



The Mappers are Coming! Facts about Community YouthMapping in Alexandria

- This summer, from July 11 through August 19, twenty young people from Alexandria will visit businesses and organizations throughout the City's East End to gather information about specific resources for youth, including places to go and things to do in the east End.
- Teams of YouthMappers, ages 15 to 18, who are supervised by adult team leaders, will walk the streets of East End neighborhoods to conduct formal interviews with managers and leaders of businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith-based communities, City sites and City schools. They will ask about existing programs and services, as well as explore perceptions about such issues as youth substance abuse, teen pregnancy and gang activity.
- Mappers will input the research data into a database that will be accessible to youth, service providers, City and school officials, and policymakers. The database will include types of services and opportunities for youth in the East End, ages served, eligibility criteria, languages spoken, accessibility, transportation, and more.
- Once the mapping is completed, Mappers will develop a presentation that showcases the findings of their research as well as their recommendations. They will be able to highlight existing resources as well as service gaps, street by street, in Alexandria's East End.
- This year's project follows a successful YouthMapping of the City's West End in 2010.
- Community YouthMapping is a youth-adult partnership. Youth are the key stakeholders in planning, collection, analysis and dissemination of the data. Adults provide technical, political and personal support.
- Community YouthMappers earn a minimum wage for this work, but mapping is more than a summer job. Mapping is an opportunity for youth to build skills in interviewing, data collection, data management, geography, team building, communication and conflict resolution. It is also a way for youth to become more knowledgeable about their community and its services. Moreover, Mapping provides valuable information to public officials and policymakers about where there may be gaps in City programs and services for youth.
- Community YouthMapping in Alexandria is a special project of the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) and its partners: Office on Women and Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy; Alexandria City Public Schools; Alexandria Community Services Board; Alexandria Fire Department; Alexandria Health Department, Alexandria Police Department; Alexandria Recreation Department; Alexandria Sheriff's Department; Job-Link; and the Partnership for Healthier Alexandria.
- Community YouthMapping has been implemented in more than 130 sites across the United States and in several countries around the world. The Academy for Education Development (AED) Center for Youth Development and Policy Research is assisting with Alexandria's program. www.aed.org

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