Family Programs
Video	Methods and Strategies to Engage People with Lived Experience	Child Welfare Virtual Expo
Video	What is Co-Design?	CO-CREATE
Video	Facilitation Skills: Best & Worst Facilitator Practices	CO-CREATE
State Example	Building the Voices of Lived Experience - Lessons Learned from Navigating the System	Kentucky Youth
State Example	Lived Experience Overview	Wisconsin Department of Children and Families