

Tailoring social needs and social support screeners for young adults

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Kyra is a current marketing student at Georgia State University.

She collaborated on the PARTNERme project with Visible Network Labs as a Social Support Fellow.

Presently, she is a RISE Fellow, a non-profit created by student advocates for free college and student loan relief, and she mobilizes her peers to make informed voting practices for their future.



**Kyra
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Youth Social Support
Research Fellow

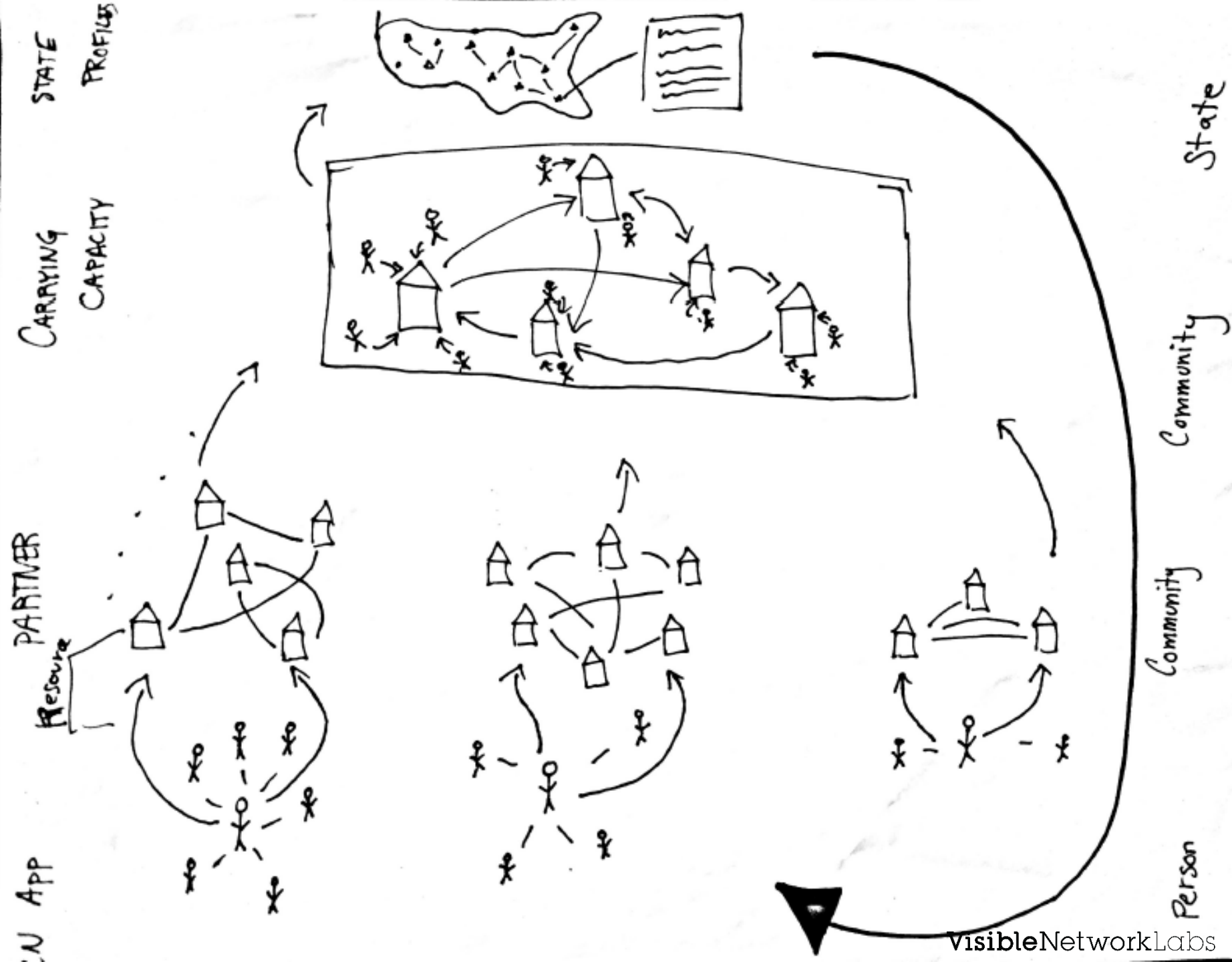
Visible Network Labs

Visible
Network
Labs



Make Invisible
Networks Visible

Network Science as a Unique Lens on Social Connectedness

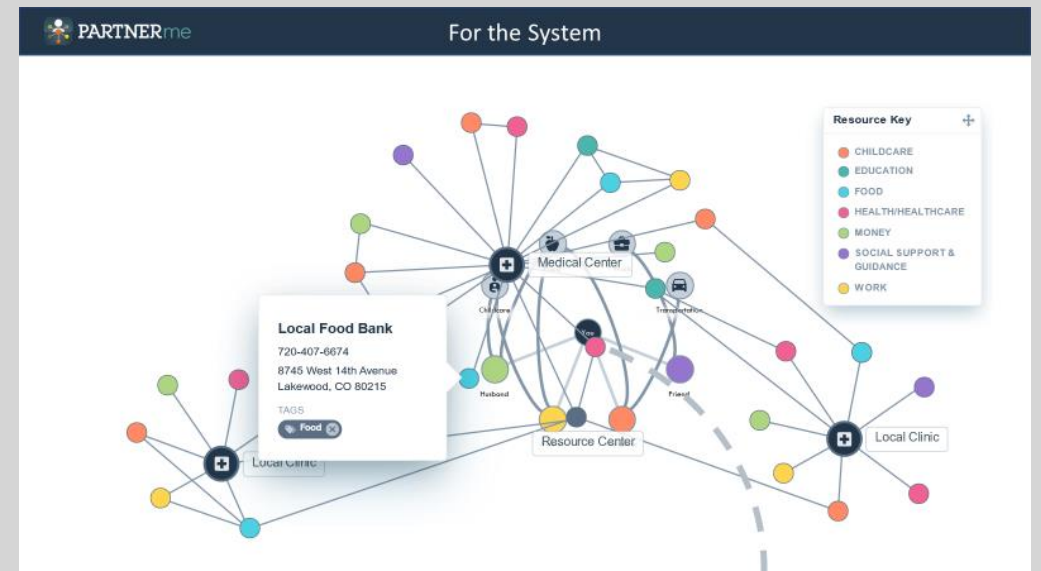
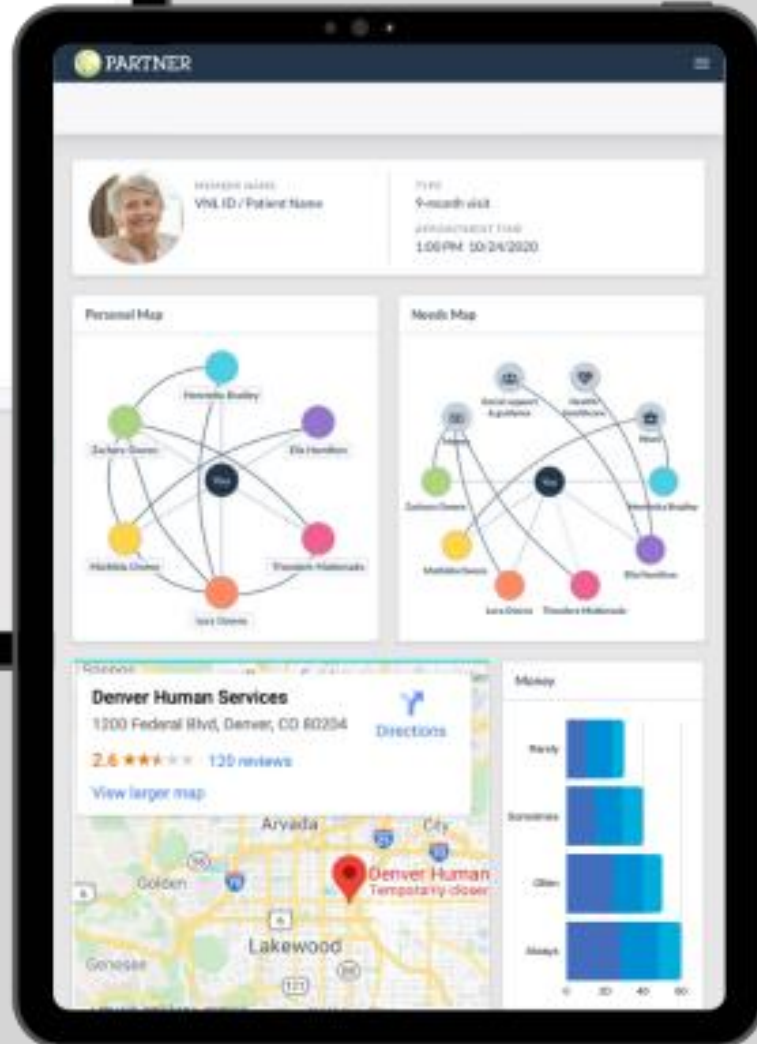




