

# Sarasota County

## Community Plan for Youth

*the heart and future of a thriving community*

### Why a Community Plan?

With everything we do to support our children and youth - *and as well as we do it* - kids still fall through the cracks. Just a few facts:

- 1 in 6 high school students have created a plan to commit suicide in the past year
- 30 youth per month are removed from their homes due to parental substance abuse or other neglect.
- 30% of students are not reading on grade level by grade 3
- 18% of youth are not graduating from high school
- 900 school aged youth are homeless

Children spend only a fraction of their time with family compared to a decade ago, leaving parents less time to accomplish an even more daunting task.

The greater a community's investment in its children, the greater return it will realize when they become adults. Supporting families and their children through the first two decades of life helps ensure that youth become valuable resources to the community and its workforce rather than a drain on resources through high cost social programs and lost earning power.

A county-wide Community Plan for Youth provides the framework of a comprehensive approach to support all young people growing to healthy adulthood.

The plan tells our community that:

- leaders have come together around a common cause: children and youth,
- the plan is based on the best thinking and evidence available,
- stakeholders will break out of silos to work across systems and sectors,
- the outcomes achieved will depend on the supports provided, and
- participants and organizations will have tasks and timelines for accountability.

### Why do we need this now?

Sarasota County has a long history of nurturing area youth through high quality schools, libraries, sports and non-profit led programs. In spite of all of the good work, barriers and challenges prevent our best efforts from reaching all youth.

Economic realities have forced families and communities to make difficult choices, often preventing youth who need help the most from getting the support they need.

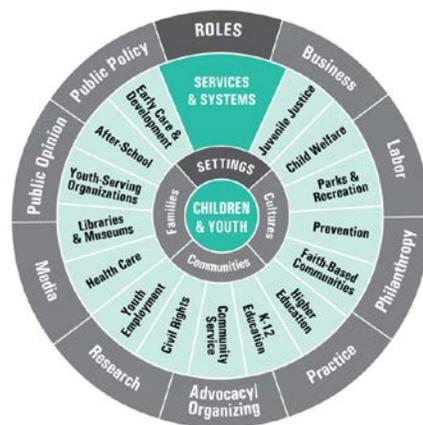
With ambitious local efforts such as the *Campaign for Grade Level Reading, Reading Recovery, Talent for Tomorrow*, there is increased energy around the success of local

youth. At the same time, the range of initiatives demands a coordinated vision, plan and implementation to optimize resources and opportunities.

**What benefits will the community achieve through this planning effort?**

- **Budget savings & revenue generation** – estimates of savings range from \$170 – 50,000 per youth from lost wages or use of social services or justice programs.
- **Reduce duplication of services** – or more appropriately stated, ensure all youth have access to services.
- **Improve direct outcomes for youth** - and be able to clearly measure the impact.
- **Better policy for healthy youth development** – many communities report significant benefits of alignment of policy from resources to reduction of recidivism
- **Services are relevant & accessible** - the right program delivered where a youth needs it
- **Increase productivity in school** - one of the most visible signs of success is graduation rate, but grade level reading, state test scores also point to impact.
- **Decrease incidents of violence in the community**
- **Higher rates of voting & volunteerism in young adults**
- **Prepare current and future leaders**

Considering the frameworks that are available through entities such as the *National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families* and *Forum on Youth Development (Ready by 21)*, there is no need to invent a model for developing the plan. Instead, proven approaches practiced by other communities can be implemented locally.



