



Tompkins County Youth Services Department

2015 Annual Report

MISSION

The Tompkins County Youth Services Department invests time, resources, and funding in communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work and life.

Our 2015 Alphabet Soup

Details inside!

AYR

OCFS

MYSS

RBA

PQA

CCHY

RP

CSEC

TA

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www.tompkinscountyny.gov/youth

ILS

CORE VALUE #1

Vision: Seeing the bigger picture and planning for the future

Our main planning activities from 2015, click on links for details.



[AYR—Achieving Youth Results](#)

A planning tool to measure how well young people are doing and develop an action plan to improve outcomes

6 community goal areas (Family, Physical & Emotional Health, Engagement, Education, Economic Security, Community)

12 indicators to measure progress

67 community convening meetings across the county

472 people attended one or more convening

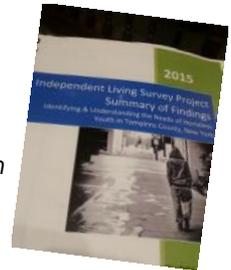
204 respondents helped to prioritize strategies which will help to develop a broad-based Community Action Plan

[MYSS—Municipal Youth Services System Think Tank](#)

4 gatherings of professionals from varied backgrounds to brainstorm ways to support the MYSS beyond the traditional methods we have been using and to explore ways to make the system more prominent in the County

[ILS—Independent Living Survey Report](#)

Conducted and published in partnership with Cornell University, Learning Web, and 19 young adults to understand and identify the needs of homeless youth in Tompkins County



[County Youth Services Board & Staff Planning](#)

*Planning Retreat: [Philanthropy and the Concept of a Signature Event](#)
Planning for the 40th anniversary of the County Youth Services Dept. (2016)*

[City of Ithaca's Municipal Drug Policy Committee](#)

Participation on the Prevention Pillar to help explore possible new ways to address problems of drug use and addiction and their impact on our community

“This program has been really good for Joe, helping him get along with other people and stay out of bigger trouble.” Parent of youth in agency program

CORE VALUE #3

Innovation: Continually searching for new approaches

We launched three* new initiatives this year and supported ongoing work:

***RBA—Results Based Accountability**

All funded programs received training in this new data-driven framework. Programs now document progress toward performance measures (outcomes) by tracking and reporting on 3 key questions:

How much did we do?

How well did we do it?

And most importantly, is anyone better off?

Programs examine factors that support or hinder their progress to “Turn the Curve” so the trend heads in the desired direction.

Turn the Curve



***PQA—Program Quality Assessment**



We observed and scored municipal youth programs using this research validated tool designed to assess program quality and identify staff training needs. A summary report documenting the 18 observations included recommendations for changes in policy and procedures and staff training which are being implemented before programs are assessed again in 2016.

***CSEC—Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children**

We provided additional resources to service providers around CSEC through a three-day training series provided by Girls Educational and Mentoring Services from New York City. Twelve local community members were trained as CSEC trainers. In the coming year, we will expand our training and provide even more CSEC community outreach materials.

CCHY—Community Coalition for Healthy Youth

- ◆ Staff served on the board and event planning groups
- ◆ Collaborated to host 2 heroin forums
- ◆ Authored and published [Summary of Highlights](#) from fall, 2014 county youth survey; made many community presentations
- ◆ Supported law enforcement in sobriety and compliance checks
- ◆ Safe Celebrations letters sent to parents of H.S. juniors and seniors
- ◆ Community awareness campaign around underage drinking Tipline



“Training that fits my work makes me better at program delivery.” Training participant

CORE VALUE #4

Integrity: Commitment to honest and fair communications and interactions

To keep our funders, programs, and the broader community apprised of our efforts and current issues, our methods included:

County Youth Services Department Newsletter

Quarterly electronic newsletter communicated current research, events, and news. Currently shared with 900 people.