PARTNERme
Person-Centered Network Tool

Social Needs/Social Connectedness
Screeners to Link People to Resources

www.visiblenetworklabs.com/partnerme



Youth Social Support Research Fellowship

Adolescent Connectedness



Youth Connectedness Is an Important Protective Factor for Health and Well-being



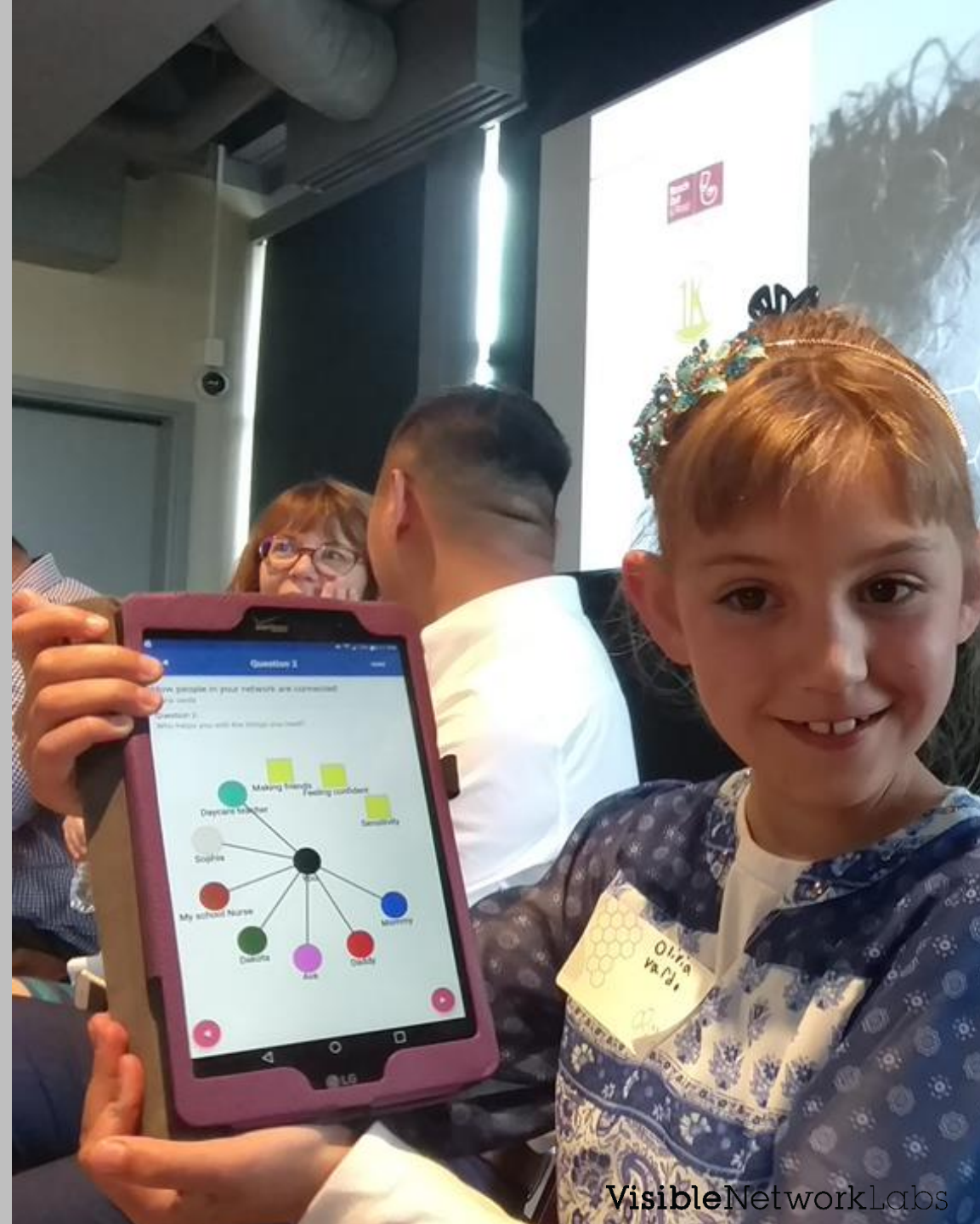
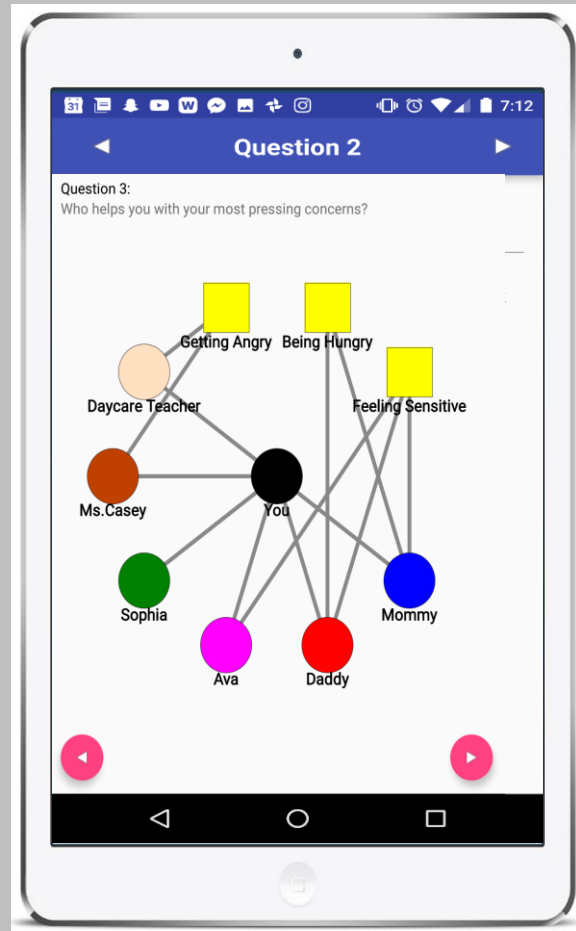
PARTNERme

