

a journey begins  
with one step.

Feel like LIFE  
is all messed up?



a journey to EXCELLENCE

Find Hope. Find Answers.  
Find a new road with a  
journey to Excellence.

you GOTTA  
believe  
in you

**Project EXCEL** provides eligible young people with support and access to developmental opportunities for moving toward self-sufficiency, self-esteem, and success.

A broad range of services are offered to older youth (16-21) years old. The program includes on-going skill development, personal and occupational training during day and evening hours.

**Project EXCEL** is aimed at helping young people achieve their full potential, and to refrain from risky behavior.

It gives young people a chance to build skills, exercise leadership, form relationships with caring adults, and help their families and communities.

**Project EXCEL** has an approach that is based on the paradigm that youth, their families, and communities are partners in developing and delivering services and opportunities for young people, and in strengthening communities.

**Project EXCEL** is comprised of six (6) program components: Academic Preparedness, Mentoring, Personal Development, Occupational Readiness, Community Engagement, and Leadership.

Take the journey.



"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."  
-Albert Einstein



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## Helping to Build a Sense of SELF

With discipline, care, and nurturing, our young people can become valued and productive members of the community. **Project EXCEL** recognizes that beyond academic or job competency, young people need:

- A sense of personal safety
- Structure
- A sense of belonging
- A sense of self worth that is predicated on achievement and character
- Mastery of skills
- Access to learning opportunities beyond the classroom
- Responsibility
- Spirituality
- Self-awareness and creative exploration
- Support and guidance from caring adults

As young people in our communities struggle to build a sense of themselves, **Project EXCEL** is committed to ensuring that youth are viewed as resources in the building process. We believe that by focusing on young people's strengths and talents, while reconnecting them to the larger community, we can begin to garner all of our community resources to create a more productive future for our youth, our most valuable asset.



## the Project... the Program...



When young people are not given outlets for positive growth, they often choose dangerous and counterproductive alternatives. In contrast, positive developmental opportunities meet the needs of young people, while decreasing their exposure to destructive influences and reducing their involvement in risky behavior. **Project EXCEL's** focus is on ultimate success and personal transformation, which will enable youth to function more effectively in an increasingly more complex world.

Increasing poverty, violence, and hopelessness in many communities threaten young people's welfare, and make developmental opportunities more difficult to attain. Crime and violence affect their ability to participate in and benefit from community activities. Strained living conditions, financial burdens and family responsibilities affect their ability to see themselves as valuable and important contributors to society. Insufficient educational experiences have prevented them from developing the ability to reason and solve problems.



In our local communities, **Project EXCEL** is committed to meeting our young people where they are socially and culturally, and to creating programs and services that meet young people's needs.

**Focusing on young people's strengths rather than their failings is the underlying premise of successful youth development efforts.**



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## core values, focused impact

At the core of **Project EXCEL** is its commitment to a full range of program experiences:

- Enable young people to learn new skills, and develop their creative talents and gifts.
- Teach personal life skills, such as problem solving, decision-making, setting and achieving goals, and creating and maintaining harmonious interpersonal relationships.
- Connect young people to caring adults (nonstaff) and then support those connections.
- Support young people's educational experiences.
- Provide academic, employment preparation, and community engagement opportunities.
- Enable young people to consider and plan for a better future.
- Address their specific problems of family and employment.
- Bring people together from different backgrounds and cultures.
- Teach young people about what to expect from, or how to handle, real-life situations such as marriage, parenting, maintaining employment, developing hobbies or special interests, celebrating success, or adjusting to loss.
- Understand the challenges of young people.
- Acknowledge the strengths and attributes of young people.
- Understand that each generation experiences a very different world than the preceding generation and that the external environment affects the development process.
- Provide information to families that enable them to better support their young people.
- Create an environment that honors and cares for young people in our communities.
- Honor and channel the creative spirit and energy of young people into more positive directions.

