

Community Compact for Youth

A commitment to better opportunities and outcomes for youth in central Indiana



Community Organization Pledge

When caring adults, businesses, schools, congregations, and human services are meaningfully engaged in the lives of young people, communities transform into places where all young people develop positively.

Improving the odds for youth success requires more than simply adding new programs—it requires thinking creatively about our overall approach as a community, then taking measured steps to increase the reach, quality and impact of opportunities for young people.

High-quality youth programs offer young people safety and structure, give them opportunities to interact positively with their peers and program staff, provide chances to make choices, set goals and reflect on activities, and contribute to their positive development.

By signing this Community Compact for Youth, you are creating momentum for real change in central Indiana. Your commitment will elevate positive youth development to the priority status it deserves in our community and influence the way community resources improve the lives of youth and their families.



MCCOY's Ready by 21 Quality Counts initiative is focused on improving the quality and reach of youth programs and strengthening local policies that guide

resource allocation, accountability and workforce development. As one of only 12 sites nationally, MCCOY is directing the local effort to engage our community, assess leadership and program capacity, identify policy priorities, and build momentum for quality improvement, leading to better outcomes for youth.

The Ready by 21 Quality Counts framework is provided through a partnership of the Forum for Youth Investment, High/Scope Educational Research Foundation and the AED National Training Institute for Community Youth Work.



Our Community's Promise to Youth

MCCOY has created a series of Community Compacts for Youth based on the core components of the Quality Counts initiative: the policy, resource and leadership landscape, program quality, the program landscape, and the youth-serving workforce. These Compacts outline ways that both individuals and organizations throughout the community can increase the odds of success for local youth.

Customized for each sector, they include three levels of commitment – Supporter, Adopter and Advocate. From simply learning about what makes a quality program to adopting family-friendly policies, the Compacts offer a way for our community to take action and make a difference for youth.

Community & Faith-Based Organization Compact for Youth

Level 1

Supporter

- * We will support coordinated decision making on issues that affect young people and their families throughout the community.
- * We will support programs and opportunities for young people that improve reach and impact, and educate our leadership and staff about the characteristics and value of high-quality programming.
- * We will support positive youth outcomes by educating ourselves and our staff about the impact and characteristics of highly competent youth workers.

Level 2

Adopter

In addition to Level 1 efforts:

- * We will adopt internal and external organizational policies that are family-friendly and focus on positive outcomes for youth.
- * We will adopt practices that increase opportunities for young people, are based in positive youth development, hold us accountable, and emphasize quality.
- * We will adopt policies that place an emphasis on recruiting and developing qualified youth workers and partner with organizations that do so as well.

Level 3

Advocate

In addition to Level 1 & 2 efforts:

- * We will advocate to community leaders for policies that reflect a shared vision for the well-being of youth and actively engage youth and families.
- * We will advocate to our constituents and community leadership for increasing the reach, quality and impact of opportunities for young people and their families.
- * We will advocate to our constituents and community leadership about the impact a qualified youth development workforce makes in achieving positive outcomes for youth.

As a community or faith-based organization committed to improving outcomes and opportunities for all youth in central Indiana, we will be a Champion for Youth at the level of:

Supporter (Level 1) **Adopter (Level 2)** **Advocate (Level 3)**

We are currently a champion for youth in the following ways:

We intend to further champion positive youth development by:

Organization

Name

Title

Signature

Please provide your email address (it will not be published):
