

Fostering Positive Youth Development

1. Positive youth development is an intentional approach to promote positive outcomes for young people through family and community youth engagement for the benefit of society. It focuses on relationship building, ultimately giving youth the skillsets in respect, teamwork, and self-care that are needed to navigate socially.
2. NIFA prioritizes positive youth development programming to ensure the education, health and well-being, and future employability of America's children to support our nation's economy.
3. The 4-H Youth Development Program serves as a model program for the practice of positive youth development. NIFA and its predecessor agencies have more than a 100-year history of providing federal leadership for the National 4-H Program in partnership with the Cooperative Extension System.
4. NIFA is committed to expanding the reach of positive youth development programming to a greater number of diverse youth throughout America.
 - a. Cooperative Extension programming currently reaches 1 in 12 youth.
 - b. Positive youth development is an excellent model to extend to underrepresented populations in all urban and rural communities, including tribal populations.
5. NIFA will partner with land-grant universities and other relevant stakeholders to engage in national conversations to help create an effective, relevant positive youth development program for our nation's 21st century demographics. NIFA has begun preliminary discussions with the University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University to plan this conversation.