



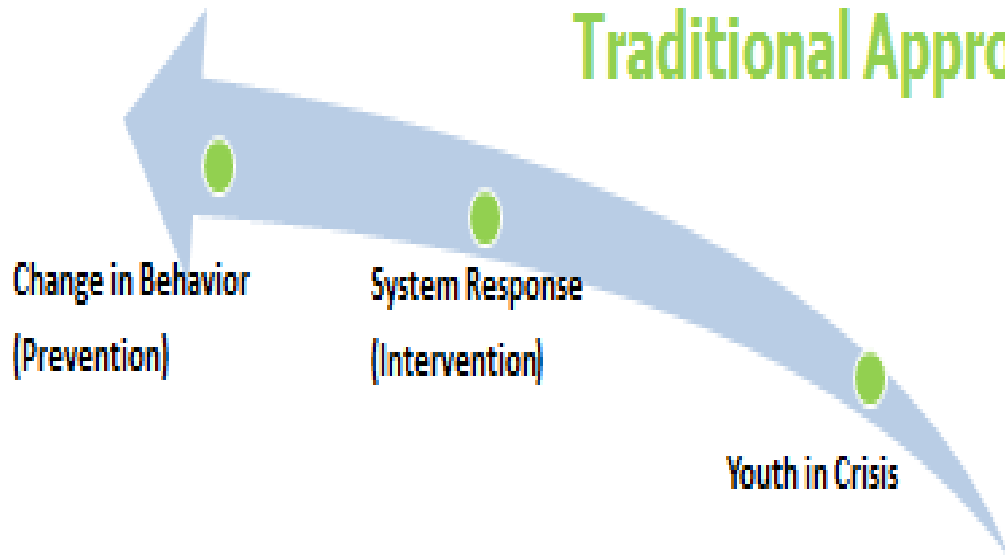
## **How Do We Want to Work with Young Adults Involved in the Criminal Justice System?**

### **A Youth Development Approach**

**Presented by the Youth Development Institute, January 2014**

- **A Traditional Approach vs. Youth Development Approach to Working with Young Adults**
- **Youth Development Framework**
- **Theoretical Definition of Youth Development**
- **Practical Definition of Youth Development**
- **Core Concepts of Youth Development**

## Traditional Approach

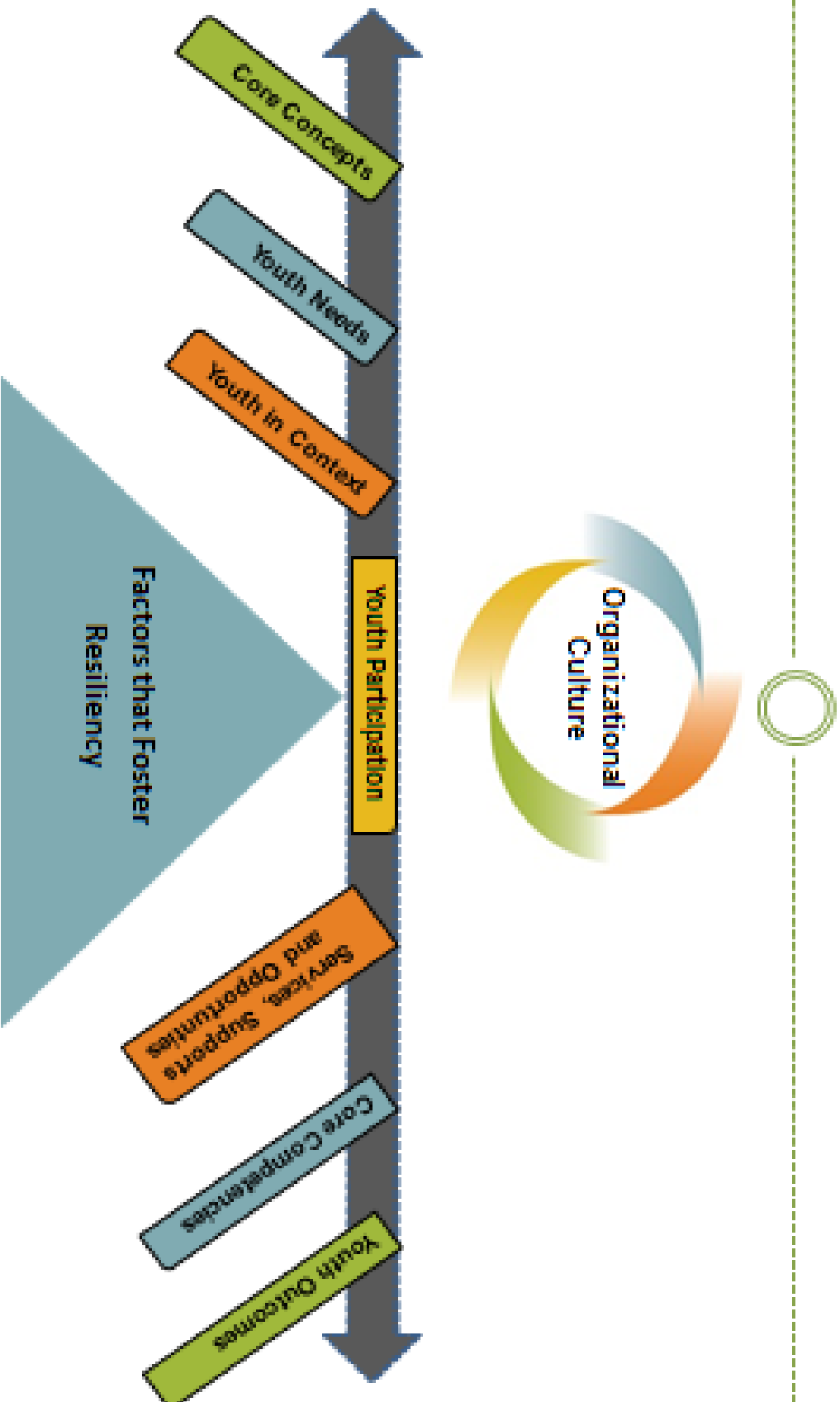


## Positive Youth Development



*Adapted from Karen Pittman*

# Youth Development Framework: The Full Picture



# Theoretical Definition of Youth Development

## Youth Development

Youth development can be defined as “a process by which youth develop the personal, social, academic, and citizenship competencies necessary for adolescence and adult life based on their capacities, strengths, and formative needs.”

- From the Advancing Youth Development Curriculum, Academy for Educational Development/Center for Youth Development and Policy Research.

Source: Health Resources in Action  
<http://www.youthworkcentral.org/youth-development.html>

## **Practical Definition of Youth Development**

Youth Development is an approach that:

- Engages youth as resources, not simply recipients of services
- Focuses on strengthening youth, not attempting to “fix” them
- Recognizes that preventing problems does not by itself promote development
- Ensures that youth are included as part of planning and decision-making processes
- Defines goals (outcomes) based on capacities, strengths and needs of youth.

***Youth Development Supports the Power of Young People***

Source: Health Resources in Action  
<http://www.youthworkcentral.org/youth-development.html>

## **Core Concepts of Youth Development**

- Youth development is a shared responsibility between families, schools, organizations that serve and work with youth, and youth themselves.
- Every young person has a basic motivation towards independence and self-actualization.
- All young people can grow and develop.
- Youth development is active not passive; it places the value on making intentional connections with youth.
- Youth development is strength-based not deficit based.
- Families and/or other personal connections are essential to supporting healthy youth.