

# The Ecosystem Plan's Sense-making and Strategy Roles

Translating Insights from Listening Sessions into Strategic Design Priorities



The Ecosystem Plan relies on multiple roles working together to review, interpret, and make meaning of the information emerging from listening sessions across the field. The goal of this work is to translate what we are hearing about the youth-serving ecosystem into clear, generative strategic priorities for the Ecosystem plan.

The **Sense-making and Strategy Roles** outlined below provide different pathways for contributing to this process. Each role supports the collective effort to analyze insights, identify patterns, and elevate the experiences and needs of those most impacted by statewide decisions.

Participation in any one pathway is enough, and contributions made outside of meetings are equally valued.

*Thank you for the many ways you support this collective design process.*

## Role: Listening Strategy Implementer

### What this role does:

Implements a **Listening Strategy** from the toolkit with youth, families, workforce or community based organizations and/or cross sector partnerships. *Listening Strategy Toolkit will be released at the Ecosystem Advisory Convening on **March 18, 2026**.*

### Time and energy range:

- **March:** preparing for the listening strategy using the toolkit and intentional action planning.
- **April-July 2026:** Facilitate/co-facilitate your self-selected listening strategy with your sphere of influence.
- Submit reflections, notes, or artifacts from each listening strategy session using the **Toolkit's identified Feedback Loop process** (Google Form).

### How it shapes the Ecosystem Plan:

Ensures the plan is **informed by healing centered engagement** in real contexts, not only centralized processes. The data from listening sessions will be translated into statewide strategic direction intentions and priorities in the Ecosystem Plan.

### This role does not:

Require you to be an expert in data collection methods. *Watch **Decolonizing Data Workshop recording** for more information, learning and affirmation.*

## Role: Listening Strategy Sense-maker

### What this role does:

Reviews quotes, themes, and visuals from listening sessions and shares reflections on what feels most urgent, including repeating themes, quotes, or stories.

### Helps decode the following questions:

- What's showing up across places or groups?
- What feels urgent right now?
- What the system needs? (skills, conditions or supports, powershifts being asked for, tensions or contradictions to hold)

### Time and energy range:

- **Light**, flexible engagement.
- **30-60 minutes** at a time.
- Regular **scheduled** meetings, **asynchronous** assignments.

### How it shapes the Ecosystem Plan:

Helps **interpret patterns and meaning** emerging from statewide listening efforts and grounds goals and strategic priorities in lived experiences and regional contexts. This includes centering the perspectives of:

- those most **impacted** by statewide decisions,
- those **responsible** for translating statewide priorities into place-based practices,
- and those who are most often **left out** of decision-making and planning spaces.

### This role does not:

- Would not be responsible for drafting or editing full sections of Ecosystem Plan.
- Would not be asked to synthesize all the data or resolve conflicting perspectives.
- Would not be expected to represent an entire region, sector or organization.
- Require you to be an expert in data collection methods.

### Role: Strategic Priority Steward

#### What this role does:

Translates listening data into strategy for one priority area using insights from the 2025 EXLD data and the 2026 listening session data. Participants join a **small steward circle** and focus on a **single** priority area:

1. Youth, Family, and Community Voice + Power;
2. Thriving Workforce and Conditions for Care;
3. Collaborative Partnerships + Community Systems;
4. Healing-Centered, Culturally Rooted Quality Programs;
5. Policy, Funding, and Systems Alignment; or
6. Emerging Priorities.

#### Time and energy range:

- **April-August 2026:** medium engagement through attendance of scheduled **Advisory and Design Team** meetings and **asynchronous** assignments.

#### How it shapes the Ecosystem Plan:

Your feedback **directly shapes the structure, language and strategic priorities in years 1-3 for the Ecosystem Plan**, ensuring that Youth, Family, and Community Voice and Power are key tenets in each strategic priority included in the ExL strategic design plan.

#### This role does not:

- This role does not require representing a group or having all the answers.
- Would not be responsible for drafting or editing full sections of Ecosystem Plan.



### Role: Draft Review Translator

#### What this role does:

This role helps ensure the plan is understandable, usable and culturally grounded. Participants may review select excerpts, summaries or visuals.

#### Time and energy range:

- **Multiple ways to engage:** timebound, focused, and asynchronous.
- **September** virtual meeting.

#### How it shapes the Ecosystem Plan:

Your feedback brings regional, sector, and role-based insights, helping ensure the plan remains **clear, grounded, and accessible** rather than overly abstract or insider-focused.

#### This role does not:

Would not be responsible for drafting or editing full sections of Ecosystem Plan.

## Get Involved!

Scan the QR Codes to fill out the forms to select how you want to participate in this phase of the Ecosystem Plan:



*Sense-Making and Strategy Role Form*



*Listening Strategy Interest and Readiness Form*