

Investing in Girls  
Healthy Relationships

AREA: HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS						
<i>Youth Development, Self Esteem, recreation, groups and interactions with others including their families.</i>						
Challenge/ Gap	Goal	Measurement	Strategy	Actions Year 1	Who	When
<b>Girls interactions and relationships with girls provide positive stress and happiness as well as negative stress and sadness/anger.</b>	Girls define, develop and sustain healthy relationships	Transcribed notes from Focus Groups	Involve the girls in defining the characteristics of a healthy relationship	Conduct Focus Groups with girls to explore what youth see as healthy, positive relationships and criteria they use to determine a successful healthy relationship.	Youth Serving Organizations contribute by coordinating access to girls and possibly facilitation of focus groups.	
				Identify programs and activities that explore girls definitions of healthy relationships and how to make them and keep them healthy.		
				Engage girls regarding ways to outreach to other girls with information and resources.		
				Set standards for "best practice" and determine criteria for healthy, positive relationships to assure consistent messages with girls.	Youth Development Program Professionals	
		Documented collection of "best practice" programs and activities that employ approved tools to measure performance on desired outcomes	Proactively promote "best practice" programs and activities.	Determine programs and activities that meet criteria and standards for "best practice" based on measurable outcomes to success.	Youth Serving Organizations contribute expertise and program ideas based on current review of "best practice" programs and availability or resources	

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			Encourage the use of approved Pre/Post Surveys and observation tools to measure outcomes for success	Identify and develop approved tools to measure performance on desired outcomes.	Youth Development Professionals in collaboration with college interns.	
		Documented availability of programs, services, resources, and opportunities for girls through a program resource database.	Increase the availability of high-quality programs, services, resources, and opportunities for girls through use of identified "best practice" program models.	Support the implementation of concrete opportunities for girls to develop healthy, positive relationship skills.	Funders, Communications and Outreach Sub Committee, Youth Development Agencies and Programs	
<b>Girls interactions and relationships with girls can be emotionally and physically violent.</b>	Reduce emotional and physical violence between girls	track juvenile incidents	Involve Parents and Mentors	Collect data on which programs meet pre-set standards and criteria for developing healthy, positive relationships and make it available.	DYS, DSS, WPS to share collected indicators	
<b>All -girls, parents, providers- are concerned with peer pressure &amp; the media in leading girls in making unhealthy choices</b>	Girls develop and maintain self confidence and self respect while utilizing positive communication skills.	Pre/post program surveys as well as documentation of access and observed behaviors related to empowerment, self-confidence, and resilience..	Schools, Community based organizations and Parents work in concert with girls	Assist Schools, Community Based Organizations, and Parents to collaborate for the success and wide spread implementation of "best practice" Youth Development Programs through development of outreach strategies to reach additional girls and agencies.	Schools, Community Based Organizations, Parents, and Communication/O outreach Subcommittee	
			Develop tools, strategies and programs	Implement Friendly Persuasion in school and community sites.	Girls Inc. & WPS	
					Implement Girls Promoting Safety in middle schools and community settings.	Girls Inc.,YWCA & WPS

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<b>Romantic Relationships with boys and/or girls are both exciting and confusing to girls.</b>	Girls define, develop and sustain healthy sexual relationships	pre /post surveys regarding level of comfort and safety of relationship	Peer Leadership Models regarding sexual health	Develop and implement a healthy relationship program focused on sexual health and sexuality, that serves girls from elementary school through College and Career.	Hope Coalition & the Sexual Health Working Group	
<b>Social/Emotional violence can make the school environment unsafe (Sexual Harassment &amp; Bullying)</b>	Girls identify feeling safe	track school incidents	To increase the safety measures taken in the schools by 1/09	Involve Community, Schools, State Agencies	DYS, DSS, WPS to share collected indicators	
		Pre/post program surveys as well as documentation of access and observed behaviors. Safe At School Measures.	Expand implementation of GPS, violence prevention program	Implement GPS at All School for grades 6 - 9, Sullivan Middle and Worcester East Middle Schools	DYS, DSS, YWCA, Worcester Public Schools, and Girls Inc.	
<b>Physical violence, safety and safe places are concerns for all.</b>	Girls have an increased sense of security in activities outside of school by 6/09	Pre/post program surveys as well as documentation of access and observed behaviors.	Transportation, Program Choice	Implement the YouthNet transportation pilot.	YouthNet	
	Girls have an increased sense of security in the home.	Track incidence in the home.	Increase the availability of high-quality programs, services, resources, and opportunities for families of girls through use of identified "best practice" program models.	Identify "best practice" solutions for family involvement.	DYS, DSS, Families	
				Educate parents and family about the issues effecting girls.	Community based Organizations, Juvenile Court	

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<p><b>Girls report that boys sometimes take advantage of them sexually and violently, and that sexual harassment is a common experience.</b></p>	<p>Girls experience a Reduction of sexual harassment, assault and abuse directed toward them</p>	<p>Pre/post program surveys as well as documentation of access and observed behaviors.</p>	<p>Educate girls--and boys--about sexual harassment, assault, and abuse in ways that do not victimize girls and/or demonize boys.</p>	<p>Involve more school and community based sites in the implementation of GPS</p>	<p>Rape Crisis, YWCA, Girls Inc., WPS, Henry Lee Willis, Jane Doe, WPD</p>	
			<p>Empower girls to say no to harassment, abuse and pressure; and say yes to being physically, emotionally, and sexually safe, comfortable and</p>	<p>Involve more school and community based sites in the implementation of GPS</p>		
			<p>Provide training in addressing the aggression by 1/09.</p>	<p>Involve more school and community based sites in the implementation of GPS</p>		