

BCBS
Building Community-Based Summers: Rethinking Your "Why"

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

SCAN ME

Cathy Lancaster
Youth Services Coordinator
Library of Michigan
LancasterC5@Michigan.gov

"To serve a community we must listen and be transformed."

Today's Handouts: https://bit.ly/BCBS_MLASI26

BCBS
Agenda for Today

- Agreements
- Definitions
- Equity Principles
- Golden Circle
- Finding Your "Why" of summer services & digging deeper!
- Next steps...



BCBS Agreements

- Bring wonder and curiosity with you
- Be willing to be brave and courageous
- Commit to fully showing up
- Lean into learning
- Support one another in being in the space together in order to bring each of our lived experiences to the conversation





What is BCBS?





Equality

The term equality focuses on people having the exact same support and services.

Equality means that solutions are the same for every individual no matter their situation.



Equity

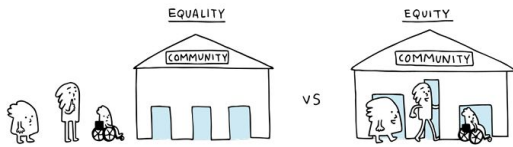
Equity “is the fair treatment, access, and opportunity for advancement for all people, while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups.

Improving equity involves increasing justice and fairness within the procedures and processes of institutions or systems, as well as in their distribution of resources.”

(Worcester State University, n.d.)



Equality vs Equity



Source: <https://communitybasedsummers.org/>



Marginalized Experiences

Community members experiencing marginalization can bear the impacts of social, economic, educational, and/or political exclusion. Often these are a result of a combination of intersecting factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, age, physical or mental disability, and religion.

These experiences are characterized by a lack of power and privilege, discrimination, and limited access to resources and opportunities. Those experiencing marginalization often face systemic barriers that impede full participation in society and can lead to disparities in health, education, employment, and overall quality of life.



BCBS Four Equity Principles

- Center Community
- Rethink Internal Systems
- Reflect Continuously
- Foster a Culture of Learning

Four Principles of Community-Based Systems

Community-based systems are designed to be more equitable, more effective, and more sustainable. They are designed to be more community-centered, more data-driven, and more continuously learning.

Center Community
Community-based systems are designed to be more community-centered, more data-driven, and more continuously learning.

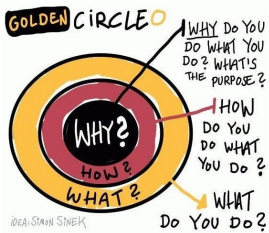
Reflect Continuously
Community-based systems are designed to be more community-centered, more data-driven, and more continuously learning.

Rethink Internal Systems
Community-based systems are designed to be more community-centered, more data-driven, and more continuously learning.

Foster a Culture of Learning
Community-based systems are designed to be more community-centered, more data-driven, and more continuously learning.



Golden Circle



- Without a clear “why,” it’s easy to focus on logistics.
- With a strong “why” priorities shift.



Know your Why!





Togetherness & Joy in the Library



Togetherness and Joy in the Library 🌟



What's Your "Why" of Summer Services?

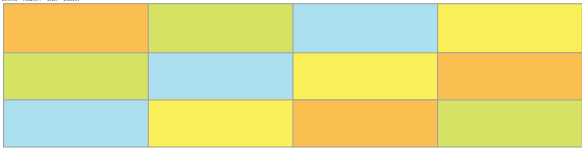
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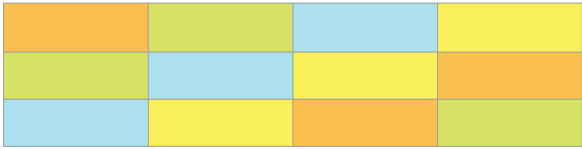


Orange	Light Green	Light Blue	Yellow
Light Green	Light Blue	Yellow	Orange
Light Blue	Yellow	Orange	Light Green

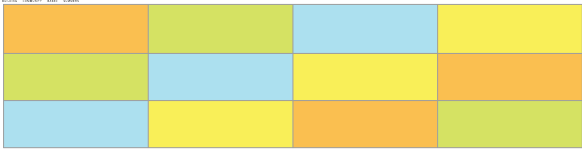
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What is your initial "why"? For example:
"To help youth and adults build relationships with each other."





The Five "Whys" Activity

Write your initial Summer Why:
Example: "To overcome the summer slide."

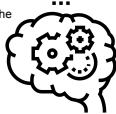
Ask: Why is that important?
 "Because when learning doesn't happen in the summer some youth start school in the fall behind their peers."

But Why?
 "Because school should be a place where youth don't feel like they are behind."

But Why?
 "Because when youth don't feel like they are behind that are able to feel more confident."

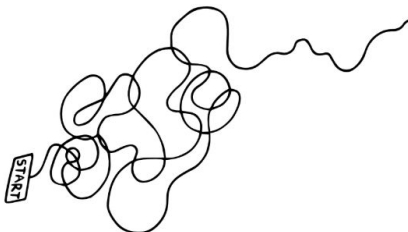
But Why?
 "Because when youth feel more confident they are more likely to be curious."

But Why?
 "Because curiosity helps young people to thrive."





Share-Outs





Next Steps...



- Take your “why” back to work and ask your colleagues what their “whys” are.
- Familiarize yourself with the [Four Principles](#) of BCBS.
- BCBS dives further into:
 - Letting Go of Traditions
 - Connecting with Community
 - Measuring Progress



Additional Resources

- [Building Community-Based Summers](#)
- BCBS has a home with the [Collaborative Summer Library Program](#) and a new [Community-Based Summers Guide!](#)
- [BCBS Workbook](#)
- *Getting Started with Building Community-Based Summers* is available on [WebJunction](#)
- Keep your eyes peeled for future cohorts! (CSLP 2026)





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