Person-Centered Network Tool

kids version

Question 2:
What are the things that you need help with?

School Work	<input type="checkbox"/>
Confidence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting Angry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Being Hungry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Feeling Sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Being Bullied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issues at Home	<input type="checkbox"/>
Following Rules	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trouble Understanding Others	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trouble Talking to Others	<input type="checkbox"/>
Making Friends	<input type="checkbox"/>
Talking About My Feelings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feeling Safe	<input type="checkbox"/>





The Annie E. Casey Foundation develops solutions to build a brighter future for children, families and communities.

<https://visiblenetworklabs.com/social-support-research-fellowship/>

Youth Social Support Research Fellowship Resources

The Youth Social Support Research Fellowship seeks to create insights into the ways young people think about, build, and leverage support networks and relationships. By better understanding this unique perspective on social connectedness, we can build improved tools for measuring and strengthening support networks for youth. Learn more about our project, our team of fellows, and the resources we've created below.

[Explore our Resources >](#)

[Meet the Fellows >](#)

Fellowship Resources, Articles, & Tools

Strengthening Social Connectedness Among Young People: A Solution to the Mental Health Crisis?

This article discusses the role of social connectedness as a component of the ongoing youth mental health crisis in the United States.

[Read more >](#)

Two-Page Project Brief: How Do Young People View Social Connectedness and Access Resources?

This short Project Brief includes a high-level overview of our findings from our first semester of research with our Social Support Research Fellows.

[Read more >](#)

Full Project Summary Report: How Young Adults View Social Connectedness and Access Resources

This detailed Summary Report provides an in-depth overview of our findings from our first semester of research with our Social Support Research Fellows.

[Read more >](#)

