



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Family and Youth Services Bureau



Positive Youth Development

An Introduction



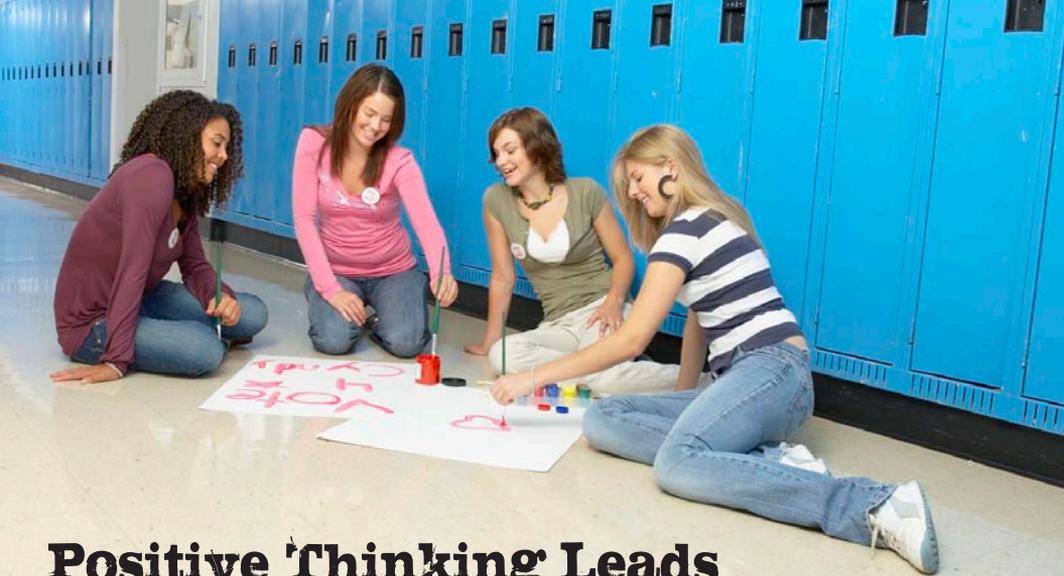
Positive Youth Development



From organizing fundraisers to cleaning up parks, groups of young people in every city and town across the country are engaged in both national and grassroots efforts to enrich their neighborhoods, their schools, and their futures.

Though they may not know it, these youth embody a philosophy embraced by many community members and policymakers: Positive Youth Development (PYD).

Proponents of PYD say that through the support of caring adults, these young people are gaining self confidence, trust, and practical knowledge – qualities that will help them grow up happy, healthy, and self sufficient.



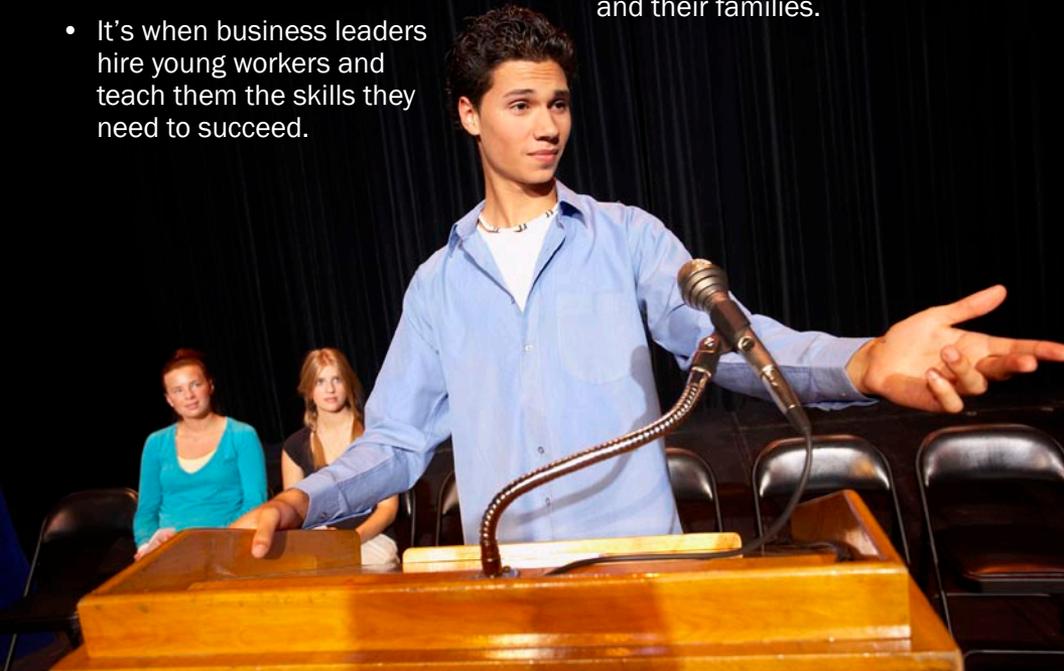
Positive Thinking Leads to Positive Results

When society harnesses the positive energy and initiative of youth, good things happen:

- Youth believe they can be successful instead of internalizing the negative stereotypes about them that often appear in the media.
- Youth engage in productive activities that build job and life skills and reinforce community connections.
- Youth grow comfortable questioning and exploring their roles as citizens in a participatory democracy.

PYD Takes Many Forms

- It's when parents collaborate with their children on setting household rules and curfews.
- It's when teachers and school administrators really listen to students' thoughts and concerns about school life and culture.
- It's when business leaders hire young workers and teach them the skills they need to succeed.
- It's when community leaders work with young people to build neighborhood drop-in centers or to organize sports leagues.
- It's when policymakers invite youth to weigh in on the legislation that affects them and their families.



Simple Ways To Get Started

- Ask a young person's opinion.
- Give a young person a job.
- Teach a young person a skill you know.
- Share your passion for computers, music, sports, cooking, sewing, model airplanes – you get the idea.
- Help young people raise money for community projects they design.
- Dispel negative stereotypes by telling other adults about the great young people you know.



Who's Supporting PYD at the Federal Level

The Family and Youth Services Bureau
↳ www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb

America's Promise Alliance
↳ www.americaspromise.org

FindYouthInfo.gov
↳ www.findyouthinfo.gov

And many Federal partners within the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, Education, Agriculture, Interior, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, and Labor, as well as the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Who's Practicing PYD Near You

For an easy way to start practicing PYD in your community, join a local chapter of one of these national organizations:

4-H
↳ www.4-h.org

Big Brothers Big
Sisters of America
↳ www.bbbs.org

Boy Scouts of America
↳ www.scouting.org

Boys and Girls Clubs
of America
↳ www.bgca.org

Camp Fire USA
↳ www.campfireusa.org

A directory of programs for youth is available at
↳ www.findyouthinfo.gov

National Association
of Youth Courts
↳ www.youthcourt.net

Girl Scouts of the USA
↳ www.girlscouts.org

The YMCA
↳ www.ymca.net

YouthBuild USA
↳ www.youthbuild.org



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For more information about PYD, contact NCFY.

NCFY

P.O. Box 13505
Silver Spring, MD 20911-3505
(301) 608-8098
(301) 608-8721 (fax)

ncfy@acf.hhs.gov
ncfy.acf.hhs.gov