Graphic Courtesy Forum for Youth Investment

## **Positive Youth Development Council**

ALSO Youth  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County  
Community Youth Development of Sarasota County  
Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County  
Girls Incorporated  
Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florid  
4-H  
Jewish Family & Children Service of the Suncoast, Inc.  
Laurel Civic Association  
Sarasota County Parks & Recreation  
Sarasota County School District  
Sarasota Family Y  
South County SKY Family Y  
United Way Suncoast

## **Local Youth Initiatives (current)**

2 Gen (CFSC)  
Children and Family Homeless Emergency Services (GCCF)  
Eagle Academy (CFSC)  
Faulhaber Fab Lab  
Grade Level Reading (CFSC)  
HSAC- Children and Youth Partnership (County)  
Imagination Library (Library Foundation for Sarasota County)  
Reading Recovery (GCCF)  
STEM initiatives (GCCF)  
Summer Reading Program (COUNTY)  
Talent 4 Tomorrow (Sarasota Chamber of Commerce)  
United Way Youth initiative

## **Not included:**

Arts and Cultural Alliance  
Arts organizations with children/youth programs  
Faith based organizations/programs  
Families  
Safety organizations (including Law Enforcement, Teen Court, Child Protection Agency etc)  
Sports leagues/teams

Keep adding to the lists weekly...

## Sample Dashboard for tracking impact of plan

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Education</b>		
Graduation Rate	81.3	79.2
Drop Out Rate	1%	1.10%
Habitual Truancy Rate (15 unexcused absences within 90 days)	6.1%	6.8%
<b>Expulsions &amp; Suspension</b>		
Suspensions    Out of school	2212	2258
in school	2108	1976
Expulsions    with services	17	12
without services	38	34
Teen Birth Rate (13-18) rate per thousand	9.7	8.9
Bullying Rate (MS)	30%	
<b>Youth Crime</b>		
Youth Burglary	184	131
Youth Larceny	115	131
Youth Drug & Alcohol Events		
UCR 350A Possession & Sales of Controlled Substances	115	169
UCR 350B Possession of Narcotic Equipment	44	60
Youth Violent Crime		
UCR130 Assault	160	206
UCR 090 Homicide	3	1
UCR 110 Forcible Sex Offenses	3	0
UCR 1200 Robbery	15	32
UCR 2400 Auto Theft	37	28
Youth Victims of Crime		
Robbery	32	25
Assault	337	359
Rape	34	39
Homicide	1	2

**Other areas to track:**

- 2-6 PM Programming
- PYD Programming
- Youth Employment Programming
- Meals & Snacks
- Truancy Prevention
- PYD Case Mgmt Referrals
- Wellness Centers
- Street Outreach Network
- Arrests by School Resource
- Youth & Community Presentations

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

- PYD Total FTE
- PYD Funding
- PYD Meetings held
- PYD Partner Organizations

**FUTURE**

- Youth Recidivism
- Gang Related Crime
- Community Survey - Youth Perspective
- Youth Employed
- Leadership & Volunteering
- Job Readiness & Employability
- Improved SEL skills
- Reduced Drugs/Risk
- Improved Self-Esteem
- Referrals Followed

## Path to a Community Plan for Children Youth

1995	After determining that teens are the most underserved population in our community, Sarasota County Government funded Community Youth Development.
2004	County establishes systems approach to Human Services, including Positive Youth Development
2010	County Human Services requests providers develop a report on the Positive Youth Development (PYD) system.
	Positive Youth Development Council formed by CEO's of 15 of the largest youth service agencies
	Sarasota County named one of the Top 100 Communities for Youth
2012	Sarasota County is again named as one of the Top 100 Communities for Youth
	PYD Council discusses need for a comprehensive approach to ensuring all youth are growing into healthy adulthood.
2014	Sarasota County selected to participate in Florida Community Challenge by the Forum for Youth Investment. The Forum is the leading expert in helping communities improve quality and increase capacity for serving youth. Participating in this 3 day training included Vice President of Sarasota County Chamber, President of the United Way, and School Board member Jane Goodwin
	PYD Council conducts assessment of the youth serving agencies to determine services provided and capacity to serve additional youth.
2016	PYD Council holds webinar to learn more about value of, and process for creating Community Plan for Youth.
	Discussions begin with SCOPE regarding creation of the plan.