

HEALTHY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Mission

To cultivate collaborative communities in Rice County that support, value, and empower youth

Vision

Communities where all youth thrive



Guiding Principles

GRASSROOTS

We believe that true transformation begins with, and is led by, the people in our communities. We work to be responsive to the needs and actions in each unique community, assisting and supporting as needed in ways that are consistent with our mission, vision, and guiding principles.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

We commit to being anti-racist in all levels of our work. We allocate resources to improve accessibility and outcomes for all youth. We advance social justice through direct service, and by advocating for policies and systems changes. We believe that ALL community members shall be treated equitably – regardless of origin, race/ethnicity, language, religion, gender, mental and physical abilities, sexual orientation and identity, age, and economic status. We work to understand and address our role in perpetuating discrimination, and we take action to end discriminatory practices and policies.

COLLABORATION

We believe when our programs and strategic partners work together, our combined strength and resources allow us to achieve greater goals. We commit to partnering with others respectfully, transparently, and ethically. We foster cooperation as a key strategy to effective, lasting change.

IMPACT

We recognize systems exist that perpetuate disparities in access, engagement, and outcomes. We dedicate our resources to addressing systems-level changes that produce measurable improvements. We work with our partners and community members to develop collaborative solutions and implement evidence-based strategies, leading to tangible and systemic change that will benefit the health and well-being of our youth.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

We believe in the power of youth – and we embrace youth as full partners in our work and in our communities. We understand discussions are richer and outcomes are stronger when youth are involved in all aspects of our work and we support them in taking on active roles in community life. We commit to prioritizing and amplifying the voices of our youth, especially those who are historically underrepresented.

INNOVATION

We recognize that our communities are constantly changing. We develop, implement, and share new ideas, creative solutions, and leading practices. We question why we do things, seek to improve current methods, and report results for the benefit of others. We value our ability to be responsive and nimble when addressing community needs.

SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

We appreciate that strong and healthy connections help people thrive. We believe that, together with families, all parts of our communities have a responsibility for all youth. We encourage and promote multi-generational opportunities for individuals to interact, form connections, and maximize support for youth in multiple ways.



Key Priorities

Our key priorities are designed to serve as catalysts, driving the work we do. Our Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles serve as guide rails, helping us make decisions about which projects to take on, which partnerships to nurture, and which funding opportunities to pursue. In other words, our key priorities are the fuel that powers our cars, while our mission/vision/guiding principles serve as the guide rails that keep us from going off the side of the road.

#1

Unwavering commitment to equity & anti-racism

The work we do will address our own role in systemic racism, and improve the systems that contribute to discrimination and disparities in access, opportunities, and outcomes.

#2

Fully embracing our growth into a countywide organization

We will continue to expand and enhance the grassroots work we do throughout Rice County, partnering authentically with community organizations, and addressing community needs. This includes engaging representatives from the communities we serve on our staff, as members of our Board, and in our community partnerships.