

2025-2026 Project WISE Program Summary

2025-2026 TOP Clubs

September 2026

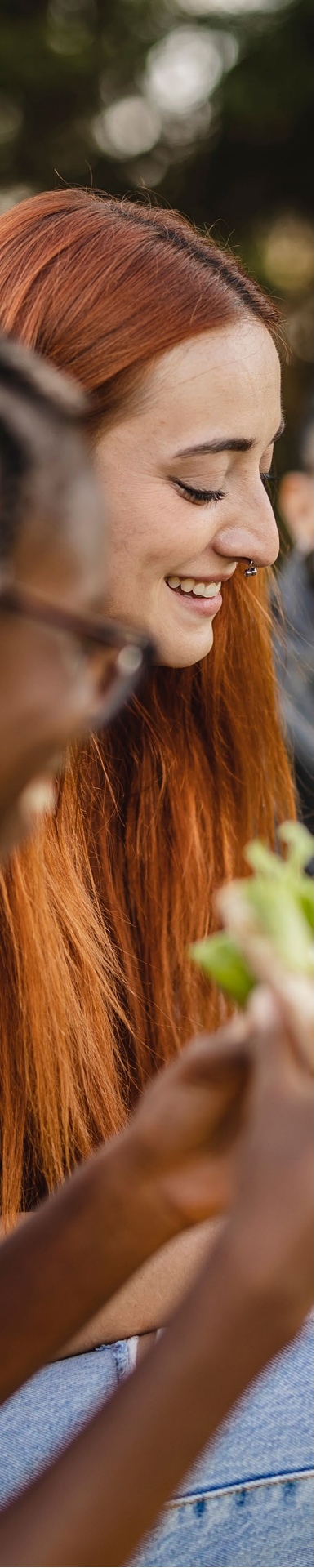


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Learn more about Project WISE here:

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Suggested Citation: Raygor, A., Taber, E., & Smith, M. (2026). Project WISE Aggregate Program Summary for 2025-2026. Prepared by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute on behalf of the Wisconsin Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program (SRAE). Madison, WI.

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PROJECT WISE AT
2025-2026 TOP Clubs
AT A GLANCE

379/354 young people served.

Enrollment decreased by **20%** compared to last year.

379 youth participants attended at least one program session.

49% of TOP youth successfully completed full program dosage.

Compared to 2024-25, the number of youth who completed full program dosage changed by **28%**.

17 clubs completed programming this year.

110 hours of group CSL time completed across 17 clubs.

6 hours average group CSL time per club.

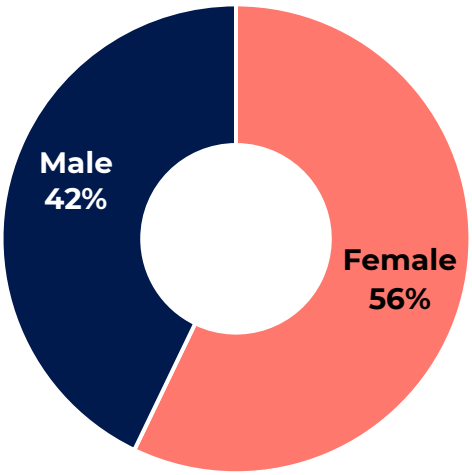
259 youth participants completed SRAE entry surveys.

283 youth participants completed SRAE exit surveys.

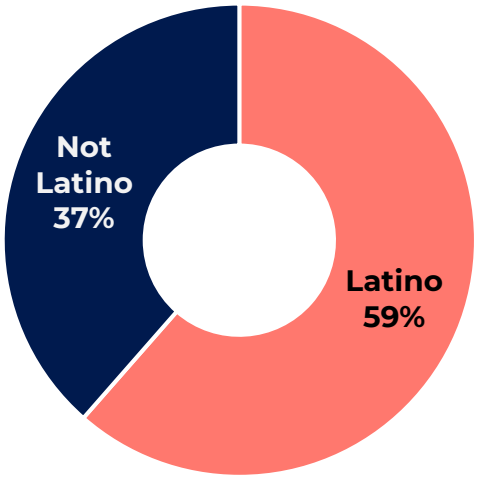
266 youth participants completed TOP pre-surveys.

