

## **Parent and Youth Membership on a Coordinating Committee**

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Importance of Parent and Youth Involvement:

- Parents and youth are essential for the development of realistic policies and procedures
- A parent and youth perspective ensures the committee stays grounded
- Parents and youth bring real life, expert experience
- Parents and youth know what works and what doesn't
- Grant-funded initiatives must have 25% parent membership

Recruiting Parents and Youth to Serve as Coordinating Committee Members:

Make personal contact – avoid “cold-calling”. Someone who has a trusting relationship with the parent or youth should talk with them about the possibility of Committee Membership.

Eliminate Barriers

- Reimbursement for time
- Flexibility in meeting location and time
- Childcare
- Transportation

Help Ensure an Active Role

- Parents and youth bring a unique and needed perspective – encourage their active participation
- Encourage the possibility of becoming a committee officer

Periodically evaluate how committee meetings are going – do parents, youth, and other committee members feel meetings are productive and worth their time? Get input from members.