



Youth First update to the City 3.3.26

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Agenda

History and Partnerships

Youth Substance Prevention Alliance
(previously Northfield Alliance for
Substance Abuse Prevention)

Northfield Community College
Collaborative

Opportunity Reboot

Youth on Boards

YouthBank



TALK!

They hear you.

**Talk to your kids
before they make
plans with friends.**

The new school year is a great time to
establish family rules for social activities.

Youth need your help understanding the
facts about alcohol and other drugs. Talk with
them about the risks of underage drinking
and substance use, and be clear and consistent
about your expectations.

For tips on how and when to
begin the conversation, visit
[www.underagedrinking.
samhsa.gov](http://www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov).

#TalkTheyHearYou



SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration



RICE COUNTY
Chemical and
Mental Health
Coalition

**youth
first**

Northfield Alliance for
Substance Abuse Prevention

History and partnerships

For over 10 years the City of Northfield, Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) and Youthprise partnered together to Elevate and Amplify Youth Voice throughout our city. This partnership is known as Youth First and is composed of three distinct areas of focus:

- ▶ Youth Health
- ▶ Youth Future
- ▶ Youth Engagement

We are excited to update you on the work that has been done in these areas over the last year



Youth Substance Prevention Alliance - YSPA

Looking back on 2025

Supporting families as the first and most important support system for our youth:

- monthly mailings and/or social media and newsletter
- outreach focusing on information and encouragement

Highlighting the connection between mental health and substance use:

- Mental Health Trainings
- Mental Health Referrals

Be Safe Be Sober campaign at High School and ALC

- Support for After Prom Party
- Scholarships for Senior Last Day of School Event

Supporting the Community

- Supporting Night to Unite
- Local beverage server training
- Medication collection
- Naloxone support



YSPA

Looking forward to 2026

Education:

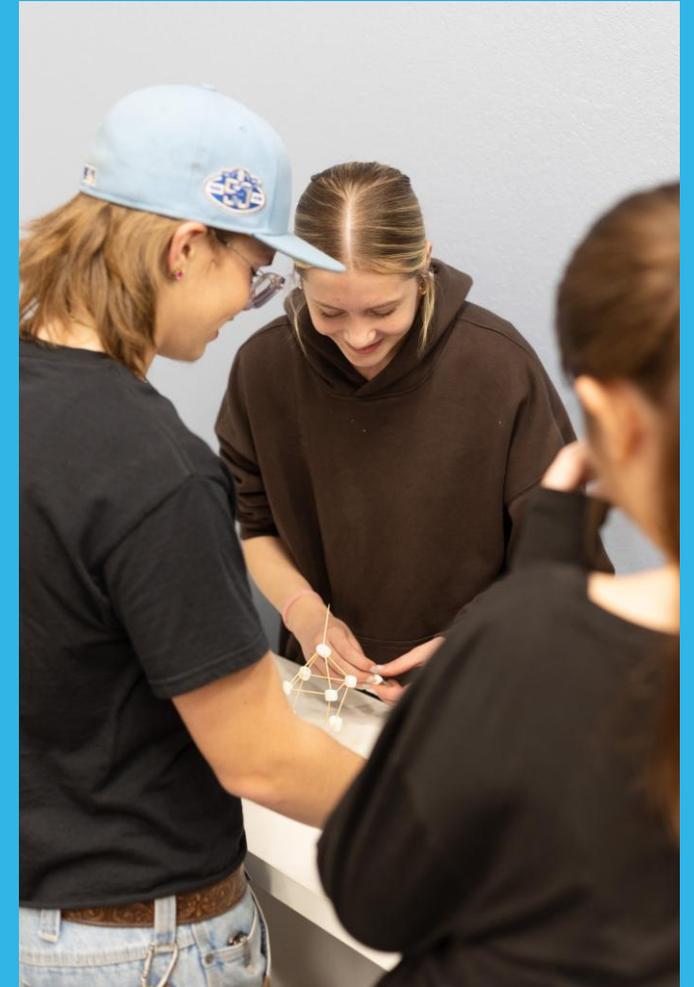
- Anti – vaping campaigns
- Talk They Hear You mailings

Training:

- Mental Health First Aid Trainings in the High School and community wide
- Beverage Server Training
- QPR Trainings

Advocacy:

- Connecting with community members to understand their concern for their children



Northfield Community College Collaborative (NCCC)



2025 Highlights-

- Partnered with 41 colleges and universities
- Provided 5,952 individual advising contacts
- Covered \$30,734 in postsecondary expenses
- Offered in-person financial literacy & mental health courses
- In-person student highlights:
 - 73% first generation college attendees; 64% are students of color; 84% come from low-income families; 27% are parents; 18% are in recovery

NCCC

Looking forward to 2026

- Continued expansion of partnerships in the community to increase offerings to NCCC students:
 - Library Internships
 - Grow Your Own Education pathway
 - Financial Literacy & Life Skills Training
 - New Americans and Long-Term Care grant
- Continued support for our students in recovery
 - Increasing training for our staff
 - Finding funding sources for these students
- Increased support for our parenting students
 - Have constructed a designated childcare space within our Student Center
 - Expanding childcare options for our students both in and out of school time options



Opportunity Reboot

Looking back on 2025:

- Served 129 local Opportunity Youth ages 14–24
- Provided academic support, job access, career readiness, postsecondary exploration, and support services
- Supported work of NPSD in reducing chronic absenteeism rates

Looking Ahead to 2026:

- Provide academic and job support to more than 100 Opportunity Youth in Rice County
- Ensure that at least 85% of participating youth re-enter or remain in school or secure stable employment
- Look for additional funding opportunities to support these youth





Youth on Boards

Looking back on 2025

90 Northfield area youth served on local boards, commissions and committees

2014 – 2 boards

2025 – 26 boards

Highlights:

MYC proposed and City Council unanimously passed change to public comment rules

Tours of City Hall, Northfield Public Library and Northfield Police Station

MYC voter pre-registration drive

DYC School Board Brunch

MYC representation at Trunk or Treat and Winter Walk to encourage early youth civic engagement



Youth on Boards



Looking Forward to 2026

- Engage youth in community-wide endeavors through work on local area boards, commissions, and council
- Voter registration and Get Out the Vote Campaigns
- Ensure youth voice is incorporated into city-level decision-making
- Facilitate Youth on Boards participants involvement in "Day at the Capitol" events



YOUTHBANK

Looking Back on 2025

- U of M and Augsburg faculty supported development of Fall grant round theme: third spaces
- Successful fundraising campaign led to donations from both Carleton College and Community Resource Bank
- Leadership team of 15 youth
- Total funds granted to date - \$198,448

YouthBank

Looking forward
to 2026

- Continue to train new team members on issues of racial justice and equity so that the work of the team is centered on these areas
- Support YouthBank team members as they evaluate and rethink youth philanthropy in Northfield
- Support current projects in their implementation





Thank you!