258 youth participants completed TOP post-surveys.

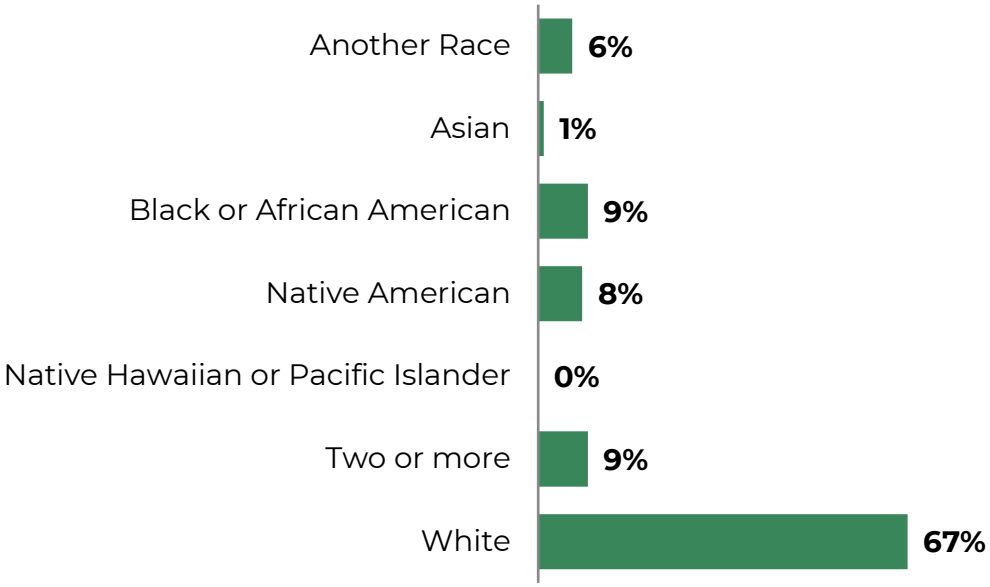
DEMOGRAPHICS



N=283



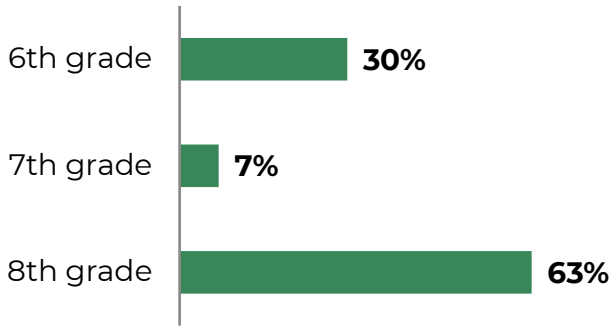
N=283



N=276

Average age of youth served is **13**.

