

Using the Youth Ministry Grid

Note: Catholic Youth Ministry will provide each parish with a poster size print of the Youth Ministry Grid for those parishes who request it for use with this process.

One of the easiest ways to get a snapshot of your current ministry and identify areas for growth is to complete the Youth Ministry Grid. Use the following process to identify your current programs and potential resources.

Step One – Identifying Current Programs

The first step will be to identify programs and activities that respond to, or are directed at, or involve teenagers. They can focus on young adolescent ministry or older adolescent ministry or both. Complete the Youth Ministry Grid the first time by writing in current programs or activities in the appropriate categories (boxes). (You may want to copy the worksheet onto newsprint and then fill-in the appropriate boxes.) Write “current” at the top of the first Grid worksheet. Be sure to think of small-group and individualized programming, as well as the gathered programming in each of the four ministry settings and for each ministry component. After you have completed your work, assess the strengths of your current youth ministry and identify areas of growth.

Step Two – Identifying Potential Resources

The second step of this exercise is designed to uncover programs and activities of the parish that offer the potential for incorporating a youth component or for collaboration and partnership. This exercise is intended to uncover resources and program opportunities that could be used in a comprehensive youth ministry.

Oftentimes a slight adjustment or the addition of a youth component will make a family or church community program youth-inclusive. In other cases, there are resources in the community (other churches, youth organizations, and schools) that could be used in your programming (e.g., co-sponsoring a program, using a community program for your youth, using video resources or guest speakers).

Complete the Youth Ministry Grid a second time and write “potential” at the top of the second Grid worksheet.

After you have completed your work, determine how you can better use your potential resources to strengthen your current ministry and address areas of growth you identified in Step One.

The Youth Ministry Grid

Developing Comprehensive Youth Ministry

Adolescents	Families	Parish	Wider Community
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	Gathered	Small Group and Individualized						
Advocacy								
Catechesis								
Community Life								
Evangelization								
Justice and Service								
Leadership Development								
Pastoral Care								
Prayer and Worship								