COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Pathfinders RC&D, Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities

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ISSUE STATEMENT

The lack of personnel to access, develop, and execute funding initiatives.

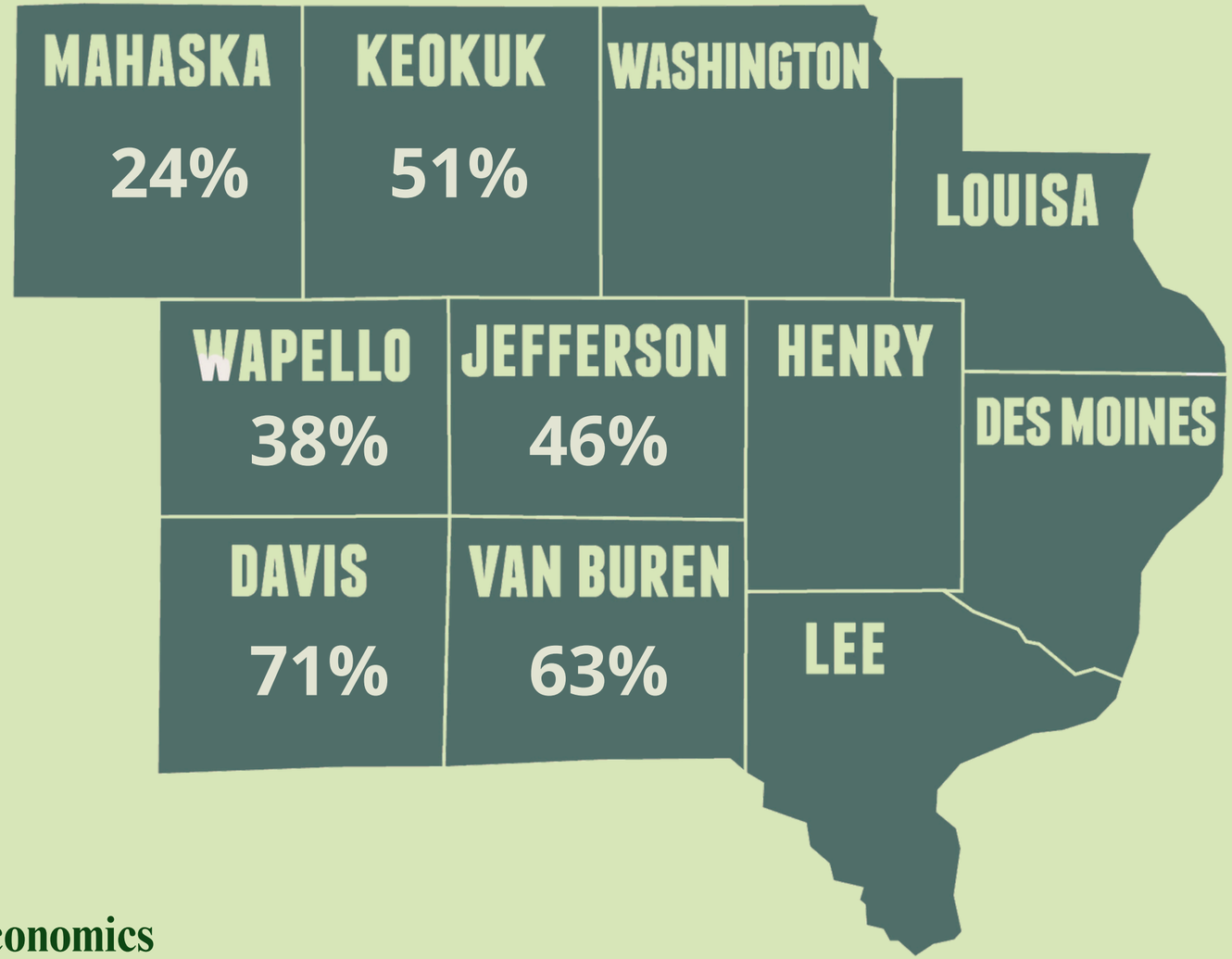
PATHFINDERS ASKED US TO...

