

# WANT TO INVOLVE YOUTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

The **Youth Community Perceptions program** helps youth learn to identify needs and opportunities in their community, while working with local leaders to make a difference!

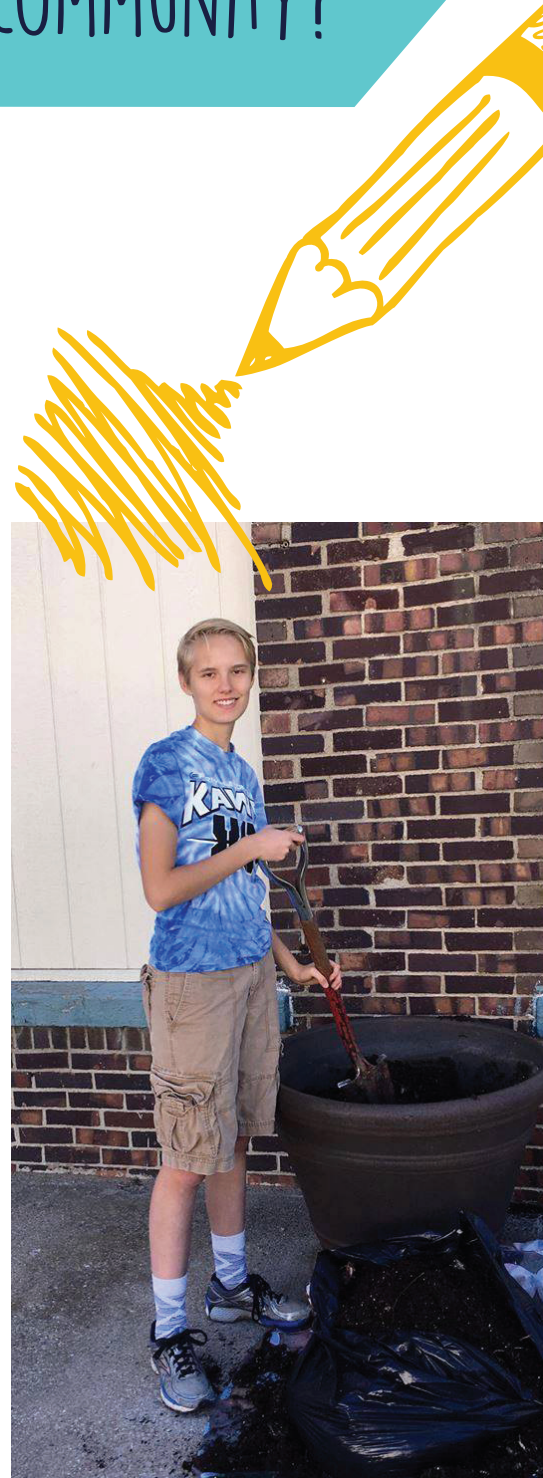
According to recent statistics, Kansas rural county populations have been declining since 2012. Remote rural communities have experienced this trend much longer. Youth are leaving rural communities and given little encouragement to return. While the program was developed based on rural issues, urban communities are also seeing a need to focus on youth civic engagement. What skills can youth and community members learn to address this issue?

**One approach is to create opportunities for youth involvement.** When youth are involved in their community, they:

- » Can see themselves staying in, or returning to, their hometown.
- » Are good stewards to the projects they are involved with, reducing incidences of vandalism.
- » Feel a sense of belonging in the community.

K-State Research and Extension Community Vitality and Kansas 4-H have developed a program to focus on youth civic engagement at the local level. Youth Community Perceptions is a community evaluation and assessment program that allows youth to discover the unique assets and strengths of their community as well as the needs, providing them with an opportunity to engage in community conversations and improvement. The program assists youth and communities in:

- » Creating opportunities for youth to have a voice in the community.
- » Involving and familiarizing youth with local government and community processes.
- » Bridging the gap between youth, local government, and the community.



FOR MORE RESOURCES AND PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION, VISIT:

<https://bit.ly/33GGwGS>

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Youth Community Perceptions

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*Youth Community Perceptions is a collaboration between K-State Research and Extension Community Vitality and Kansas 4-H.*