

4-H INVOLVEMENT WITH CYFAR NCP PROJECTS

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In September of 2000 and 2001, 14 states completed their five years of USDA/CSREES New Communities Project Funding. A point of contact for each of the 14 states was identified via their program closeout reports and then confirmed with CSREES/USDA. All points of contact were e-mailed a survey and asked to complete it. Follow-up e-mails were sent to non-respondents. Ultimately, all states responded and completed surveys except for the state of Michigan. [For the purposes of this report, we are making the assumption that Michigan is no longer active since no response was received although at least three attempts were made to gather this information.] This provided a program response for 13 projects or 93% response rate. Results reported are based on 13 sustained projects. In addition to examining the sustainability of the 14 New Communities Programs one (nine states) and two (five states) years after their initial five years of funding ended, the involvement of these sustained NCP projects with 4-H was also explored and reported in this summary.

- 1. Current integration of sustained NCP projects with 4-H include programming that meets the intention of 4-H programming.**
 - 92% of sustained projects report encouraging youth to form friendships with peers and to be part of a supportive community where collaborative learning is encouraged. Youth also bond with one or more caring adults who encourage and help them grow in positive ways.
 - 77% of sustained projects report providing many opportunities for project work, evaluation and feedback. Youth develop skills using hand-on learning approaches and learn how to transfer these skills to other life situations.
 - 77% of sustained projects report encouraging members to use their skills to improve others' lives by mentoring younger members, identifying community needs and participation in community service projects.
 - 62% of sustained projects report providing youth with many decision-making and leadership experiences including serving as a club officer, mentor, teacher, teen ambassador, and teen leader, among others.
- 2. 93% (12 out of 13 sustained projects) are currently partnering with 4-H programs on an on-going basis.**
- 3. 77% (10 out of 13 sustained NCP projects) report that a 4-H club is part of their program.**
- 4. 85% (11 out of 13 sustained NCP projects) report that the youth in their NCP project have been integrated into on-going 4-H programs either "somewhat" or "a great deal."**
- 5. 92% (12 out of 13 sustained NCP projects) report that they offer high context youth programming.**