

NOURISHING COMMUNITY: CULTIVATING FELLOWSHIP AND VISION IN YOUTH SERVICES



Part 2: Cultivating the Flavors of Culture

Have you noticed that the most satisfying meals we share are colorful and filled with diverse spices and flavors? That's because it's not just about one ingredient or a single cooking technique, it's the blend of many elements from countries and communities worldwide. Culture(s) provides many colors, spices, and flavors, metaphorically speaking, as we work towards a vision of bringing together responsive approaches and a diversity of options to see and support young people.

Culture and cultural identity provide a sense of belonging, fostering a solid foundation for individuals to feel seen and supported as they navigate life. Cultural norms often emphasize collective responsibility, encouraging community members to collaborate and support one another. Shared values, traditions, and customs within a culture create a supportive network, promoting social cohesion and mutual assistance.

Spend some time answering the following ([yes, in writing](#)):

What roles do culture and cultural identity play in the way you carry out your role?

In your role, what are the opportunities to embrace, integrate, and celebrate the diverse cultures represented in your program community?