NIFA turns Youth Voice into Federal Action with the **NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE**

The conference is an active civic engagement opportunity. An tradition since 1927, it is a week-long event organized by 4-H National Headquarters at NIFA to develop the next generation of our country’s leaders.

**Federal Host Agency**

**STEP 1:** Staff presents an issue, engaging some of our country’s top youth leaders, providing them the occasion to see first-hand how they can influence government decision making, and introduce youth to the various careers found in federal service.

**IMPACT**

Youth impact decisions

**EXAMPLE**

**National Institute for Child Health and Development (NICHD-HHS)**

Based on the 4-H youth presentation, NICHD offered a competitive mini-grant program. The following year, 90 applications were received and 18 grants were awarded for youth to implement Media Smart Youth programs in communities.

**CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES - PARTICIPANTS:**

- **Learn** – Youth acquire practical knowledge and skills reinforcing attitudes and motivation that heighten their sense of responsibility and capacity to be active members of their communities and the world.

- **Practice** – Youth engage in hands-on educational activities in which they explore, practice and master existing and newly developed skills and knowledge in civic engagement, civic education and personal development.

- **Apply** – Youth apply what was learned in real world experiences further developing leadership skills using their voices, talent, and ideas to make a difference in their community, their country and the world.

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NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education and extension and seeks to make transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges. The 4-H Youth Development Program is the youth outreach program from the land-grant institutions’ Cooperative Extension Services, and USDA-NIFA. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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