

Examples of Youth Involvement

Youth involvement means that young people influence processes, decisions, and activities which affect their lives and the lives of others in their community or organization. Youth involvement can take many different forms. The following examples are based on the experiences of ACT for Youth community partnerships. The ACT for Youth initiative has promoted positive youth development in New York State since 2000 (for more details see www.actforyouth.net).

Young people involved in planning, implementing and evaluating projects in organizations or community:

- Youth plan and implement community beautification projects (playgrounds, community gardens, plant trees)
- Youth plan and organize a neighborhood block party or community fest (intergenerational activities, promoting neighborhood safety)
- Young people develop and present education programs on youth development
- Young people engage in mentoring of young youth (develop, recruit and implement mentoring program)

Young people provide input and consultation on issues that affect young people:

- Young people develop and produce public relations material promoting youth development messages (poster for buses, TV public announcement, newspaper articles)
- Young people speak out on issues affecting them in school and community to town boards, school boards and state legislators (e.g. school attendance policies, design of new library wing)
- Youth develop and implement assessments (surveys, photos, interviews) of organizations and communities to raise awareness about their concerns (e.g., state of recreational facilities, neighborhood safety, access to guns)
- Youth provide input on program development (focus/advisory groups)

Young people share leadership with adults:

- Young people are voting members on board of directors
 - Youth are involved in developing community grant proposals and deciding about allocations
 - Young people are involved in hiring decisions (hiring committee of youth serving organizations)
 - Young people and adults co-chair community councils committed to promoting youth development opportunities and supports in their community (resulting in community events, community improvement projects, teen center)
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