Youth Social Support Research Fellowship

Background

- Joining the Fellowship

How we got started

- Learning About New Concepts
 - Social Connectedness
 - Network Science



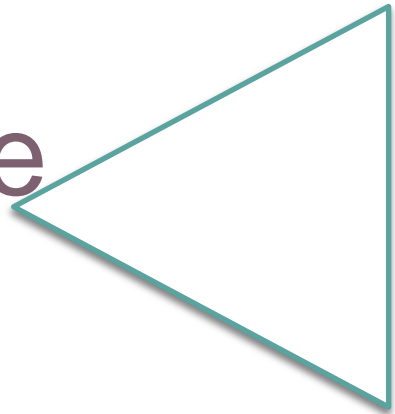
Doing the Research

Designing the Research

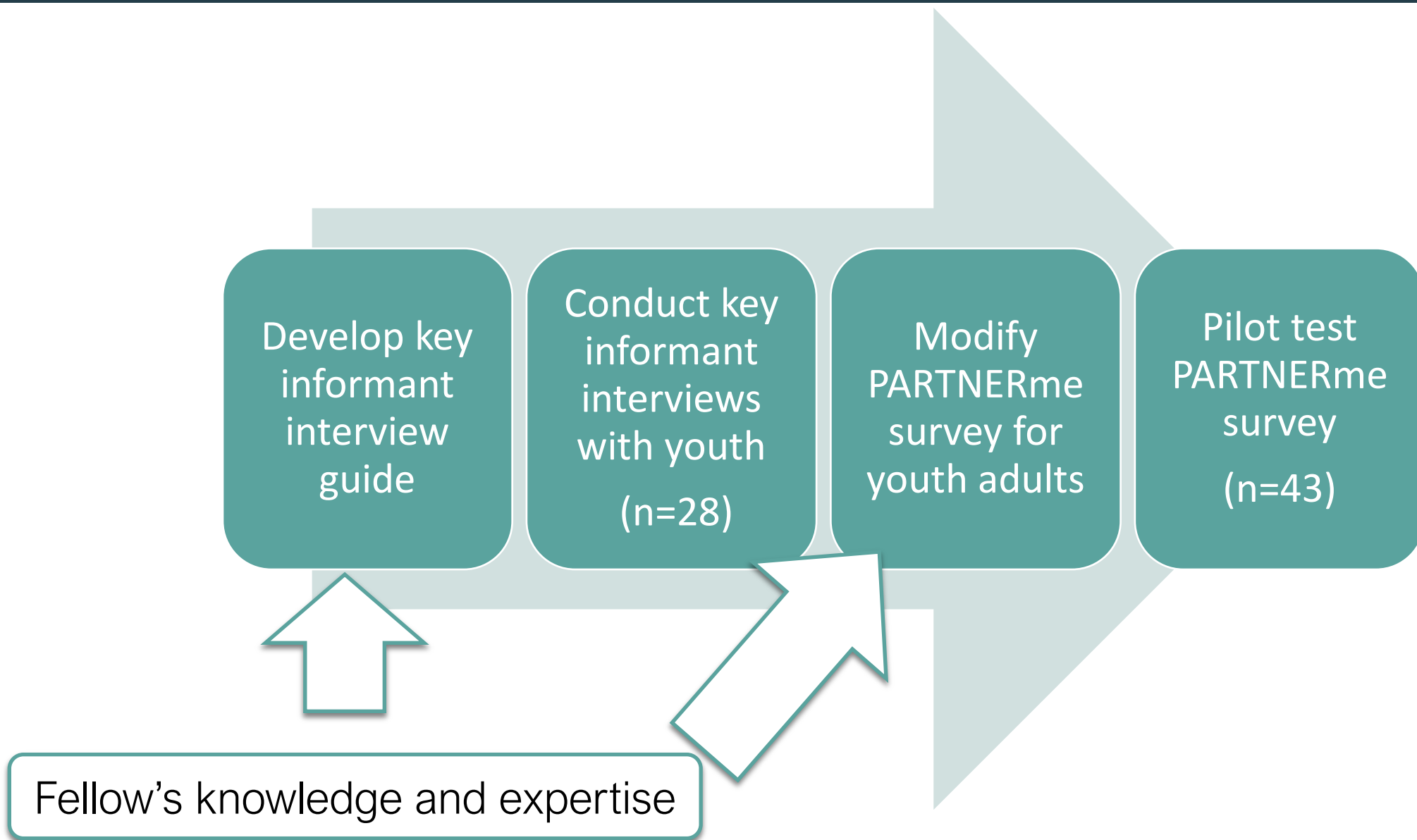
- Picking questions and methods
- Focus on being inclusive

What we learned about collecting data

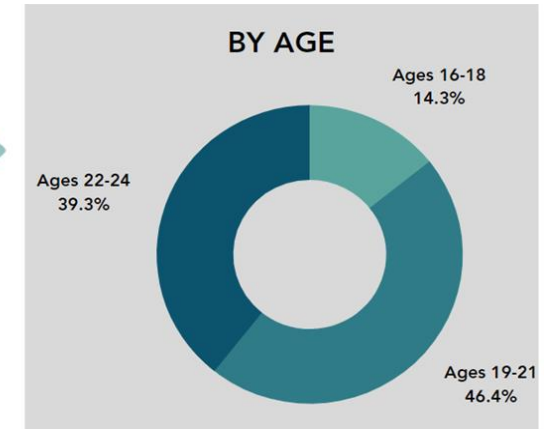
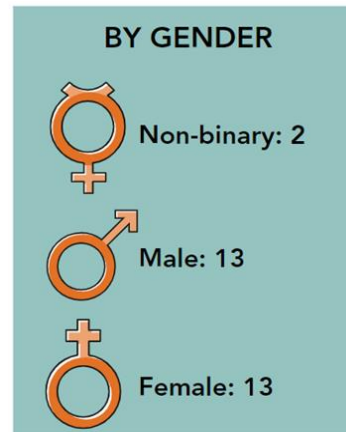
- Before: Hard to get people to participate