N=280



N=277



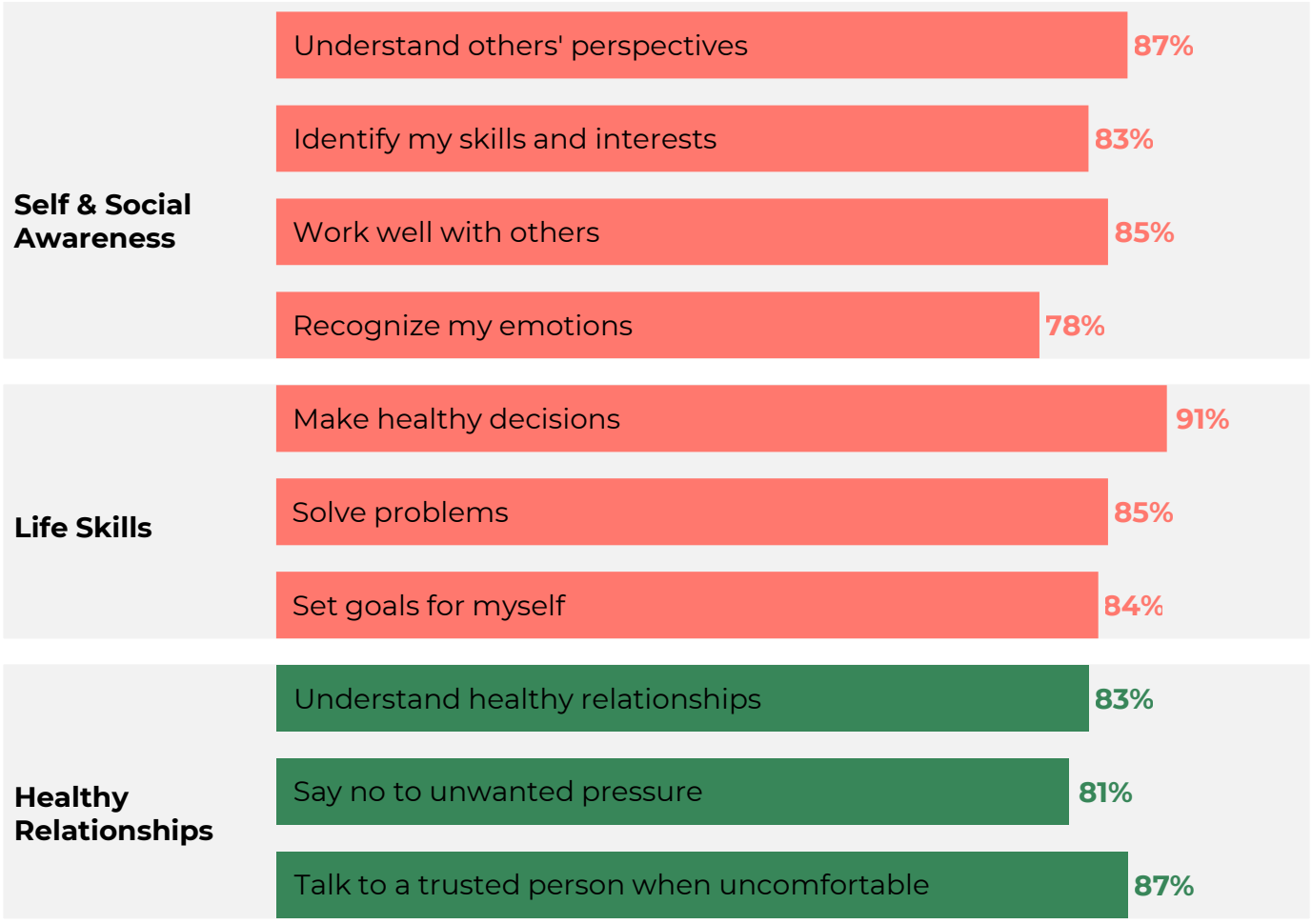
POST-PROGRAM OUTCOMES & INTENTIONS

This page includes select **TOP post-survey items** about positive development outcomes and select **SRAE federal exit survey items** about behavioral intentions to act in healthy ways post-programming.

After participating in Project WISE, youth participants are asked about improvements in personal development, problem-solving, personal agency, goal-setting, knowledge, and behavioral intentions resulting from Project WISE TOP programming. Overall, the data reflect a broad positive impact across multiple areas of personal development and changes in behavioral intentions.

Positive youth impact on personal development & behavioral intentions after participating in TOP.

