



# Washington State Partnership for Youth

***WSPY is a partnership that envisions a state where all youth are nurtured, supported, and empowered to realize their full, individual potential.***

***The Washington State Partnership for Youth aims to recommend a comprehensive set of actions and strategies that will...***



***Improve*** the health and well-being of Washington's youth.

***Promote*** a commitment to adolescent health and well-being evidenced by positive youth policy and fiscal support for youth development.

***Create*** social, educational, recreational and other developmental opportunities that support youth and the communities in which they live.

***Provide*** and improve health services and service systems for youth utilizing best practices as a guide.

***Engage*** individuals, communities, and policy makers to value adolescents and recognize their contributions to Washington.

***Develop*** and strengthen state and local partnerships that promote the health and well-being of adolescents.

## ***RATIONALE***

Many state agencies and local governments currently have strategic plans, policies and programs that address adolescent health. The coordination of these efforts will benefit youth and their families, and be a more efficient use of public resources and funding.

WSPY brings youth, parents, policy makers, and governmental and nongovernmental partners together to create a better understanding of the issues and build consensus about what is needed for positive youth development.

We work to provide information about the needs of adolescents and their families to create shared vision among state and local agencies. Then, through the development of the Washington Healthy Youth Plan, various and separate strategic plans and policies affecting adolescents and their families will be coordinated for greatest positive impact.

### ***Vision***

***a state where all youth are valued, nurtured and supported toward realization of their full, individual potential.***

*For additional information, please contact:*

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[www.son.washington.edu/wspy](http://www.son.washington.edu/wspy)

# Washington State Partnership for Youth

## Structure and Organization

### VALUES

**INCLUSIVENESS**  
making decisions by  
consensus

**COMMUNICATION**  
listening to youth &  
parents

**FOCUS**  
on prevention through  
reducing youth risk  
factors and enhancing  
protective factors

**EFFECTIVENESS**  
interventions with  
proven effectiveness &  
measurable outcomes

**WHOLENESS**  
being comprehensive in  
approaching youth  
development

**RELATIONSHIPS**  
fostering positive  
relationships within  
families and  
communities

**DIVERSITY**  
promoting diversity  
& respecting differences

**SHARED  
RESPONSIBILITY**  
between caring adults,  
families, communities  
and youth.

*The main work of the Washington State Partnership for Youth (WSPY) is done in committee and subcommittees. To date there have been two committees – the Coordinating Committee and Needs Assessment Committee. The Coordinating Committee ensures that the planning work reflects the vision and mission of WSPY members and oversees the development of the plan and its dissemination. The Needs Assessment Committee work is complete. This committee identified, gathered, and analyzed data on issues related to adolescent health.*

*The Coordinating Committee meets regularly to lead, prioritize and accomplish the mission of WSPY. Currently, the Coordinating Committee has four subcommittees: (1) Membership, (2) Youth and Family, (3) Strategies and Recommendations, and (4) Policy. Other committees will form as needed to complete specific WSPY task areas.*

*All committee members are also members of the WSPY. Committee members are expected to regularly attend meetings and actively participate in the development of the WSPY and the Adolescent Health Plan.*

## Coordinating Committee Member Organizations

- Department of Health
- State Board of Health
- University of Washington
- Department of Social and Health Services
  - Medical Assistance Administration
  - Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- Planned Parenthood Affiliates of WA
- Kitsap County Health Department
- Community Trade and Economic Development
- Public Health- Seattle & King County
- Workforce Board
- National Alliance of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners- Washington Chapter
- American Academy of Pediatrics- WA Chapter
- Tacoma/Pierce County Public Health Department
- Center for Health Training
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Comprehensive Health Education Foundation

WSPY membership is open to any organization, corporation, agency or concerned citizen that:

- Seeks to improve the health of Washington State adolescents
- Supports the mission, vision, goals, and values of the WSPY
- Agrees to be identified as a WSPY member organization or individual

WSPY Partner Responsibilities:

- Provide a communication link between the representative organizations, community, and the Partnership
- Review and provide input on the activities of WSPY
- Collaborate with other members or committees on the WSPY goals

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND NEXT STEPS

Accomplishments in 2004:


- **Established Coordinating and Needs Assessment Committees**
- **Developed project vision, goals, and beliefs statements**
- **Developed and launched “Act on It” (a youth recognition project)**
- **Conducted a needs assessment**
- **Developed a membership recruitment strategy and materials**
- **Conducted parent and youth focus groups**
- **Developed the Adolescent Health Plan outline**
- **Drafted the needs assessment and youth framework sections**
- **Established a website**

Tasks Under Way in 2005:

- **Expand and maintain the WSPY website**
- **Establish a process to involve youth and parents in the WSPY**
- **Incorporate quantitative findings from needs assessment with qualitative findings from focus groups**
- **Establish Strategies and Recommendations Committee**
- **Develop goals and objectives for youth in Washington State**
- **Develop criteria for setting priorities amongst recommendations**
- **Conduct expert informant interviews and review related literature**
- **Establish a WSPY Speakers Bureau to highlight initial findings and raise awareness of WSPY and the Washington Healthy Youth Plan**

Tasks planned in 2006:

- **Develop draft of the Washington Healthy Youth Plan**
- **Seek feedback on the Washington Healthy Youth Plan**
- **Develop dissemination plan**
- **Finalize and print the Washington Healthy Youth Plan**
- **Hold a final statewide summit and disseminate the Washington Healthy Youth Plan**





...because  
youth  
are our  
future

Washington Healthy Youth

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**Healthy Youth Plan  
Coming in 2006...**



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