

# Communities Empowering Youth Program

The Communities Empowering Youth (CEY) program under the Compassion Capital Fund builds the capacity of faith-based and community coalitions that work to reduce gang involvement and youth violence and to foster positive youth development.

The CEY program strengthens broad-based collaborative community coalitions so that they are better able to address myriad issues that disadvantaged youth face in their community. To encourage community partnerships, the CEY program works through a lead organization that partners with faith-based and community organizations. Capacity building activities improve services to youth by strengthening the organizational capacity and increasing the sustainability of the lead organization and its partners. CEY grantees and their partners build their capacity to coordinate with other state and local youth service agencies and local law enforcement.

The lead faith-based or community organization assists partners through technical assistance and training in four critical areas: 1) leadership development, 2) organizational development, 3) program development, and 4) community engagement. Examples of the kinds of allowable activities relating to each critical area are listed below. This list is intended to be illustrative, not exhaustive:

Critical Areas	Examples
1. Leadership Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board Composition and Function</li><li>• Staff Professional and Career Development</li><li>• Training and Development of Volunteers</li><li>• Succession Planning</li></ul>
2. Organizational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board Governance</li><li>• Systems: Management, Human Resources, Financial, Information Technology, Planning</li><li>• Written Policies and Procedures</li><li>• Fiscal Controls</li><li>• Comprehensive Communications Strategy</li><li>• Non-Profit Incorporation</li><li>• Grant Writing Training</li></ul>
3. Program Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Curriculum Development</li><li>• Program Monitoring</li><li>• Evaluating Program Outcomes</li></ul>
4. Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establishing and Strengthening Community Collaboratives</li><li>• Community Outreach</li></ul>

As with all three CCF programs, capacity building activities are designed to increase an organization's sustainability and effectiveness, enhance its ability to provide social services, develop and/or diversify its funding sources, and create effective collaborations to better serve those most in need.