



VALUING  
**temecula's**  
youth  
TODAY AND TOMORROW

**YOUTH MASTER PLAN**  
SPECIAL NEEDS ADDENDUM

# A D D E N D U M

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November 9, 2010

## **Introduction**

In July 2009, the Temecula City Council directed the Community Services Department to prepare an addendum to the adopted Temecula Youth Master Plan (YMP) that focuses on serving youth with special needs. This addendum outlines a targeted set of strategies and actions developed through a community-based approach for community-driven implementation.

## **Background**

Developed in 2007-2008 through a community-based process involving a wide range of youth and stakeholders, the YMP responds to the growing challenges of providing productive, healthy and diverse activities and long-term support needed by the City's youth, teens and parents. The YMP documents the planning process and resulting action plan that involves all stakeholders in affecting changes for youth in the areas of safety, recreation, life and job skills, transportation, public-private partnerships, and more.

While the YMP casts a wide net in addressing the needs of all youth, in 2009 the City Council recognized that youth with special needs and their families have unique and complex issues that are not easily addressed. The Community Services Department engaged a wide range of stakeholders with a vested interest in supporting the community's youth with special needs in an effort to create an additional set of tailored and focused strategies and actions. Similar to the YMP, the community's assets and needs of youth with special needs and their families would provide the foundation and direction for developing strategies and actions that facilitate partnerships, leverage existing resources, and capitalize on the "can do" spirit throughout the community.

## **Process and Activities**

The process to create the addendum to the YMP began in September 2009 with select activities to engage a wide range of stakeholders with a vested interest in youth with special needs. Participating stakeholders represented parents of youth with special needs, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, educators, medical professionals, private businesses, and many others. Activities included the following:

### **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee included civic leaders, parents of youth with special needs, leaders of organizations that serve youth with special needs, educators, and other stakeholders. This group met to define who is considered a youth with special needs for the purposes of the addendum; identify community assets, challenges and gaps; and consider opportunities and strategic directions that could shape a set of strategies and actions.

### **Community Workshops**

A community workshop was attended by over 35 people. Participants learned about the YMP and the addendum process, and provided valuable input about community assets, opportunities, and strategic directions.

### **Stakeholder Interviews**

The project team conducted a total of six stakeholder interviews, asking key civic leaders, educators, a medical professional, and service providers to youth with special needs and their families to provide their perspectives about needs and assets. Participants also provided important background and information about priority strategies and partnerships for implementation.

### **Defining Youth with Special Needs**

The strategic framework established for the YMP outlines the community's vision, values, and desired outcomes (see Chapter 2). The planning process for the addendum applied this framework as its basis and also defined youth with special needs to provide clear direction on who is to be served by this addendum's strategies and actions.

*In the City of Temecula, a youth with special needs is any child exhibiting physical, cognitive, emotional, or social needs who requires reasonable accommodations to participate in community activities.*

### **Strategic Directions**

The YMP strategic framework includes a set of strategic directions that outline the major categories of actions for achieving the community's vision and desired outcome. They are based on major themes that emerged from the multi-pronged community outreach during the initial phases of the planning process. Likewise, stakeholders involved in the addendum process produced strategic directions focused on youth with special needs as follows:

- **Community Education**—Educate and inform the community about youth with special needs and available services
- **Volunteerism**—Create and promote volunteerism opportunities
- **Training**—Expand training among key constituencies that serve or engage youth with special needs such as public safety, youth, volunteers, recreation providers, and food service

- **Public-Private Partnerships and Resources**—Build new--or expand current—partnerships among public and private sector organizations that improve coordination, bridge gaps in services, and leverage resources opportunities
- **Programs and Services**—Provide, facilitate, collaborate and encourage programs and services, including recreation, sports and therapeutic opportunities that build on existing resources

**Strategies and Action Plan**

Strategies were identified for each of the strategic directions for serving youth with special needs, along with partners and timeframe for implementation.

**1. Community Education—Educate and inform the community about youth with special needs and available services**

Strategy	Partners	Timeframe Short (0-2 years) Medium (2-5 years) Long (5-10 years)
1a. Distribute information sources in the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Research and categorize available information sources</li> <li>ii. Identify existing communication channels for distributing information (e.g., City website, community health care providers, 211, community-based organizations, etc.)</li> </ul>	County of Riverside Department of Mental Health (DMH) Inland Regional Center Inter-Agency Council School District Community Services Department	Short
1b. Assess community events for opportunities to educate and inform the community through presentations, information booths, etc.	Community Services Department Inland Regional Center Service providers Faith-based organizations	Short
1c. Create a directory of local existing services and programs for youth with special needs	County of Riverside DMH Inland Regional Center Community Services Department	Short -- Medium

**2. Volunteerism**—Create and promote volunteerism opportunities that provide support to youth with special needs

Strategy	Partners	Timeframe Short (0-2 years) Medium (2-5 years) Long (5-10 years)
2a. Canvass organizations that provide services to youth with special needs to assess gaps in volunteer-based support, including training and resource requirements	Community Services Department County of Riverside DMH Inland Regional Center Inter-Agency Council School District Service providers	Short
2b. Assess capacity levels and requirements for school-based service learning, peer programs and volunteer support	School District	Short
2c. Engage volunteer and faith-based organizations that do not currently provide services to youth with special needs to understand existing bases of volunteers, potential resources, and areas of expertise that could potentially be provided to these youth	Community Services Department Inland Regional Center Inter-Agency Council Faith-based organizations Volunteer organizations	Short

