

GET COMMUNITY PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

The adults around us don't know what all we can do. For that matter, they don't even know what they can do. We need to start working together.

Here are some ideas:

- Develop local public awareness campaigns – use billboards, posters, TV and radio, the printed media. Work with local media to shift their focus from the negative to the positive in terms of their reporting about youth.
- Strengthen local collaborations and partnerships that involve youth organizations, the schools, PTAs, local government, civic organizations, employers, the faith community, universities and colleges, parents and youth.
- Train these partnerships in assets-based goal development, needs assessment, resource mapping, program planning, fundraising, proposal development, and evaluation.
- Promote civic involvement and responsibility; encourage youth to register and vote; develop community organized service projects.
- Push for more local funding and other support of positive youth development efforts.
- Promote the use of school and other community buildings for youth programs and activities at hours when youth can use them; develop integrated and intergenerational school/community activities.

- Provide transportation to youth activities and programs, either free or at low cost, so that transportation is available to everyone.



LINKS TO ACTION

Contact your local Public Health Office and the statewide New Mexico Partnership for Healthier Communities (505-224-7722) to find out what coalitions and groups are working in your community. They can also help find training resources to meet your community's needs.

Contact your city or town council and make an appointment to discuss how young people can learn about local government and get involved in community service and advocacy.

Get to know your local media (radio, newspaper, TV), invite them to youth events, push for positive coverage.

Visit the school district office and other public agencies. Inquire about the use of their buildings and vehicles for youth and community events.

Big Brothers Big Sisters – 7 sites throughout New Mexico that provides opportunities for community people to mentor young people.
505-837-9223 or www.swcp.com/bbbs-cnm