% of youth responding Yes or Much more/somewhat more likely



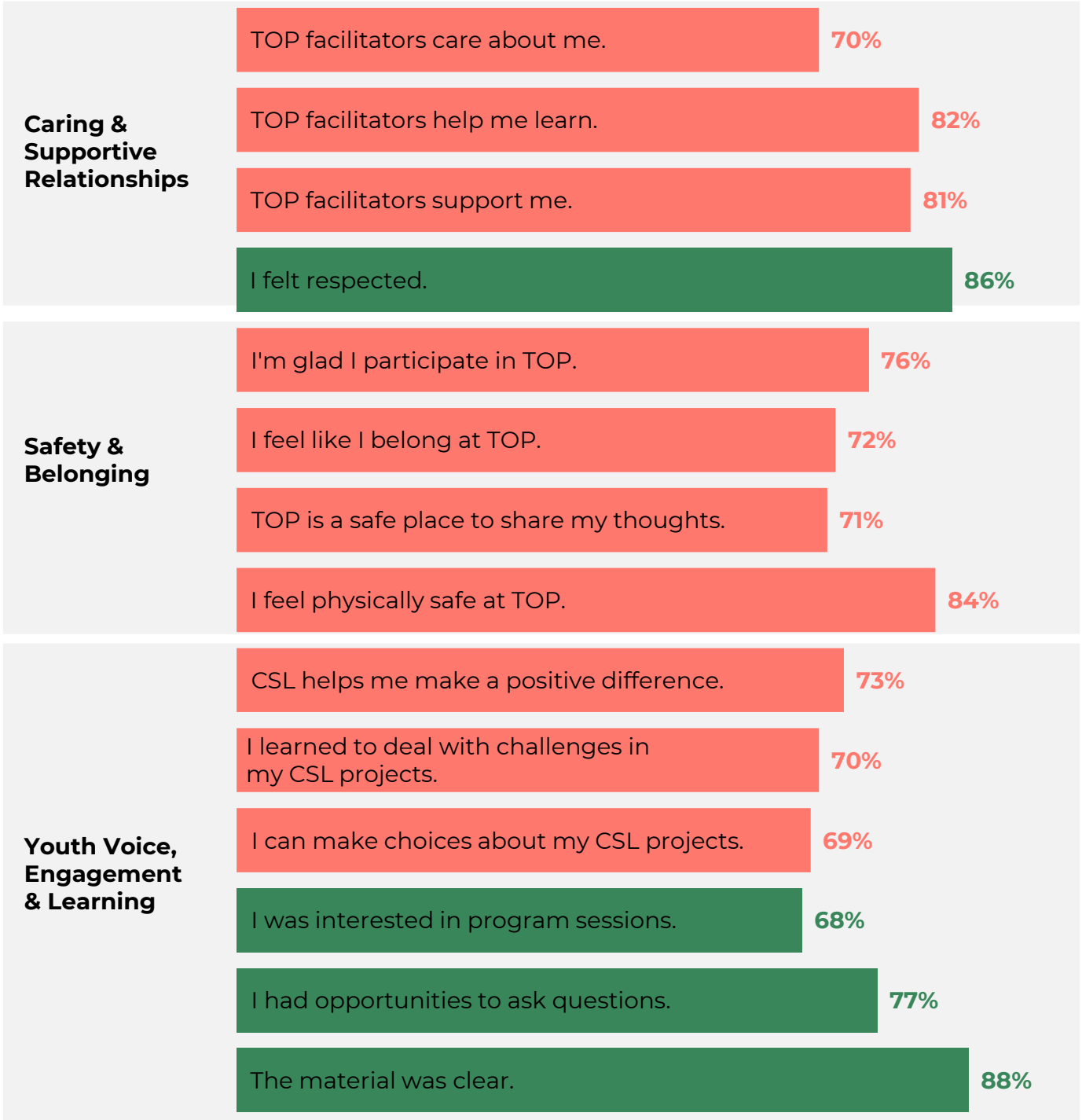
N=251-269

ADOLESCENT PROGRAM EXPERIENCES

This page includes select **TOP post-survey items** and select **SRAE federal exit survey items** about perceptions of programming.

Overall, youth had positive perceptions of TOP programming.

% of youth responding A lot/very much or All/Most of the time



N=248-260



PROGRAMMING FEEDBACK

What has been the best part about participating in TOP?

Learning and skill building. Participants consistently valued learning about relationships, health, emotions, safety, decision-making, and life skills.

Developing positive social connections. Participants appreciated making friends, working with peers, and feeling accepted.

Interactive experiences. Activities, games, community service learning, and lesson discussions were frequently cited as highlights.

How do you think TOP could be improved?

Incorporating more CSL and TOP programming. Many participants desire more time for TOP. Youth wanted longer sessions, more frequent meetings, additional visits, and more opportunities to participate.

Including more interactive activities. Participants frequently requested more group activities, hands-on projects, role-playing, physical activities, community service opportunities, and interactive learning experiences.

Expanding and deepening program content. Participants desire more content and/or deeper discussion of topics relevant to youth.

Youth desire to have their voices heard. Youth want a say in their TOP program. From determining classroom management strategies, content, and snack variety youth have opinions and could be included when making these decisions to truly create TOP programs by and for youth.

