



VERMONT YOUTH PROJECT

The Vermont Youth Project is a community-driven collaborative designed to embrace positive youth development at the local level. We support inclusivity of youth in the community and implementation of strategies that will help youth thrive in the community, at school, and home. A community that participates in the Vermont Youth Project commits to giving youth a voice in their community and amplifying and creating healthy spaces for youth.

The backbone of the Vermont Youth Project is the data that is based off **Planet Youth's efforts in Iceland** and encourages parents and communities to be engaged around positive youth development. Risk and protective factors are analyzed from an annual youth survey, which allows for targeted interventions at the local level. Survey results are available within three months, so that communities, schools, and parents are aware of what's happening with their youth **right now**. With support of Vermont Youth Project staff, communities aim to use the survey results to drive the development and implementation of strategies that **will amplify and connect existing efforts in the community** as well as identify new opportunities to provide healthy environments for youth.

What is expected of the community?

1. Commit to working with Vermont Afterschool for five years on this project.
2. Designate community champions who can support the community work and bring together a variety of partnerships from all sectors.
3. Commitment to create healthy environments for youth in your community.
4. Identify community partnerships or working groups focused on prevention, youth development, resiliency, and community health.
5. Identify funding for the implementation of community strategies to address youth resilience.
6. Commit to listening to youth voice and supporting the Youth Declaration of Rights.

What can the community expect from Vermont Youth Project?

1. We cover most of the cost and provide support for the Planet Youth data tool that is in real time. The survey and results all happen within three months.
2. We provide a pre-survey training for selected community champions, information sessions, and a post-survey implementation and strategy workshop for communities.
3. Published outcome measures to drive community-wide change and build bridges between community partnerships.
4. A support system that helps with amplifying, connecting, and refocusing the great programming happening in your community. As well as identifying gaps and barriers to success of that programming and assistance implement solutions.
5. Facilitation of program development efforts and strategy.
6. Enthusiasm, energy, and expertise from the Vermont Youth Project staff.

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