



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

4-H National
Headquarters



FACTSHEET

DIVISION OF YOUTH AND 4-H

BACKGROUND

THE DIVISION OF YOUTH AND 4-H (DY4-H) strengthens and promotes healthy youth development to give young people the capacity to act as responsible citizens and agents of community change. By understanding the complex experiences that youth face and promoting high quality youth leadership development, DY4-H helps youth meet the challenges of adolescence and transition to adulthood. Through youth-adult partnerships, DY4-H connects youth and adults to their communities, preparing them for work and life. DY4-H engages both youth and adults in intentional, experiential, and inquiry-based learning and also provides emerging research and policy to highlight positive youth development. 4-H partners with the Land-Grant University System to support America's youth.

OUR PORTFOLIO FOCUSES ON THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

- 1 Serve as the federal experts in positive youth development
- 2 Build 4-H's capacity to develop and implement high-quality youth programs
- 3 Build 4-H's capacity to evaluate effectiveness and impacts
- 4 Build 4-H's capacity to prepare youth with 21st century work and life skills

PRIORITY PROGRAM AREAS

PARTNERSHIP

Develop meaningful and mutually beneficial collaborations within USDA, federal partners, land-grant universities, and community partners. Partnerships are grounded in research, positive youth development, and NIFA's strategic plan.

LEARNING

Lead, inform, and educate 4-H and other land-grant university youth development professionals about learning principles, trends, resources, methods, and delivery techniques that incorporate relevant learning into positive youth development programs.

PROGRAM QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Identify best practices, establish standards, and provide resources for positive youth development and the national 4-H program. Ensure programs are culturally relevant and inclusive through adherence to research-based principles.

ACCESS, EQUITY, AND OPPORTUNITY

Incorporate stakeholder input—from identifying relevant issues and solutions, to evaluating and sharing results—while ensuring adherence to federal regulations. Develop strategies for providing positive youth development services to all populations.

A UNIQUE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP



THE 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM is the youth outreach program of the land-grant universities' Cooperative Extension Services and USDA. 4-H serves as a model program for the practice of positive youth development. 4-H National Headquarters is housed within the Division of Youth and 4-H at USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Additional support is provided by National 4-H Council (a private non-profit organization) and land-grant university extension 4-H offices.

4-H NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
provides system administration
and leadership.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION 4-H OFFICES
provide program development
and delivery.

NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL
provides fundraising
and marketing.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT 4-H, VISIT WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV/PROGRAMS/4-H OR EMAIL 4HHQ@NIFA.USDA.GOV