Increase administrative **capacity**

Access additional **funding** streams

Invest in the community's **youth**

% US COUNTIES WITH HIGHER CAPACITY



Data From: Headwaters Economics

Policy Recommendation 1A

External Grantwriter

Project Scope

- Professional grant writer
- Grants for local city transportation and beautification
- City grants with a **fee of service**

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Personnel
- Accessible grants (e.g., Traffic Safety Improvement Program)
- Nonprofits in the service area
- $45,000 initial investment for Pathfinders

Policy Recommendation 1A
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Implementation
- Request for proposals (RFP)
- Bidding process managed by AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer
- Start work around Mar. 2025

Policy Recommendation 1B

AmeriCorps Vista

Become a Host-Site

- Applications begin in December
- The process is straightforward
- Vista staff provides guidance

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Increase Personnel

- The volunteer will help with:
- Grant writing
- Request for proposals
- Youth Co-Design
- General assistance

Policy Recommendation 1B
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- The volunteer will help with:
- Grant writing
- Request for proposals
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Cost Effective

- $5,000 / Member / Year
- 5-10% of supervisor’s time expected on oversight

Policy Recommendation 2

Website Database and Template

Grant Database

Master List

Eligible Rural Iowa Grants

Federal, State, and Local Grants

Foundations and Corporate Grants

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Grant Guide

Grant Database
What is Needed
Grant Application Process
Grant Writing Basics
Resources List

Policy Recommendation 3A

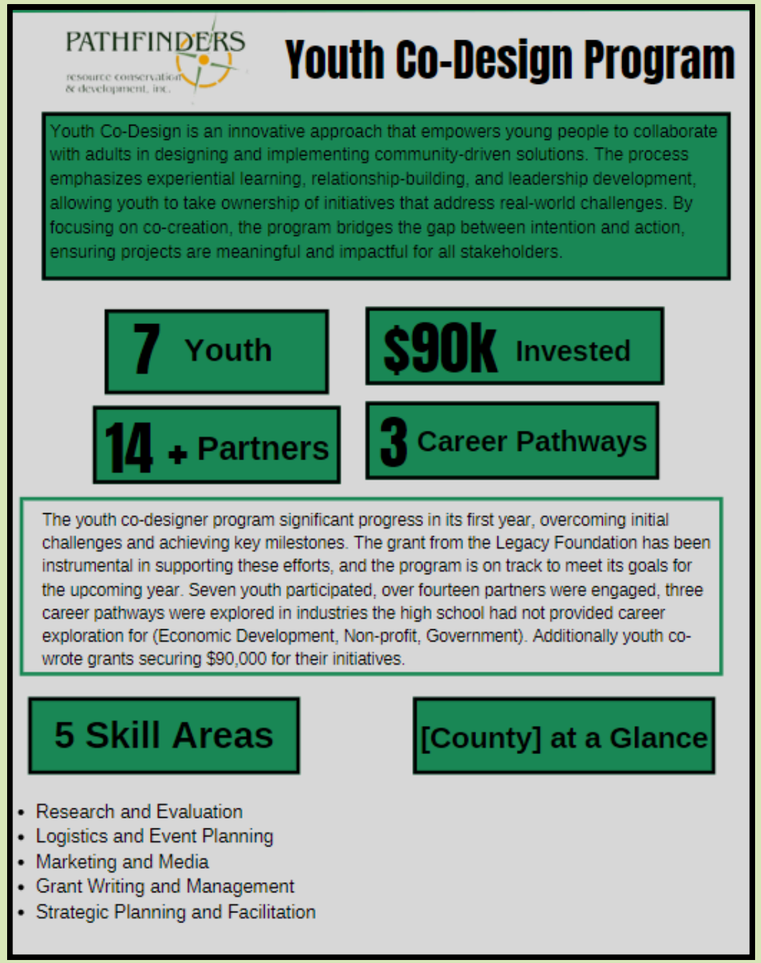
Website Database and Template

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

- 2 pager highlighting current efforts
- Targeted at community decision makers
- Tailored approach for each county

Policy Recommendation 3A

Youth Co-Design Expansion



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Policy Recommendation 3B

Youth Co-Design Expansion

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LOCAL SCHOOL DATABASE

- ✓ Covering all schools in the 6-county area
- ✓ Contact information for principals and superintendents
- ✓ Implementation Guide for Replication

