

Play Works Youth Friendly Community Application

Stepping Up: A Strategic Framework to Helping Ontario's Youth Succeed

Stepping Up Framework: Links to the Youth Friendly Community Criteria

[Stepping Up](#) is the Government of Ontario's evidence-based strategic framework for improving youth outcomes. It is a guide for decision-making, program planning and partnerships so that everyone involved in supporting youth between 12 and 25, can work together through a common, shared approach.

Thirteen of the 20 Outcomes for Youth Wellbeing, outlined in the Framework, relate to play. As this comparison shows, Youth Friendly Communities are part of a province-wide force for improving play outcomes for youth.

YFC Criteria 1: Youth have options to participate in play

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 1 – Health and Wellness

- Ontario youth are physically healthy.
- Ontario youth feel mentally well.
- Ontario youth make choices that support healthy and safe development.

YFC Criteria 2: Youth are formally connected community-wide

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 6 – Civic Engagement and Youth Leadership

- Ontario youth play a role in informing the decisions that affect them.
- Ontario youth are engaged in their communities.
- Ontario youth leverage their assets to address social issues.

YFC Criteria 3: It is easy for youth to find information about play activities for youth in the community

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 7 – Coordinated and Youth Friendly Communities

- Ontario youth know about and easily navigate resources in their communities.

YFC Criteria 4: The community recognizes and celebrates youth

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 4 – Employment and Entrepreneurship

- Ontario youth have the skills and resources needed to develop a successful career or business

YFC Criteria 5: The community formally commits funding for youth play

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 7 – Coordinated and Youth Friendly Communities

- Ontario youth have access to safe spaces that provide quality opportunities for play and recreation.

YFC Criteria 6: The community supports positive youth development

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 2 – Strong, Supportive Friends and Families

- Ontario youth have families and guardians equipped to help them thrive.
- Ontario youth have at least one consistent, caring adult in their lives.
- Ontario youth form and maintain healthy, close relationships.

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YFC Criteria 7: Youth feel valued by their community

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 2 – Strong, Supportive Friends and Families

- Ontario youth have families and guardians equipped to help them thrive.
- Ontario youth have at least one consistent, caring adult in their lives.
- Ontario youth form and maintain healthy, close relationships

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 6 – Civic Engagement and Youth Leadership

- Ontario youth play a role in informing the decisions that affect them.
- Ontario youth are engaged in their communities.
- Ontario youth leverage their assets to address social issues.

YFC Criteria 8: Schools and School Boards Support the Youth Friendly Approach

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 1 – Health and Wellness

- Ontario youth are physically healthy.
- Ontario youth feel mentally well.
- Ontario youth make choices that support healthy and safe development.

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 2 – Strong, Supportive Friends and Families

- Ontario youth have families and guardians equipped to help them thrive.
- Ontario youth have at least one consistent, caring adult in their lives.
- Ontario youth form and maintain healthy, close relationships.

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 5 – Diversity, Social Inclusion and Safety

- Ontario youth experience social inclusion and value diversity.
- Ontario youth feel safe at home, at school, online and in their communities.

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 6 – Civic Engagement and Youth Leadership

- Ontario youth play a role in informing the decisions that affect them.
- Ontario youth are engaged in their communities.
- Ontario youth leverage their assets to address social issues.

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 7 – Coordinated and Youth Friendly Communities

- Ontario youth have access to safe spaces that provide quality opportunities for play and recreation.
- Ontario youth know about and easily navigate resources in their communities.

YFC Criteria 9: Play is accessible to youth

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 7 – Coordinated and Youth Friendly Communities

- Ontario youth have access to safe spaces that provide quality opportunities for play and recreation.
- Ontario youth know about and easily navigate resources in their communities.

YFC Criteria 10: Play is socially inclusive

Relates to Stepping Up Theme 5 – Diversity, Social Inclusion and Safety

- Ontario youth experience social inclusion and value diversity.
- Ontario youth feel safe at home, at school, online and in their communities.