

## ***The Adolescent Health and Youth Development Program (AHYD)***

The Adolescent Health and Youth Development (AHYD) Program works to reduce pregnancies, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and HIV among youth ages 10-19 years by providing information, building skills and confidence in supportive environments that allow them to flourish as they transition into adulthood.

AHYD collaborates with youth-serving organizations, such as schools, after-school programs, summer camps, and faith-based organizations to provide community-based programming. AHYD also provides parent workshops and training opportunities for youth-serving professionals.

AHYD provides the following community-based services:

### **Youth-Centered Health Education**

Promotes and coordinates the implementation of age-appropriate, evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention curricula using trained facilitators certified by the Georgia Department of Public Health to implement Making a Difference, Making Proud Choices, Teen EXPerience, and Family Life and Sexual Health (FLASH). This curricula aligns with the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for Health Education for grades 6-12.

Provides classes and workshops on various adolescent health and youth development topics using knowledgeable, non-judgmental facilitators who make learning about sensitive topics engaging and fun.

### **Youth Empowerment**

The Youth Advisory Council helps to build leadership skills by providing opportunities for young people to advocate effectively and raise awareness of important issues in their community.

### **Community Outreach**

The AHYD Program partners with youth-serving organizations to host events and provide information on adolescent health-related issues through social media, Parent “Talks”, community health fairs, and youth summits.

### **Parent Engagement**

AHYD provides parents/caregivers with information about emerging adolescent health-related issues and offers tips on how to talk with their young person about sensitive topics to create healthy environments where on-going conversations can occur.

### **Professional Development**

- Provides training opportunities on adolescent-related topics for youth-serving professionals, parents, and interested community members.
- Identifies and connects potential facilitators to Trainer of Educator (TOE) opportunities in order to ensure and improve on the experience that organizations are providing for evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention curricula.
- Provides training to clinic staff to promote practices and suggest policies that are youth-centered to increase the quality of adolescent care visits.