



PATH TO PROMISE

A Bold Vision for Dutchess County Youth

Path to Promise Domains:

6 areas that encompass the major elements of a child's growth process - we call them "DOMAINS"

Learning

Acquiring knowledge leading to the success of students in future college and career aspirations

Material Basics

Providing for the basic needs of youth and families, including housing support and food

Safety

The feeling of being protected from danger, risk, or injury

Family/Social Relationships

Having pro-social bonds with family, peers, and other adults providing opportunities for emotional and spiritual growth and support

Mental Health

Opportunities to develop or support positive psychological and emotional well-being, including enrichment and leadership, and pro-social growth opportunities

Physical Health

Ensuring access to quality health care, opportunities for positive body growth and development, and access to appropriate and quality responses to cases in which children get sick or hurt

we believe everyone should have the opportunity to achieve the path to promise





DUTCHESS COUNTY'S ROLE:

We launched the "Path to Promise" initiative to provide every Dutchess County child with a road map for success. The County will lead the implementation of this initiative with the following next steps:

- Renew our focus on children, initially early childhood development
- Implement a bold action plan to overcome gaps in essential programs and services
- Revitalize the Youth Coordinating Council to better engage with young people
- Utilize data to track and measure the success of current and future programming
- Appoint a new Assistant Commissioner for Youth Services to coordinate our efforts
- Encourage youth leadership opportunities as part of continuous outreach efforts
- Provide training resources to service providers and community partners

In addition to a variety of direct and contracted services designed to strengthen families, Dutchess County spends \$4 million annually on discretionary youth programming in addition to over \$100,000 in Agency Partner Grants. The County will also work with community funding sources to leverage available resources.

PATH TO PROMISE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 530 students from 17 schools
- 8 regional community forums
- 74 service provider event attendees
- 97 youth summit participants
- 6 youth focus groups
- 94 community provider survey responses



Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive

56,000
Children & youth
call Dutchess
County home

It is abundantly clear how important it is to set our children on a path to realizing their potential and fulfilling their promise. Our Path to Promise identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to begin our children on a path to stability, security, and success. As part of this effort we engaged over 500 young people, along with stakeholders, parents, and providers. Through this intensive public process and analysis of programs serving youth, we have identified gaps and created a real action plan to give every child a chance to succeed.

With 90% of brain growth and 85% of intellect, personality, and social skills development occurring before age 5, we can have the greatest long-term impact on a child's life before they enter kindergarten; and that is where Dutchess County Government will begin to expand our efforts.

As the County takes the next steps to implement this plan, we call on the community to help us bridge programming gaps, offer warm hand-offs between programs, and build on the successes that are so abundantly present in our county. We know the necessary skills, supports, and resources every child needs to flourish by learning from our service providers, caregivers, and young adults who have shared their success stories and shortcomings. Together, we have created a road map to success and promise.

NOTHING ABOUT ME WITHOUT ME

Engaging with Dutchess County Youth

Working with Public Consulting Group (PCG), a community-led project team engaged in dialogues with youth, parents, service providers, funders, and the public at large to analyze existing programs, develop a universal asset framework, and an implementation plan to build on what is working, resolve duplication, and close any gaps in services and supports.

Through this outreach, the motto "Nothing About Me Without Me" emerged as an unbending reminder of our commitment to youth – all youth. The highly successful youth summit will become an annual event to ensure continuous engagement.





SUPPORTING YOUTH & FAMILIES

The County's "Fostering Connections" initiative utilizes volunteers to mentor youth in foster care. The Coach Family Visitation program trains volunteers to support families in the child welfare system.

Our "Strengthening Families" workshops are a group experience for parents and children to improve communication and family dynamics, and teach teens and preteens to make good choices.



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

The Dutchess County Youth One Stop offers year-round employment services for those 14 through 24 years of age, in partnership with the local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The Youth Financial Literacy & Computer Training Program is an annual two-day course that teaches valuable financial and computer skills. At the successful completion, each student earns a laptop computer and printer.



QUALITY AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE

Access to affordable childcare is an impediment to both growing and entering the workforce. The high cost of childcare in New York State, rivaling a mortgage payment, means going back to work is too often a net financial loss for families.

High-quality childcare, which is really high-quality childhood education, can significantly improve the life of a child, give parents peace of mind, and have positive effects on the economy.

2019 AGENCY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

The County funds partnership in youth services with the following Community Based Organizations:

BOOK BUDDIES

Literacy Connections of the Hudson Valley operates its Book Buddies literacy mentorship program in 14 Dutchess County schools, with 93% of students served showing increased confidence and reading fluency. As part of Dutchess Reads, we expanded this successful program to three eastern and northern Dutchess school districts.

NORTH EAST COMMUNITY CENTER

The After-School Connections Program advances after-school youth development opportunities for sixty (60) K-8th grade students in the Webutuck Central School District to ensure alignment with the academic core competencies taught during the school day and by promoting measurable social, emotional, and academic success.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

The Boys & Girls Club provides a comprehensive after-school program and summer camp at the New Hope Community Center in the City of Poughkeepsie. This program targets the academic, social, and behavioral development of city youth.

