



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

nifa.usda.gov/program/  
4-h-national-headquarters



# NIFA

## FACT SHEET

# 4-H LEADERSHIP PARTNERSHIP

The 4-H youth development program is administered by a three-way national, public-private partnership.

### PARTIES

**4-H National Headquarters** (4-H HQ) within the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Division of Youth and 4-H at the U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for the organization, supervision, and administration of the 4-H Youth Development Program at the national level.

The **Cooperative Extension System** (CES) of the nation's land-grant universities provides research-based information, non-formal educational programs, and technical expertise directly to individuals, families, and communities, enabling them to be self-reliant and improve their lives. 4-H is the youth development program of the CES.

**National 4-H Council** is an independent, not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Council solicits and manages financial resources, fosters national reputation and brand awareness for 4-H, and seeks and distributes funds to enhance the mission of 4-H.

### PURPOSE

The partners have a formal memorandum of understanding to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each party with respect to the 4-H Youth Development Program. The parties coordinate, collaborate, and cooperate to enhance communication and management of national 4-H policies and procedures that affect state and local programs.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

**4-H National Headquarters** administers a cohesive and collaborative system to advance 4-H, including professional and volunteer development, research and evaluation, learning, and policies and procedures. 4-H HQ identifies pressing national youth development needs, engages other federal partners in the support of positive youth development and 4-H, provides leadership in demonstrating program impact, facilitates national sharing of best practices and provides direction for the use of the 4-H name and emblem consistent with federal law.

The **Cooperative Extension System** fosters collaboration among state 4-H programs in order to develop and deliver educational programs for youth at the state and local levels. CES leads a programmatic evaluation process for their respective programs to contribute to the national achievement of 4-H youth development goals. CES develops financial resources at the state and local levels, determines how to address national youth development issues in their state and local programs, and facilitates sharing of best practices from their programs to share nationally.

**National 4-H Council** serves as the facilitator of resource development, generates and distributes financial support to the CES, develops fundraising plans to support national 4-H program priorities, and helps states develop fundraising and marketing capacity. Council generates national marketing and communications



It takes a team of dedicated and creative individuals working together that leads to positive community change.

strategies and activities for 4-H Youth Development. Council markets and sells 4-H learning materials and operates the National 4-H Supply Service and the National 4-H Youth Conference Center.