

IPV Best Practices: Culturally Specific Youth Advocacy and Engagement

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Objectives

Participants will be better able to:

- Describe the value of engaging and supporting youth as peer educators.
- Explore ways in which to encourage and support the healthy development of youth.
- Reflect on the opportunities that can be created to engage youth.

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When we look at NEEDS we create dependence, but when we look at STRENGTHS we create opportunities for change.

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Focus on NEEDS

- Deficits
- Things that are lacking
- Weaknesses
- What we think is best for someone else
- Creating dependence

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Focus on STRENGTHS

- Talents
- Skills
- Knowledge
- Interests
- Dreams/Hopes/Goals
- Creativity
- Culture
- Passion
- Connections

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"A community that is high in social capital offers parental and kin support, relationship networks that provide collective supervision and resources for youths and young adults to pursue goals, positive opportunities, safe places, and norms that emphasize education, social control and enforcement."
(Denner, 2001).

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Why Peer Education?

Reflects a fundamental commitment of engaging youth in positive youth development opportunities.

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- Youth get a great deal of information from peers.
- Youth relate well to others who are similar to them in age, background, culture, experiences and interests.
- It ensures that the language and messages used are relevant and appropriate.
- It helps to shape and change attitudes, behaviors and social views.
- It reaches not only the youth but also their sphere of influence.

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Benefits

Increased knowledge and acquisition of new information about their communities and the world.

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Benefits

Skill acquisition in public speaking, workshop development, research, decision-making, presentation delivery and group facilitation.

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Benefits

Enhanced self-concept, self-efficacy, success and sense of accomplishment

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Benefits

Increased supportive social relationships with peers and caring adults

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Preparation

- Explore their lived realities.
- Create self-awareness.
- Challenge their attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors.
- Enhance and develop presentation and facilitation skills.
- Prepare them for roles in community leadership.

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What Have We Learned?

- Listen, Listen, Listen
- Caring adult
- Gender specific
- Cultural and language specific
- Transportation
- At their own pace
- Incentives

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In Their Own Words

In your own words, describe the work that you do as a peer educator

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In Their Own Words

How has your participation in the peer education program helped to enhance or develop your leadership skills?

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In Their Own Words

How has your participation in the program helped you to accomplish your own goals?

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In Their Own Words

In what ways has being a participant in this program impacted your life?

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Accomplishments

- To date, have facilitated workshops for over 1000 youth.
- Presented program to Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Wangari Maathai of Kenya, at the 2006 Peace Jam Conference.
- Served on the youth planning committee and facilitated talking circles for more than 70 youth at the National Night Out Event.

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Accomplishments

- Served on the National Advisory Council of the National Teen Dating Violence Hotline.
- Presented at: Alianza (2008), International Women's Conference (2009).

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Accomplishments

Facilitated talking circles for more than 150 teens and adults at the Teen Leadership Summit sponsored by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women and the Minnesota Coalition against Sexual Assault in 2008 and 2009.

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Accomplishments

Youth peer educators created a video, *¡Yo, Latina!*, that was chosen to screen at the National Film Festival for Talented Youth in Washington in April, 2010. This selection was a great honor and gave lots of people an opportunity to hear the voices of young Latinas.

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