



SNIPPET

Effective Partnership Strategies to Maximize Resources

Youth Council: City of Los Angeles Youth Council

Element: Comprehensive Approach

Function: Convening Local Leadership to Take Action, Coordinating Youth Services

Subject: Coordinating Youth Services

The Challenge: One in every four residents in the City of Los Angeles is under twenty-one, creating a serious public need to ensure that the entire youth services system is linked and efficient. Members serving on the City of Los Angeles Youth Council faced the crucial task of maximizing, leveraging, and connecting all the players to make the best use of their resources.

The Practice and Evidence: The Council established basic common goals that every Council member committed to support. By keeping their over-arching theme and unrelenting “battle cry” of Integrated Quality Services in the forefront of all interactions, an unmistakable vision is supported.

Youth Council members are bound by these common ideals:

1. All hold to the common vision of Integrated Quality Services.
2. Each understands the value of school-to-career principles.
3. Each has a passion and compassion for youth.
4. Each brings extensive resources or “rolodexes.”
5. Each is committed to make the Youth Council broader than WIA.

Other outcomes were as follows:

- Systemic partnerships, such as a jointly operated project with the Casey Family Program, which leverage state money requiring 100 percent cash match. Through their partnership with the Probation Department, the Council receives referrals electronically through shared databases, and provides training to youth in Boot Camps.
- The CA Department of Education is funding a Unified School District position to work as a full-time liaison to the WIA system, deepening the connection between education and the Council.
- The Council offers two free technical assistance consultations to each provider.
- Training and collaboration workshops are conducted for providers on the 10 WIA elements.
- Providers are now required to attend five days of training. More than anything else, this brings together the system. Providers also attend monthly follow-up technical assistance sessions.

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The Details: Council members realized that it is only through effective partnerships and integration of services that they would be capable of tackling the overwhelming needs of their youth. For example, a major thrust of the Council is to enhance opportunities for youth through their partnership with School-to-Work, resulting in more relevant academic experiences.

The intentional overlapping of the Council and partnership members ensures that strong educational preparation for productive employment opportunities is a cornerstone to the Youth Council foundation.

The City of Los Angeles Youth Council suggests the following ideas for making the best use of resources:

- Invest in skilled staff and/or consultants to conduct goal development sessions.
- Members are each formally appointed by the mayor. Find the right person to expand membership.
- Use facilitators to reach understanding, develop the strategic plan, and create partnerships.
- Require collaboration for bidding service providers. Through collaboration, providers show they can provide all ten WIA elements.
- Require collaborative groups to use one centralized assessment organization.
- Establish subcommittees and task forces on which providers can serve.
- Involve Council members in oral review of bidders and service providers.
- Each member of the Council is personally contacted and asked questions about how they feel the Council can be improved.
- The Council Chair is always from the private sector.
- Develop strong vision and principles prior to the bidding process.

Where to Go for More information

City of Los Angeles Youth Council

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