**Campaign Steering Committee: Ideal composition**

*The following is a list of considerations in determining the composition of the steering committee to help lead your campaign to close youth prisons in your state*

**(1)** **Size & Capacity:**

* Manageable size (e.g. 10-12 people)
* Active members
* Members willing/able to make a meaningful contribution (time, expertise, financial or in-kind resources)
* Ability to raise or provide resources for Campaign Director/Coordinator & Organizer
* Ability to raise or provide resources to cover time for youth & family members
* Grant funding for each organization to allocate some staff time (e.g. 5-10 hrs/week)

**(2)** **Regional diversity:**

* Organizations that have statewide constituencies
* Local groups from highest sending communities
* Organizations that are grassroots

**(3)** **Racial & ethnic diversity:**

* People of color
* Organizations / People from the most impacted communities

**(4)** **Directly affected people:**

* System / Formerly system involved youth
* Family members who have system / formerly system involved youth

**(5)** **Expertise on policy, legal, budget, & children/youth issues**

* Direct service provider (e.g. Youth Advocate Programs, Southwest Key)
* Youth justice legal expertise (e.g. public defender, legal aid)
* Youth justice policy expertise
* Budget group (e.g. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities affiliate)
* Children’s group (e.g. Kids Count organization)
* **Note**: The steering committee does not need all these groups but the broader coalition should include groups that represent all of these key constituencies: racial justice & civil rights, faith, health, mental health, education, disability rights, students, parents. See *Campaign Coalition Membership Checklist* for more suggestions.