



YCIDIA
MAPPING & GAP ANALYSIS

FUNCTION
MEASURE QUALITY & IMPACT

One of the first tasks of the *Merced County Youth Council* was to assess their community to determine what youth services were available to address their top five concerns. They conducted a mapping project before developing their strategic plan. Initially, they tried to contract with an organization skilled in this process, but were unable to locate any to hire. Ultimately, this proved to be a gift in disguise as the Youth Council itself mobilized to accomplish the task. An important piece of the process was to survey youth to gather their input. Youth Council members surveyed over 300 students in area summer schools (survey available). Working face-to-face with administrators and youth was done by the Council members, rather than staff.

OUTCOMES

This process worked on many levels, some the Council did not expect. The Council members are now more fully engaged, educated and understand their youth's needs better as a result of participation in the project. The Council has expanded its membership and identified areas of immediate need on which to focus. As a result of the mapping survey and resultant Gap Analysis, the Council produced its first Asset Map. An equally important tool developed from the analysis is the Youth Resource Directory which will be given to every youth (14 to 21) in Merced County.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THIS YCIDIA?

Identifying, updating and linking information and database is on-going work. The Council continues to build this process into their strategic plan and committee assignments.

TOOLS

Merced Youth Council Committee Charters

Additional tools available by contacting the Merced County Youth Council:

Needs Assessment Survey (assesses student needs)

Asset Map Gap Analysis

YOUTH COUNCIL

Merced County Youth Council

MISSION

To build a community-wide consensus that promotes and supports an integrated youth service delivery system that ensures any youth the support needed.

CONTACT

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