



# NATIONAL COLLABORATION FOR YOUTH

An Affinity Group of the  
National Human Services Assembly

**What It Is:** Now in its 4<sup>th</sup> decade, the National Collaboration for Youth (NCY) is the longest-standing coalition of national organizations committed to advocating with and on behalf of youth and, in particular, in research-driven “positive youth development.”

NCY’s 50 members, the household names of youth services and human services in America, collectively:

- Serve more than 40 million young people annually
- Employ over 100,000 staff
- Utilize more than six million volunteers
- Have a physical presence in virtually every community in America

**Why It Exists:** NCY was formed by a handful of national executives who believed that their organizations could accomplish more collectively than individually to advance a positive developmental approach to child and youth development; prevent youth from having negative experiences by offering well-founded positive experiences; and ensure justice and fair treatment for youth involved in the justice and child welfare systems. NCY still exists substantially for these purposes today.

**What It Does:** “The Collab” functions in the areas of **Policy**, **Practice**, and **Research**, all in the realm of positive youth development, an approach to policy and programs that is at this point very well researched by some of the most respected academics and scientists and very well accepted among many policymakers and even more widely among service providers. Youth are defined by their assets and potential not by their challenges.

**Policy:** *The NCY Washington Group, public policy leaders of member organizations, coordinates policy development and action to advance positive youth development. Examples:*

- A collective policy agenda on 10 key issues, including after school, juvenile justice, and jobs.
- Development of and effective advocacy for the Federal Youth Coordination Act.

**Practice:** *The NCY Program Group, top youth development professionals at member organizations, develops and pursues initiatives that advance the practice of positive youth development. Examples:*

- National Youth Development Information Center, [www.nydic.org](http://www.nydic.org). One of the most use sites on the web for information on youth development programming and research.
- Youth Development Learning Network (YDLN), efforts to recruit, retain and develop youth workers.

**Research:** *The Research Group fuels the field with evidence-based approaches. Research examples:*

- The group assembled research on diet, lifestyle and obesity as they affect youth and can drive effective approaches for healthier outcomes.
- By connecting online the best databases available on youth development, every youth worker and youth agency will have access to and the benefit of the best knowledge.

**How:** Most of the work of the Collab is accomplished through the voluntary efforts of members aided by a small staff at the National Human Services Assembly/National Collaboration for Youth, and project grants.

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Afterschool Alliance  
Alliance for Children and Families  
American Camp Association  
American Humanics  
America's Promise Alliance  
Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies  
Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.  
A World Fit for Kids!  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of America  
Boy Scouts of America  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America  
Camp Fire USA  
Child Welfare League of America  
Coalition for Juvenile Justice  
Communities In Schools  
CORE: Coalition for Residential Education  
Council on Accreditation  
Forum for Youth Investment  
Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)  
Generations United  
Girl Scouts of the USA  
Girls Inc.  
Hostelling International- USA  
I Have A Dream Foundation  
KaBOOM!  
Leadership and Renewal Outfitters  
Lutheran Services in America  
National 4-H Council  
National Alliance for Hispanic Health  
National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, Inc.  
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
National Foster Care Coalition  
National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship  
MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership  
National Healthy Start Association  
National Network for Youth  
National Urban League  
National Youth Employment Coalition  
Save the Children  
Scholarship America  
Search Institute  
The Salvation Army  
United Way of America  
Volunteers of America  
YMCA of the USA  
Youth Crime Watch  
Youth Service America  
YOUTHBUILD USA  
YWCA USA