



Program Governance

Mission

The mission of the Iowa 4-H Youth Development Program is to empower youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

This mission is the basis for all program policy and practice. The governance of the Iowa 4-H Youth Development Program should be aligned with this mission and structured to fulfill the mission.

Governance Structure

The governance structure reflects the county and state program partnership.

- The State Director of the 4-H Youth Development Program, in partnership with the County Extension Council, has overall program responsibility for the Iowa 4-H Youth Development Program.
- The County Extension Council is the legal entity responsible for the county Extension program, including a 4-H Youth Development Program.
- The 4-H Youth Program Specialist has leadership for designing the 4-H Youth Development Program in the county.
- The County Youth Coordinator has management responsibility for implementing the 4-H Youth Development Program in the county.
- The County Extension Council has the responsibility of appointing individuals to the 4-H Youth Development Program Committee. They will serve at the pleasure of the Extension Council.

- Individuals will be appointed to the 4-H Youth Development Program Committee for specified terms as determined by the County Extension Council.
- Committee membership should be a partnership, including adult community members and at least one third youth.

The County 4-H Youth Development Program Committee should:

1. Review and study youth issues within the county using resources such as the Iowa Youth Survey, enrollment data, Kids Count data, etc.
2. Identify priorities for the county 4-H Youth Development Program which will be aligned with the following:
 - ✓ Iowa 4-H Youth Development Plan: How we achieve our mission, 4H 3036B
 - ✓ Iowa Youth Development Participation Policy, 4H 14
 - ✓ The Iowa 4-H Youth Development Experience, 4H 3020A
3. Review the year's program activities. Evaluate how they align with county youth issues and 4-H youth development priorities of program growth and strengthening volunteer development.
4. Create an annual county 4-H Youth Development action plan.
5. Ensure that 4-H members comply with all state and out-of-state regulations.

6. Review county policies. Identify those that support increased participation and positive youth development and those that are barriers. County policies should be consistent with the documents listed in #2.
7. Celebrate successes and identify future program needs.
8. Report quarterly to the County Extension Council on the status of the county program and policy recommendations.

To carry out the county 4-H Youth Development action plan, the 4-H Youth Development Program Committee develops **sub-committees**. Examples of these sub-committees could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Program Growth
 - ✓ Recruitment/retention/training of youth and volunteers
 - ✓ 4-H Recruitment and Retention
 - ✓ New Clubs
- Volunteer Development
 - ✓ Recruitment/retention/training of volunteers
- Awards
 - ✓ Recognition of youth and volunteers
- Activity development and implementation
 - ✓ Fairs
 - ✓ Camps
 - ✓ Other
- Marketing and Promotion

These sub-committees will:

- Model youth/adult partnerships.
- Meet as needed.
- Create and carry out an action plan for the specific activity or event.
- Report decisions back to County Youth Committee for confirmation.

Regional and Campus Program Specialists Responsibilities:

- Work in partnership with the county 4-H Youth Committee to ensure the 4-H program addresses the principles and practices of positive youth development including the 4 needs of youth, essential elements, 5 outcomes and youth adult partnerships as referenced in 4H 3020A.
- Provide training and support to assist County Youth Committees as they plan, implement, and evaluate the county 4-H Program.
- Educate county staff and committee members regarding positive youth development research and new programs.
- Measure results, evaluate the program and communicate the impact to our stakeholders.

State Director and Administrative Team Responsibilities:

- Set priorities and policies.
- Interpret and define state and federal policies.
- Advocate positive youth development consistent with mission and vision.

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Youth Program Specialists

... and justice for all

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jack M. Payne, director. Cooperative Extension Service. Iowa State University of Science and Technology. Ames. Iowa.