Social Media

Twitter feed launched in 2015; 198 tweets, 200 current followers
Facebook account launched in late 2015; 11 posts and 50 “Likes”
Both accounts were used to promote our Achieving Youth Results events and to gather community input on strategies



Monthly Messages

A wide variety of topics are covered in messages for parents, families, teachers, and youth workers that are shared electronically with list serves, agencies, and youth-focused allies.

Networking and Linking

County Youth Services Staff participate, report, and link with many area groups to both provide and hear information relevant to our work. These include:



Human Services Coalition, Criminal Justice Alternatives To Incarceration, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Subcommittees of the Mental Health Services Board, Collaborative Solutions Network, Collective Impact, Stop DWI, County Recreation Directors Group, Chamber of Commerce, Health Planning Council, Workforce Development

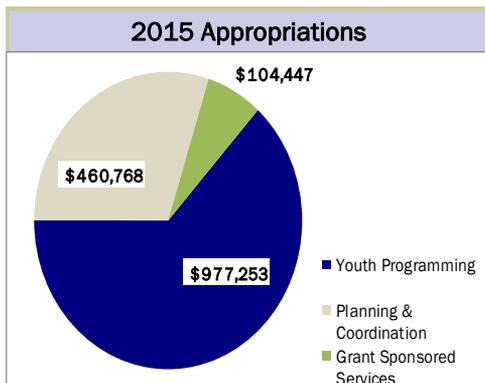
Board, Continuum of Care, Leadership Tompkins, New York State Association of Youth Bureaus, Recreation Partnership, Community Coalition for Healthy Youth, Coalition for Safe Medication Disposal, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth Task Force, Youth Employment Council, NYS Runaway and Homeless Youth Advisory Committee

89% of those who receive the CYS newsletter are satisfied with its content; 95% say it is relevant to their work. *Survey of newsletter recipients*

CORE VALUE #5

Stewardship: Proper management of resources entrusted to our care

Careful oversight of public funds and the programs they support included:



Fiscal Management

*Received and managed funds from Tompkins County, NYS OCFS (Office of Children & Family Services), and grants **

Managed contracts with funded agencies and municipalities, processed claims, provided ongoing accounting support for each funded program and municipality, and maintained office accounts.

Resource Allocation

Youth Services Board reviewed renewal applications for all funded agencies to assure proposed outcomes were on-target. Youth Services Board also did significant planning to prepare for a new, open funding cycle for 2017.

*Grants:

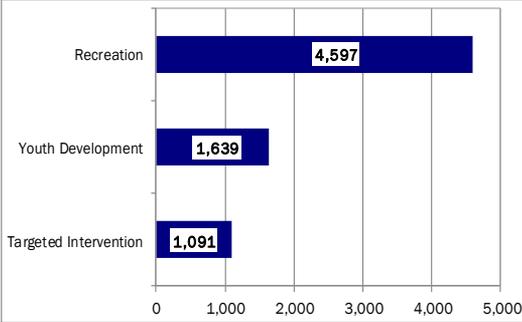
Thank you to: Park Foundation, Community Foundation, NYS Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) and U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for grants totaling \$91,208 in 2015. These grants supported our mentoring symposium, Results-Based Accountability, Safe Harbour (Commercially Sexually Exploited Children) training, and STOP Act Underage Drinking Prevention work.

Monitoring

To assure compliance with quality, fiscal, and accountability standards, we monitored all funded agencies/programs and municipal programs. Under contract with Tompkins Workforce, we also monitored summer youth employment programs.

Youth Services staff made 41 monitoring visits to 24 programs in 2015.