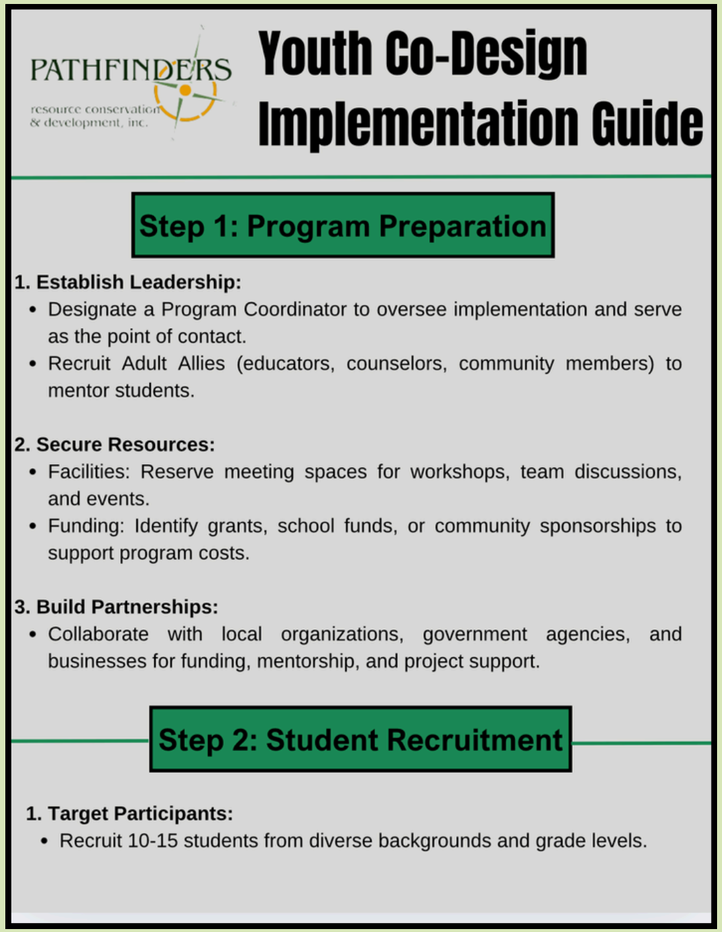
Policy Recommendation 3B

Youth Co-Design Expansion

45 local schools

35% high school aged

90 updated contacts



PATHFINDERS
resource conservation & development, inc.

Youth Co-Design Implementation Guide

Step 1: Program Preparation

1. Establish Leadership:

- Designate a Program Coordinator to oversee implementation and serve as the point of contact.
- Recruit Adult Allies (educators, counselors, community members) to mentor students.

2. Secure Resources:

- Facilities: Reserve meeting spaces for workshops, team discussions, and events.
- Funding: Identify grants, school funds, or community sponsorships to support program costs.

3. Build Partnerships:

- Collaborate with local organizations, government agencies, and businesses for funding, mentorship, and project support.

Step 2: Student Recruitment

1. Target Participants:

- Recruit 10-15 students from diverse backgrounds and grade levels.

