

Office of Youth Development



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The *Office of Youth Development* (OYD) was created to design, coordinate, and promote innovative strategies to advance *youth development*. These strategies cut across all disciplines at the state and local levels. The goal is for **all** New York State youth to reach their full potential and become healthy, productive adults.

The *Office of Youth Development* supports and funds programs and initiatives that enable youth to build on their strengths. It supports programs that provide opportunities for youth to gain important life skills and core competencies, and that allow youth to have meaningful roles in their communities. *Youth development* initiatives benefit young people in their homes and neighborhoods, in schools, as well as in foster care and residential treatment.

Partnership is key. The *Office of Youth Development* staff work collaboratively within OCFS and with other state agencies, youth bureaus, local governments, contract agencies, schools, public and private organizations, the faith-based community, and with young people and their families.

The *Office of Youth Development* is an active member of the Partners for Children, a state-level public/private partnership focused on positive outcomes for New York State youth.

Regional Staff

Regional youth development specialists and coordinators work with communities to plan and achieve positive *youth development* opportunities. In that role, they:

- ◆ **Administer Funding**
 - ◆ Youth Development/ Delinquency Prevention (YDDP)
 - ◆ Special Delinquency Prevention Programs (SDPP)
 - ◆ Runaway & Homeless Youth Act (RHYA)
 - ◆ Other Special Initiatives
- ◆ **Support County Planning**
 - ◆ County Comprehensive Planning
 - ◆ Integrated County Planning
- ◆ **Provide Training and Technical Assistance** directly and collaboratively with:
 - ◆ Association of New York State Youth Bureaus (ANYSYB)
 - ◆ AmeriCorps Programs
 - ◆ New York State Police Juvenile Officers Association
 - ◆ New York State Recreation and Parks Society
 - ◆ Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)
 - ◆ Empire State Coalition
 - ◆ Community-based Organizations
 - ◆ Local Governments
 - ◆ Schools

The Office of Children and Family Services, through its *Office of Youth Development*, works in collaboration with the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, the NYS Department of Health, ANYSYB and CCE to provide statewide *youth development* training partnerships including:

- ◆ Advancing Youth Development (AYD)
- ◆ Communities That Care (CTC)
- ◆ Search Institute “Healthy Youth/Healthy Communities”

Advantage After-School Program

The Advantage After-School Program was created by Governor George E. Pataki to provide quality *youth development* programs for youth after school. Studies have found that children who attend quality after-school programs avoid risky behavior and have better school grades and conduct, peer relations and emotional adjustment. Funding is provided to local community-based organizations for programs that demonstrate a strong partnership between community- and faith-based programs, schools, youth, and families.

AmeriCorps – Office of National and Community Service

AmeriCorps funding is made available for programs that provide citizens, especially youth, opportunities to engage in community service. Youth learn civic responsibility and valuable life and employment skills through meaningful service that strengthens and improves communities. The Commission on National and Community Service is committed to encouraging community service and volunteer participation as a means of community problem-solving.

Compliance

The OYD Bureau of Compliance provides oversight and accountability for the agency’s *youth development* funding. Its responsibilities include: certification and inspection of residential Runaway and Homeless Youth programs, monitoring Special Delinquency Prevention Program direct contracts, monitoring county and municipal Youth Bureaus.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Advisory Committee, comprised of community and state agency representatives, advises OCFS on matters pertaining to the administration of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

Youth Leadership and Service Council – YLSC

The *youth development* approach acknowledges that youth are resources in strengthening communities and should be valued and recognized. The YLSC serves as a “youth voice” and an advisory group to provide input for new state policy initiatives that impact on youth. Members encourage and support ways for youth to mobilize their communities to build on young people’s strengths and give them valuable leadership skills. As the advisory group to the Commission on National and Community Service, members foster civic responsibility and promote community service.

The *Office of Youth Development* assists in planning and coordinating the Governor’s Youth Recognition Awards. These awards pay tribute to outstanding youth who have made major state and local contributions toward *youth development*.

New York State – A National Leader in Youth Development

The *Office of Youth Development* is the recipient of a federal *youth development* initiative through the United States Department of Health and Human Services and is a demonstration state with the National Governor’s Association Youth Development project, sharing *youth development* expertise on a national level.

Contact Information

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Regional Offices

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Internet Connection

Information regarding funding administered through the Office of Youth Development is available on the Internet at:

www.ocfs.state.ny.us

The Commission on National and Community Service provides information on its website – www.nyscnscs.org – pertaining to programs funded through AmeriCorps grants, and community service opportunities available through AmeriCorps programs.

New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Capital View Office Park
52 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Visit our website at:
www.ocfs.state.ny.us

For child care, foster care, and adoption information, call:
1-800-345-KIDS

To report child abuse and neglect, call:
1-800-342-3720

For information on the Abandoned Infant Protection Act, call:
1-866-505-SAFE

For information about services for the blind, call:
1-866-871-3000
1-866-871-6000 TDD

“...promoting the well-being and safety of our children, families, and communities. ...”



State of New York

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services will make this material available in large print or on audiotape upon request.

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