

Youth and Policing in Cleveland

A Discussion Guide for Community & Neighborhood Action

This discussion guide is intended to be used in conjunction with the short [Youth and Policing in Cleveland](#) video. After watching the video together, we encourage groups to consider the following questions to frame the conversation. You should feel free to address the questions in any order and/or to develop your own.

QUESTIONS FOR ADULTS WHO WORK WITH YOUTH

What interactions have you had personally with police? What are some ways you've seen police interact with youth negatively? Positively?

What impact do you believe this policy might have on the youth in your community? What factors will most influence that impact?

The *Interactions with Youth* policy calls for police to explore community options to deter involvement in the juvenile justice system. What options does our organization offer? How might we communicate those to police?

Police officers will be trained in age-appropriate de-escalation techniques as part of the *Interactions with Youth* policy. What de-escalation techniques have you found most effective? How do you share those with colleagues and/or parents?

Research has shown a lack of empathy for young people by some police officers and others in the community. How does our organization promote empathy internally? What other steps can we take to increase empathy for our kids outside our walls?

How can our organization increase awareness of the new CDP policy? Where can we share this video?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUTH & MULTI-GENERATIONAL DISCUSSIONS

After watching the video, which ideas or images stand out most to you? What parts of the story do you connect with? Why?

How have your ideas about police changed as you've grown? What experiences – positive and negative – have you had?

The video talks about “age-appropriate de-escalation techniques,” which means “ways to help kids calm down safely.” What helps you and the kids you know calm down? How can you share those techniques with the grown-ups in your life?

How can you help teach others about the new *Interactions with Youth* policy? Who do you think needs to know about it most?

What would you like police officers to know about you, your friends and your family?