79%
of participants would recommend TOP to a friend.
N=246

> **The best part about participating in TOP is that we can ask questions about topics we're curious in, and it helps prepare us for different things we'll experience further in life.**
> *-2025-2026 UCC youth TOP participant*

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

Youth engagement in Community Service Learning (CSL) through Project WISE reflects a strong sense of agency and impact. Through CSL, youth learn leadership skills and experience meaningful opportunities to positively impact their communities.

TOP participants completed a variety of CSL projects for the 2025-2026 program year. Across each site, these were the major CSL accomplishments in the past year.

Boys & Girls Club Lac Courte Oreilles

Community Service Learning activities provided youth with meaningful opportunities to serve and positively impact their communities. Staff reported that youth completed numerous CSL projects, including preparing supplies for a holiday food drive, making holiday cards for assisted living residents, and a spring roadside cleanup. TOP participants worked with the Elder's Center to create and distribute items for tribal elders and worked with younger students at the Boys and Girls Club of Lac Courte Oreilles. These projects benefited community members and local organizations, demonstrating youth commitment to service and positive community engagement.

Healthfirst Network

Healthfirst provided meaningful CSL opportunities despite scheduling constraints and limited instructional time. In response to scheduling constraints during the 2025-2026 program year, Healthfirst staff adapted implementation strategies to balance curriculum delivery with CSL activities. The program completed one off-site CSL trip and two group CSL events scheduled during spring break. Staff noted that students enjoyed the service experience and were excited to participate in future opportunities.

Iron County Health Department

CSL activities provided youth with meaningful opportunities to serve and positively impact their communities. TOP youth participated in a variety of CSL projects that addressed local community needs, including creating Christmas and Valentine's Day cards for residents, organizing food drives, volunteering at the Mercer Library, and serving community members during Grandparents' Day activities. Staff described these projects as some of the most engaging and enjoyable experiences for youth participants during TOP.

> **[The best part about TOP was] the snacks, getting to learn things I didn't know, and helping around in the community!**
> *-2025-2026 Iron County youth TOP participant*

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

Peer Specialists Limited

TOP youth engaged in impactful CSL projects that strengthened their connection to the community. TOP participants explored what community means to them and translated those discussions into CSL projects. Youth created holiday cards for family members and neighbors, developed spring break coloring pages and encouraging messages for first-grade students at Keefe Avenue Grade School, and created thank-you notes to teachers at Douglas Middle School. Staff noted that these experiences encouraged youth to generate meaningful ideas, apply lessons learned in TOP, and experience the benefits of giving back to others.

United Community Center

TOP youth engaged in diverse CSL experiences that strengthened community connections and encouraged independent service. Youth participated in food distribution events, visits to senior centers, and neighborhood improvement activities through local community partnerships. During winter break, students also completed independent service opportunities through a CSL "Bingo" challenge and returned to class eager to share their experiences. These activities extended learning beyond the classroom and fostered a sense of community responsibility and civic engagement.



2025-2026 PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following summary highlights some of the successes that Wisconsin's TOP Clubs experienced during the 2025-2026 programming year.

Boys & Girls Club Lac Courte Oreilles

BGCLCO's TOP program showed flexibility by adjusting plans when activities did not align with participant attendance patterns. Staff adapted their approach accordingly when it became apparent that one of their initial CSL projects was not feasible given scheduling and attendance conflicts. This responsiveness helped keep programming aligned with youth needs and organizational capacity.

Healthfirst Network, Inc.

Healthfirst showed flexibility and commitment to fidelity by adapting to scheduling challenges while maintaining curriculum quality and consistency. Staff adjusted programming to accommodate a new school schedule, shortened class access, weather-related school closures, and state testing schedules. Despite these challenges, they maintained the existing lesson sequence and were able to continue delivering TOP programming to classes on most instructional days.

Healthfirst created an inclusive and accessible environment that supports positive youth development and leadership opportunities. Staff highlighted that delivering TOP during the school day allowed all 6th-grade students to participate and removed transportation-related barriers. The school environment was described as inclusive and safe, helping ensure that all students could engage in program activities, leadership development, and CSL experiences.



