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- COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION
- 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
- YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
- YOUTH SERVICES PROVIDER NETWORK

www.ccyouthdev.org

CCYD

California

Collaborative for Youth Development

WHO ARE WE?

We are a group of public and non-profit organizations committed to positive Youth Development. We support government, systems and institutions in adopting pro-youth policies in California. We encourage the re-establishment of a Joint Select Committee on Family, Child and Youth Development that could ensure that youth in California have integrated services based on Youth Development principles, evidence, practices and outcomes across systems.

Overview

What is Youth Development?

Youth Development focuses on young people's capacities, strengths and developmental needs.

- It is not a program; it is an inevitable ongoing process.
- It supports young people to obtain social, emotional, ethical, physical, and cognitive competencies.
- It is distinguished from non Youth Development models in that the focus is on the strengths young people bring to interactions of all kinds.
- It addresses the broad developmental assets all young people need.
- Youth Development programs prepare young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood through a structured, progressive series of activities and experiences which help them obtain social, emotional, ethical, physical and cognitive competencies.
- Youth Development programs address the broader developmental outcomes of all children and youth (such as caring relationships, safe places and activities, health and mental health, workplace skills,

and opportunities for service and civic participation), in contrast to deficit-based approaches which focus solely on youth as problems.

Why is Youth Development Policy Critical to California?

Studies have found that young people that participated in programs using Youth Development principles tend to:

- Have higher school attendance.
- Have fewer course failures.
- Have higher graduation rates.
- Participate more often in civic issues in their communities.
- Have less involvement in other "option limiting behavior" like drug and alcohol use, unprotected sex, violence or school drop out rates.

What is CDE's View on Youth Development Principles and Practices?

The California Department of Education (CDE) is very much in support of the Youth Development approach. In "What Does Getting Results Say About Youth Development?" a fact sheet produced by CDE, it stated that: "Many effective prevention programs use youth development principles. For elementary aged children, those programs focus on building interpersonal skills, pro-social attitudes and behaviors, and autonomy and self-direction. For middle and high school students, the programs emphasize improving decision-making skills and increasing school bonding experiences."

WHO SUPPORTS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY?

A wide variety of state and local civic organizations, community based organizations and institutions are supporting Youth Development policy.

- Seeing youth as a resource and powerful partners in community.
- Advocating for special attention to disconnected and marginalized youth.
- Promoting a holistic approach to preparing youth for productive and engaged adulthood.
- Providing youth with opportunities to develop leadership skills and assume leadership roles.
- Advocating for establishment of a Joint Select Committee.

Where Can I Get More Information About the California Collaborative for Youth Development?

www.ccyouthdev.org

WHAT GOVERNMENT AND PHILANTHROPY CAN DO IN SUPPORT OF THE EMERGING FIELD OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

where are the funding streams?

Despite some movement in public policy, such as the Osborne Legislation, funding streams have not yet been redirected away from categorical, problem-oriented, deficit based approaches and programs. Policymakers and funders need to understand the importance of holistic youth development strategies and profession-building activities. Policy makers need to understand we will not be able to turn the tide without re-allocating resources and demanding strategies that engage young people, work at systems and policy change levels, are dedicated for the long haul and work across systems and programs providing supports and opportunities for young people in communities.

For additional information contact: **Bernie Davitto 916.421.2874 or Maureen Sedonaen 415.836.9160**