

Community Focus Statement C: Build human capital and promote enterprise, with a focus on environmentally friendly businesses, to strengthen the local economy and provide opportunities for residents and families to be self-reliant.

Action Statement C.1: *Promote child and youth development, social and civic responsibility, and environmental stewardship by establishing a multigenerational community council with youth in leadership positions to advocate for and support activities that enrich our community and our environment.*



Benchmark: Successful establishment of a Community Council with a good generational cross-representation.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: depends on program development



Worthing Youth Council. Photo source: [Mill1007](#)

Community development is facilitated by the ability of local people to mobilize resources to address local needs. Youth are in a position to be among the stable and long-term contributors who help guide this process. Youth represent a vast and often untapped resource for immediate and long-term community development efforts. They also are an invaluable resource for program planning and effective evaluation. As youth are brought into and connected with organizations and civic roles from which they have traditionally been excluded, they can participate in active and equal decision-making at multiple levels. And as youth engage in more sustained positive relationships with adults, other youth, and community organizations, they will learn that they are valued citizens

of their communities. Such collaborations will lead to skill enhancement and confidence-building traits, which will help prepare them for navigating toward adulthood.

In partnership with local schools, youth-supporting nonprofit organizations and community service organizations should establish a steering committee with a clearly defined mission to lead the development and implementation of multigenerational community development programs. The steering committee should consist of youth from across the community in leadership roles, allowing them to be a driving force in the project's success. Their exuberance and creativity would be complemented by the individual knowledge and skills that adult committee members would bring.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a team to oversee this action.	Champion	Months 1	Live Well San Diego Intergenerational Councils http://www.livewellsd.org/content/livewell/home/community/intergenerational/councils.html
2. Open an application period for students to apply for a position on a multigenerational steering committee. Contact adult volunteers to serve on the committee.	Youth-supporting nonprofit organizations and community service organizations (i.e., Lighthouse Project and Interact Club), in partnership with local schools	Months 1 – 6	Generations United http://www.gu.org/RESOURCES/IntergenerationalCenter/ToolkitsandManuals.aspx
3. Establish a steering committee with a clearly defined mission to lead the development and implementation of multigenerational community development programs.	Youth-supporting nonprofit organizations and community service organizations (i.e., Lighthouse Project and Interact Club), in partnership with local schools Interact Club)	Months 6 – 12	Interact Club-Rotary http://www.bigbearlakeroary.org/
4. Identify programs to expand and extracurricular activities to develop.	Youth and adult committee members in multigenerational steering committee	Year 2	Lighthouse Project http://www.bigbearlighthouse.com/Home.html