Overall Methods



Qualitative Methods



- The fellows collaborated with the VNL team provided a list of that measures social connectedness for young adults
- We recruited young adults ages 14-24 from various backgrounds through personal circles, affiliated organizations, and social media. We compensated their time with \$10 gift cards

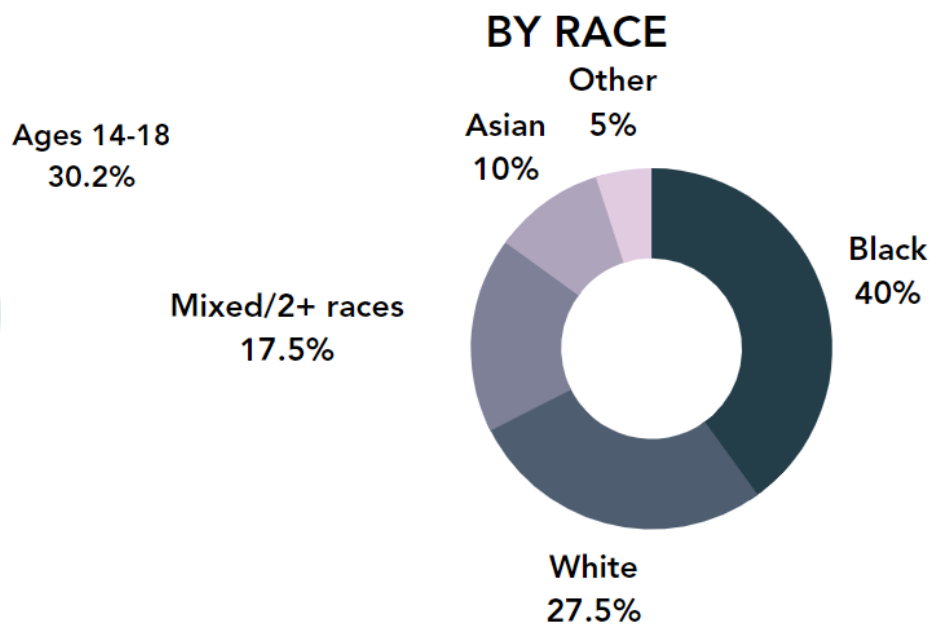
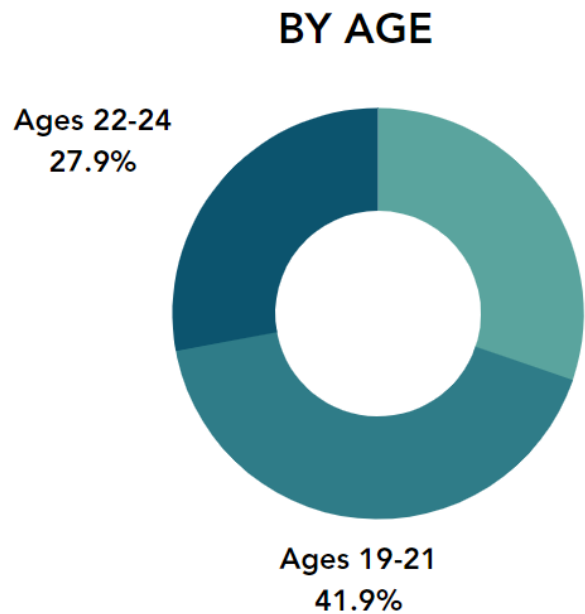
The qualitative research took place from August 9th-August 27. Interviews took place over zoom and in person.

Quantitative Methods

- Participants were young adults in the US aged 14-24
- Participants recruited by fellows, VNL, and youth organizations
- Survey administered between November 2021 and December 2021
- Participants compensated with a \$10 gift card upon survey completion
- Open-ended questions about social connectedness

