

Action for Youth Development: Intergenerational Issues

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Barriers to civic engagement

- Youth may resist participating in programs or initiatives where older adults are perceived as constraining their autonomy.
 - Age-segregated services and media images are not presenting older adults as allies for youth to achieve successful independence.
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Principles of Intergenerational Programming

- ❑ Benefits must be mutual for youth and older adults
 - ❑ Leadership must offer a clear vision and achievable goals
 - ❑ Partnerships must include participants in planning
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Elements of success

- Resources are used to connect generations through interagency collaborations.
 - Infrastructure supports interdisciplinary professionalism.
 - The outcome is satisfying interdependent relationships.
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Objective 1

- Change the perception of “intergenerational” programs as one age group being “in service” to another (dependency model).
 - Promote programs that support the maintenance of autonomy for all ages through meaningful roles.
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Objective 2

- Blur institutional boundaries so that services, funding and professional preparation are no longer targeting segregated age groups.

 - Support inter-agency collaboration.
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Objective 3

- ❑ Shape more positive perceptions of youth and aging through various media.
 - ❑ Disseminate successful intergenerational program models.
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