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Policy Recommendation 3C

Youth Co-Design Expansion

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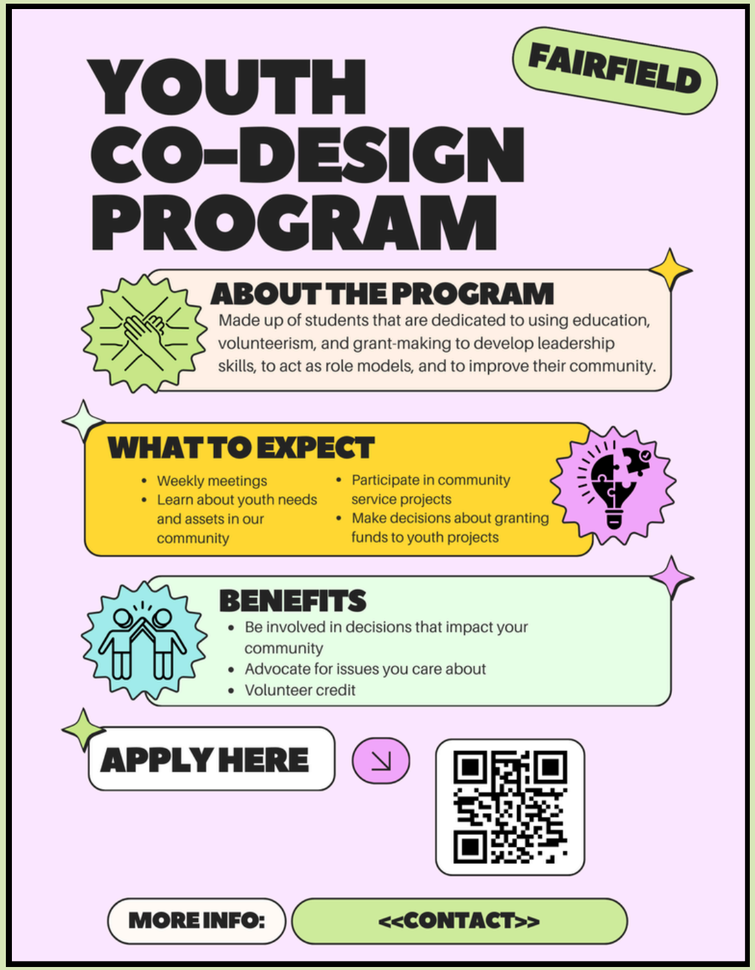
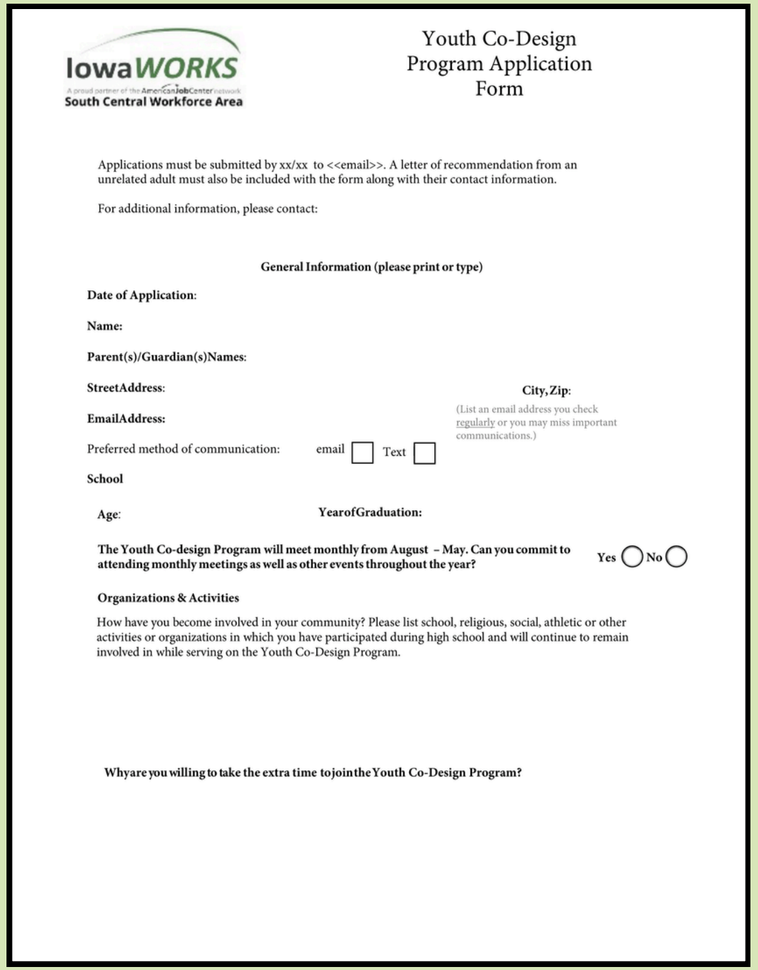
FLYER & APPLICATION

- Distribute electronically and physically
- Fillable PDF

Policy Recommendation 3C

Youth Co-Design Expansion





IowaWORKS
A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter network
South Central Workforce Area

Youth Co-Design Program Application Form

Applications must be submitted by xx/xx to <<email>>. A letter of recommendation from an unrelated adult must also be included with the form along with their contact information.

For additional information, please contact:

General Information (please print or type)

Date of Application:

Name:

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)Names:

StreetAddress: **City, Zip:**

EmailAddress: (List an email address you check regularly or you may miss important communications.)

Preferred method of communication: email ☐ Text ☐

School

Age: **YearofGraduation:**

The Youth Co-design Program will meet monthly from August – May. Can you commit to attending monthly meetings as well as other events throughout the year? Yes ◯ No ◯

Organizations & Activities

How have you become involved in your community? Please list school, religious, social, athletic or other activities or organizations in which you have participated during high school and will continue to remain involved in while serving on the Youth Co-Design Program.

Whyare you willing to take the extra time tojointhe Youth Co-Design Program?

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Thank you!