



The Claremont Community Vision for Youth and Guiding Principles

The Claremont Community Vision for Youth & Families*

To develop a supportive environment for our youth, Claremont is committed to bringing together the community and its resources. This commitment promotes collaborative and comprehensive efforts to meet the wide range of needs of young people and their families. It includes working for local control and coordination of human and financial resources. Our goal is to provide safe, healthy, enriching, and nurturing opportunities that support young people in becoming responsible and contributing members of their community.

The planning process that developed the blueprint by which Claremont can reach this vision was guided by the following principles.

Based on our firm belief that:

The lives of children are paramount, and what benefits the lives of children benefits the community. Thus,

We must implement:

A continuum of services for all age groups, socioeconomic and educational levels, making every effort to be responsive to the diversity of individuals and groups in the community;

A comprehensive, coordinated network of programs and resources that promote the full physical, mental, and emotional development of our youth and their families; and

Mechanisms and incentives that create partnerships among diverse community resources including public and private sector programs, community organizations, businesses, religious and educational institutions, students and seniors;

That:

Focus on prevention rather than crisis management, affirming youth as valuable resources.

Provide youth with service learning opportunities and recognition for their actions that serve the community.

Promote and encourage the development of supportive relationships within families, among parents, between adult and youth, across generations, and among peers.

Include all age groups from birth to young adults as well as adults who affect youth.

Support families as a valued entity, acknowledging that families come with many structures; and

While demographics are necessary in developing and delivering programs, youth are individuals who react differently within any given demographic category.

Outcome measures, based on objective review, will show that as a result of our efforts:

The quality of life for Claremont’s children, youth, and their families is improved.

Services are delivered effectively and efficiently.

Alliances are established and maintained throughout the network of services and service supporters to ensure effective communication of public and private program content serving youth and families; and

Programs are accessible and understood by youth, parents, and other adults, and they are relevant, of high quality, and (when appropriate) confidential.

The Youth and Family Master Plan is a dynamic document and will be reviewed and revised to meet the changing needs of youth and families.

GOALS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS VISION

MOBILIZE AND INFORM THE COMMUNITY

The purpose of the first four goals is to implement a shared commitment to the Claremont Community Vision for Youth and Families and the values contained in the Guiding Principles.

- 1. GET THE WHOLE COMMUNITY INVOLVED**
Every person, business, organization, and agency has a role to play.
- 2. INCLUDE AND RECOGNIZE YOUTH**
Treat youth with respect, give them opportunities to contribute and recognize them for positive actions.
- 3. VALUE DIVERSITY**
Foster an inclusive community.
- 4. PROVIDE GOOD INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH**
Information should be easily accessible.

ENABLE A COORDINATED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT AND ACTIVITIES

These five goals seek to implement the kind of service system embodied in the Vision and guiding principles

- 5. ENGAGE YOUTH IN MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES****
Activities and outlets are the highest priority for school-age children.
- 6. ENSURE THAT YOUTH HAVE ACCESS TO PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE**
Ill children cannot learn.

- 7. ENSURE THAT YOUTH HAVE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE**
Distressed children cannot thrive.
- 8. PROVIDE A SAFE, SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT****
Safe neighborhoods are essential to a healthy community.
- 9. SUPPORT FAMILIES AND EDUCATE ADULTS WHO DEAL WITH YOUTH**
Families need community support programs and policies. (Children don't come with an instruction manual!)

COORDINATE, SUPPORT AND MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 10. COORDINATE EFFORTS TO REACH THESE GOALS**
Coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Youth Master Plan.
- 11. PROVIDE DETAILED ANNUAL REPORT AND REGULARLY UPDATE THE YOUTH AND FAMILY MASTER PLAN**

**Adopted by the Youth and Family Master Plan Update Steering Committee on December 11, 2006*

***Revised and adopted by the Youth and Family Master Plan Steering Committee on June 23, 2007.*