7,327 youth served in 2015



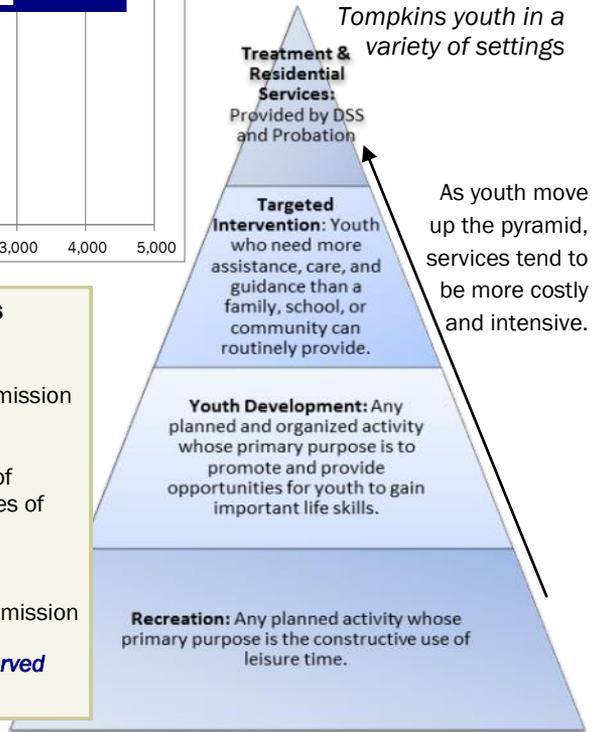
Commissions/Councils Supported in 2015

Danby Community Council
 Dryden Recreation & Youth Commission
 Enfield Community Council
 Groton Youth Commission
 Joint Youth Commission (Towns of
 Caroline & Ithaca and Villages of
 Lansing & Cayuga Heights)
 Lansing Youth Services
 Newfield Recreation Services
 Trumansburg Ulysses Youth Commission

**Youth Development Programs served
 1,639 youth**

A Continuum of Youth Services

To meet the needs of
 Tompkins youth in a
 variety of settings



Agencies/Programs Funded in 2015

Advocacy Center: *Youth Services*
 Child Development Council: *Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Program*
 Cornell Cooperative Extension: *Urban 4H Program*
 Family & Children's Service: *Open Doors Program*
 Ithaca Youth Bureau: *One-to-One Big Brothers Big Sisters Program*
 Ithaca Youth Bureau: *Recreation Support Services*
 Ithaca Youth Bureau: *Youth Employment Services*
 Learning Web: *Community and Career Exploration & Apprenticeship Program*
 Learning Web: *Youth Outreach*

Targeted Intervention Programs served 1,091 youth

Recreation Partnership Programs Funded in 2015

59 Programs offered

4,597 registrations in youth Recreation Programs

"She's the best thing that ever happened to me."
 Youth participant about her mentor

2015 Accomplishments of County Youth Services Dept. and Funded Programs and Services

- ◇ **25** girls from 7 municipalities improved self-esteem, built skills, and learned from women leaders in non-traditional careers
- ◇ **50%** of youth with disabilities in a supported inclusion program participated with their typical peers 50% of the time
- ◇ **63%** of independent-living youth secured long-term stable housing
- ◇ **72%** of mentored children reported an improved attitude toward school
- ◇ **77%** of youth at risk for running away did not do so after involvement with a runaway and homeless provider
- ◇ **92%** of youth in a career exploration program increased their knowledge and skills related to chosen fields of interest
- ◇ **94%** of young children whose parents received services met appropriate developmental milestones

2015 Youth Services

Board

Angela Sullivan, Chair
Kathy Servoss, Vice-chair
Natalie Detert, Secretary

Ronny Hardaway
Karen Nocera
Barbara Sadvonic
Patty VandeBogart
Amanda Verba
Sarah Wolff
Bernice Yarosh

2015 Staff

Amie Hendrix, Director

Theresa Albert
Kris Bennett
Jasmin Cubero
Janice Johnson
David Sanders

2015 Interns

Chuchu Lou
Allyson Gatto

- ◇ **98%** of those trained about youth sexual abuse reported that they have the skills to identify and interrupt youth sexual abuse



Rear: Dave Sanders, Theresa Albert, Janice Johnson, Kris Bennett
Front: Jasmin Cubero, Chuchu Lou, Amie Hendrix

Our Vision:

Tompkins County is a community where all youth are given opportunities which allow them to thrive from childhood to adulthood.