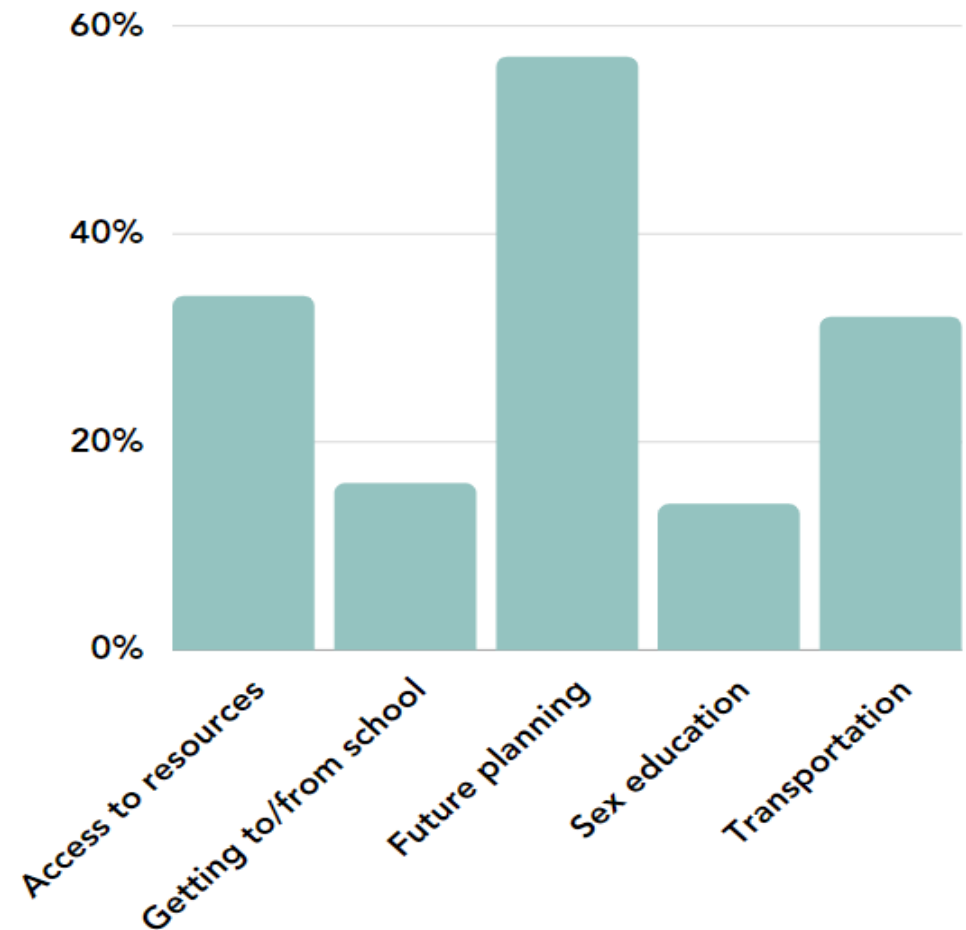
Participant demographics

- 43 participants from Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina
- 63% women, 20% men, 17% non-binary, genderqueer, questioning or no response



Self-Reported Areas in which Young Adults Needed Help

- Gender differences
 - Twice as many women as men identified future planning as a need
- Racial differences
 - 75% of black youth identified future planning as a need compared to 27% of white youth
 - 72% of white youth identified transportation as a need compared to 28% of mixed-race youth and 25% of black youth



Areas where white youth reported receiving more help than youth of color



Anxiety

Youth of Color	White Youth
56%	72%



Depression

Youth of Color	White Youth
6%	72%

Areas where white youth and youth of color report receiving similar levels of help



Dating/Relationship conflict

Youth of Color	White Youth
10%	9%



Worried about Paying Bills

Youth of Color	White Youth
10%	9%

35% of youth of color indicated none of these were areas they needed help with



Reflections and Learnings

Reflections on Results

- Youth of color socialized to not ask for help vs. their white peers
- Talking about mental health, encouragement to “be strong”, sharing is not really supported
- Focus on and value financial needs, basic necessities, housing, food insecurities, as well as future, career, school
- Rising epidemic of suicide among black men; video – many older black men do not have family, burned bridges, no family in their corner
- Youth tended to feel stigmatized for asking for help because they don't like feeling judged and they needed to build trust

Learnings

- Our assumptions are not always right
- Need to authentically ask and listen to people