> **The best part about [TOP] was learning about my community!**
> *-2025-2026 Healthfirst Network youth TOP participant*

2025-2026 PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Iron County Health Department

Iron County Health Department successfully expanded programming to a new school. Iron County continued its third year of TOP implementation at Hurley School and launched its first year of TOP programming at Mercer School. Staff maintained program fidelity by ensuring all required lessons were delivered, completing pre-program and post-program surveys, and building CSL opportunities into the school year.

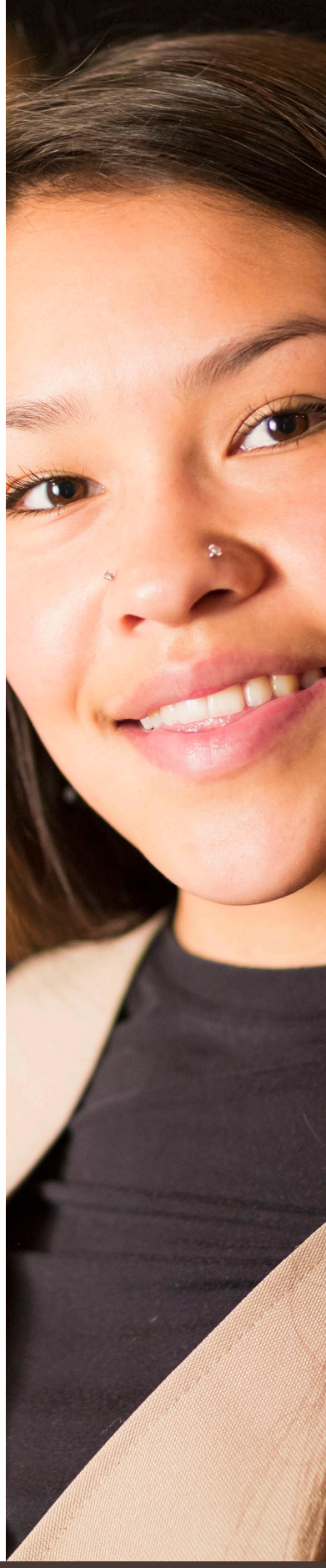
Iron County Health Department fostered youth leadership skills through peer-led activities and mentorship opportunities.

Older youth were given opportunities to help lead activities, facilitate discussions, and support younger participants. Through this peer leadership approach, TOP participants practice responsibility, model healthy behaviors, and contribute to a supportive learning environment where youth learn from one another.

Peer Specialists Limited

Peer Specialists Limited ensured program continuity by maintaining trusting relationships with youth following a facilitator transition. Staff reported that the new facilitator seamlessly established a safe and trusting environment after an unexpected transition of the previous facilitator. The new facilitator provided ongoing support during and beyond club participation, empowering youth through curriculum delivery and life-skills development.

Peer Specialists Limited demonstrated a strong commitment to high-quality implementation through staff training and continuous improvement practices. PSL staff regularly consulted with Wyman's regional Partner Support Manager for TOP technical assistance and fidelity guidance. Two staff members completed facilitation training, participated in TOP professional development opportunities, and received additional internal training on topics such as HIPAA, Motivational Interviewing, and Ethics. Youth feedback was also incorporated into lesson delivery to increase engagement while preserving core curriculum requirements.



2025-2026 PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

United Community Center

Strong collaboration with school partners contributed to effective recruitment, retention, and program delivery. Staff noted that recruitment and retention challenges were minimal due to the organization's partnership with UCC Schools. Teachers, administrators, parents, and students were kept informed through meetings, classroom presentations, email communication, Google Classroom, and Class DOJO. Ongoing coordination with school staff helped address scheduling conflicts and ensured the TOP program continued to run smoothly.

UCC's TOP program elevated youth voice and leadership by giving students meaningful roles in discussions, service projects, and decision-making. TOP youth were encouraged to lead discussions, facilitate activities, and participate in planning and implementing CSL projects. Through these experiences, youth practiced leadership, teamwork, and responsibility while contributing to their communities. Staff also used the Youth Engagement Assessment Tool to evaluate and strengthen opportunities for youth involvement and decision-making.



> **I learned a lot of new things in TOP and I will forever love it.**
> *-2025-2026 UCC youth TOP participant*

> **Everyone was part of the conversations and left comfortable.**
> *– 2025-2026 UCC youth TOP participant*