

A CHECKLIST FOR POLICY AND DECISION MAKERS:



WAYS TO INCORPORATE POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES INTO PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT YOUTH IN REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL:

POLICY AND DECISION MAKERS CAN SUPPORT YOUTH IN REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL BY DEVELOPING POLICIES AND PRACTICES (E.G., MISSIONS, MANAGERIAL PRACTICES, JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND PERFORMANCE GOALS) THAT SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE:

- Knowledge and ongoing training on positive youth development principles and strategies, including strengths-based programming, effective youth and family engagement, youth-adult partnerships, cultural responsiveness and inclusion of all youth, sustainability and collaboration.
- Space and time for building diverse cultural relationships and connections such as learning circles and inclusivity trainings.
- Intentional engagement of youth with diverse backgrounds, such as youth with varying developmental disabilities, youth in military families, and gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender youth in positive youth development efforts.
- Inclusion of a realistic sustainability plan as part of every strategic planning process.
- Coordination and collaboration to increase efficiency and produce better outcomes for youth and their families.
- Low student-adult ratios in classrooms, after-school programs and community-based organizations so that adults can devote the necessary time to build meaningful relationships with youth.
- Partnerships with state and local transportation providers to address the lack of transportation that disenfranchises youth across the state from engaging in positive community opportunities.
- Expansion of the traditional school day and/or year by partnering with community organizations, which could provide before and after school programming on their campuses.

- Blending and braiding of funding to increase cost-effectiveness and coordination of services that incorporate positive youth development strategies.
- Enticing businesses to support and offer communitywide and affordable youth and family events and programs.
- Increasing culturally appropriate mental and behavioral health services that are affordable and accessible for all youth.

POLICY AND DECISION MAKERS CAN SUPPORT YOUTH IN REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL BY ADVOCATING FOR:

- The implementation of a strengths-based approach.
- Diverse youth and family engagement and partnership.
- Refraining from labeling youth as “at-risk.” Instead, develop policies and practices that support population-based, primary prevention programs that incorporate positive youth development principles.

POLICY AND DECISION MAKERS CAN SUPPORT YOUTH IN REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL BY PARTICIPATING IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND TRAININGS ON:

- Utilizing a strengths-based approach.
- Engaging and partnering with youth and families, so they can effectively partner with them when developing policies that affect their lives.
- Participating in cultural responsiveness trainings and learning circles so they may identify opportunities where policies and practices can be enhanced.

To learn more about Positive Youth Development, visit www.healthyouthcolorado.org