Strategy	Partners	Timeframe Short (0-2 years) Medium (2-5 years) Long (5-10 years)
2d. Connect service providers with potential new partner organizations based on shared interests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Outline clear agreements, expectations and resources for partnerships</li> <li>ii. Explore the use of City facilities to host volunteer activities</li> </ul>	Community Services Department Inland Regional Center Inter-Agency Council School District Service providers Faith-based organizations Volunteer organizations	Medium

**3. Training**--Expand training among key constituencies that serve or engage youth with special needs such as public safety, youth, volunteers, recreation providers, and food service

Strategy	Partners	Timeframe Short (0-2 years) Medium (2-5 years) Long (5-10 years)
3a. Assess existing training curricula for serving youth with special needs among City of Temecula service providers including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Community Services</li> <li>ii. Police</li> <li>iii. Fire</li> </ul>	City Manager's Office Public safety providers Community Services Department County of Riverside DMH	Short -- Medium
3b. Recommend potential revisions to the training curricula for City service providers, as needed	City Manager's Office County of Riverside DMH	Short -- Medium

Strategy	Partners	Timeframe Short (0-2 years) Medium (2-5 years) Long (5-10 years)
3c. Canvass a selection of service-oriented businesses—particularly retail, restaurants, and entertainment—to understand their knowledge of, challenges with, and support needed for serving youth with special needs and their families	Chamber of Commerce	Short
3d. Prioritize service-oriented businesses that would benefit most from increased education and training in serving youth with special needs and their families	Chamber of Commerce County of Riverside DMH Inter-Agency Council	Short
3e. Identify training needs for volunteer efforts, programs and services that support youth with special needs <i>(Linked to #2 and #5)</i>	County of Riverside DMH Inland Regional Center Inter-Agency Council School District Service providers Volunteer organizations	Short
3f. Research best practices in training to serve youth with special needs for businesses and volunteer programs and services	County of Riverside DMH	Short -- Medium



Strategy	Partners	Timeframe Short (0-2 years) Medium (2-5 years) Long (5-10 years)
3g. Develop curricula for training and educating businesses and volunteer programs and services that support youth with special needs	County of Riverside DMH Inland Regional Center Chamber of Commerce Community Services Department	Medium -- Long

**4. Public-Private Partnerships and Resources--Build new--or expand current—partnerships among public and private sector organizations that improve coordination, bridge gaps in services, and leverage resource opportunities**

Strategy	Partners	Timeframe Short (0-2 years) Medium (2-5 years) Long (5-10 years)
4a. Pursue partnerships with other public, private, and non-profit agencies for all strategies proposed throughout this Plan	City and partners	Ongoing
4b. Research local, regional and national organizations (government, foundations, nonprofits, etc.) that provide resources for training, programs and services for youth with special needs	Community Services Department Inland Regional Center Inter-Agency Council County of Riverside DMH School District	Ongoing

**5. Programs and Services--** Provide, facilitate, collaborate and encourage programs and services, including recreation, sports and therapeutic opportunities that build on existing resources and are created from new resource networks

Strategy	Partners	Timeframe Short (0-2 years) Medium (2-5 years) Long (5-10 years)
5a. Canvass service providers to understand priority recreation, sports and therapeutic needs that could serve a wide range of youth with special needs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Existing programs and services</li> <li>ii. Critical gaps</li> <li>iii. Best practices</li> <li>iv. Opportunities that could leverage volunteer support</li> <li>v. Potential new resources</li> </ul>	County of Riverside DMH Inland Regional Center Boys & Girls Club YMCA Community Services Department	Short
5b. Assess City-sponsored recreation programs to identify opportunities for serving youth with special needs and their families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Consider opportunities to link programs that serve youth with special needs with programs that provide family respite and support, when possible</li> </ul>	Community Services Department County of Riverside DMH	Short
5c. Consider providing City facilities to organizations providing programs and services to youth with special needs at reduced rates	Community Services Department	Short
5d. Identify training needs for programs and services that support youth with special needs ( <i>Linked to #3e above.</i> )		
5e. Assess models and best practices for providing transportation options for youth with special needs	County of Riverside DMH Inland Regional Center School District	Short -- Medium

Strategy	Partners	Timeframe Short (0-2 years) Medium (2-5 years) Long (5-10 years)
5f. Facilitate development of new formal and informal transportation networks such as carpools and rideshare for youth with special needs	County of Riverside DMH Inland Regional Center	Short -- Medium
5g. Identify gaps in respite and support services specifically for parents of youth with special needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Link new services for parents to those provided to youth with special needs wherever possible (e.g., parent support meetings scheduled during activities for youth with special needs)</li> </ul>	County of Riverside DMH Inland Regional Center	Short -- Medium