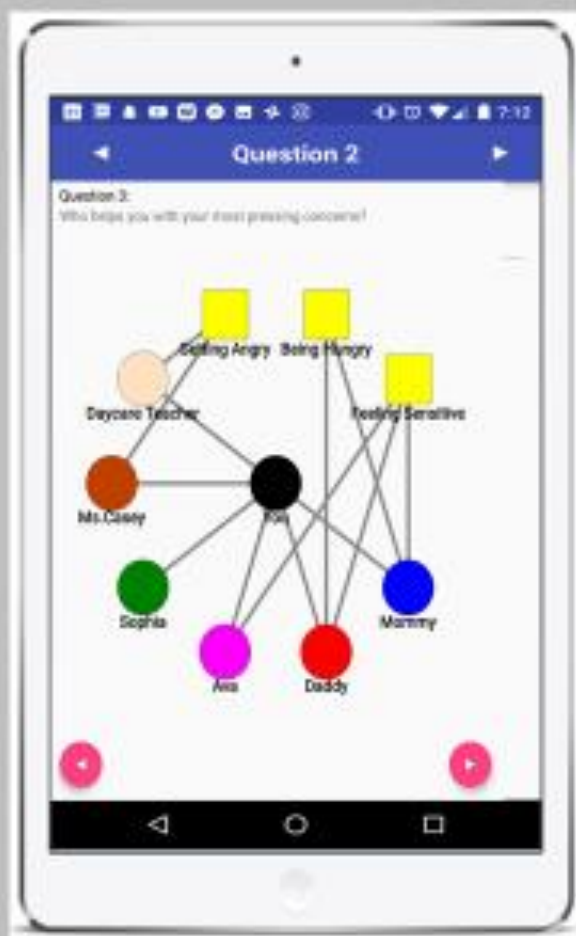
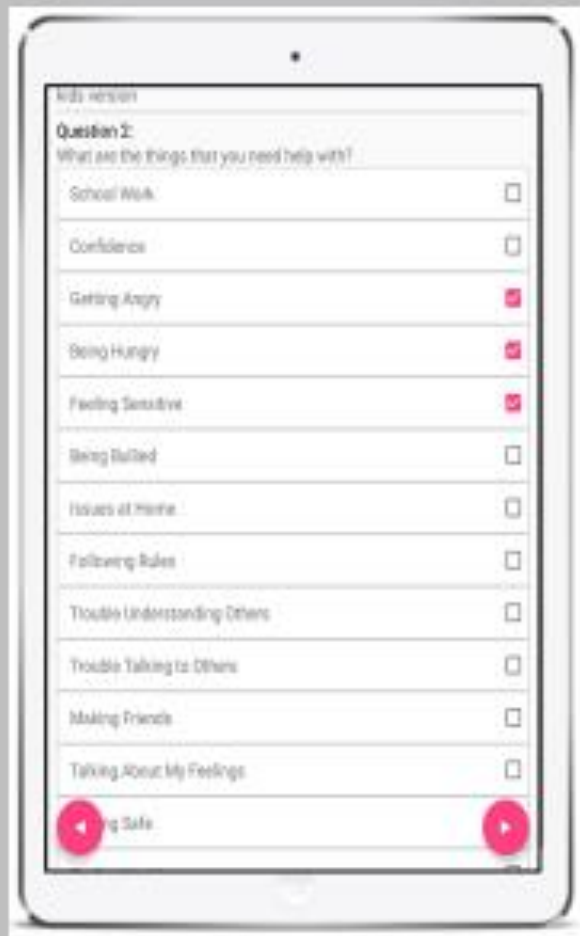
Insights we gained pilot testing PARTNERme

What we've learned so far



PARTNERme

A Person-Centered Network Tool



PARTNERme Feedback from Youth

- Added new categories being addressed
 - grief
 - alcohol use
 - substance use
 - larger societal and systemic issues like systemic racism
- Clarified household structure
- Added additional relationship dimension
 - comfort in asking for help/support
- Some had difficulties with drawing the maps
- 84% considered PARTNERme easy to understand

Next Steps: Exploring Use Cases

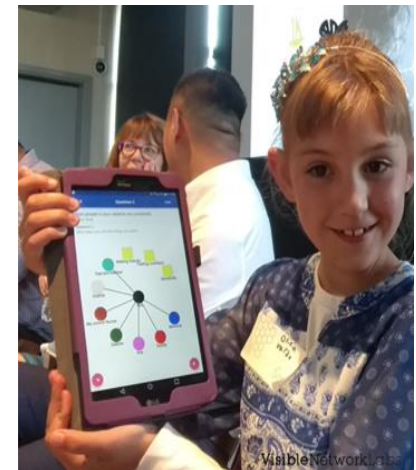
Use Cases:

- Apprentice of Peace Youth Organization
- Girls Inc

PARTNERme Development

- Continuing to modify the screener questions based on feedback
- Considering UX/UI modifications for youth
- Building out an evidence-based/age-appropriate resource database (with existing services/resources)

Find out more: <https://visiblenetworklabs.com/partnerme/>



Questions/Ideas?



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Thank you!