

# NW RISE PROJECT

## FAQ: YOUR VOICE, YOUR FUTURE

### **What is this focus group actually about?**

We aren't here to sign you up for a program or give you a lecture. We are here because the leaders of Northwest Connecticut realize they don't have all the answers. We want to hear from you about what it really takes to become independent, find a good career, and thrive in this area. You tell us what's working and what's standing in your way.

### **Why do you want to talk to me?**

Because you have "lived experience." You know the reality of living in the Litchfield Hills/NW CT area better than any person sitting in an office. Whether you've struggled with school, finding a job, or just feeling like you don't fit into the "system," your perspective is exactly what we need to build something better.

### **What do I get for showing up?**

- **A Seat at the Table:** Your ideas go directly to the President and CEO of Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board to help shape future jobs and services in our region.
- **Food:** We'll have food and snacks available for everyone during the discussion.
- **A Shared Mission:** You'll meet other young people from the area who want to see things change for the better.

### **Is this going to be boring?**

No "death by PowerPoint" here. It's a small group conversation (usually 6–10 people). We'll ask a few big questions, and the rest of the time is yours to talk. You don't have to dress up, and you don't have to prepare anything.

### **Is this confidential? (Will I get in trouble for being honest?)**

No. We aren't reporting back to the police, the court, or social services. We take notes on what is said, but we don't put your name on it. Your honesty is what makes this work, so we protect your privacy 100%.

### **What if I don't have a ride?**

Don't let a lack of a car stop you. Let us know when you sign up, and we can help arrange a ride, provide a gas card, or set up a bus pass for you.

### **Can I bring my kid?**

If you are a young parent and childcare is a barrier, let us know! We can make arrangements in the facility for you to participate.