



An Initial Evaluation of Urban Youth Leadership Development Efforts at YouthVille Detroit

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Combined Program in Education and Psychology

Dr. Jagers' project contributes to NCID's priority area of **Diversity Issues in Education, Scholarship and Innovation**. This project bridges his scholarship on African American children with collaborative efforts to promote innovative youth programs in Detroit as national exemplars. With support from NCID, Dr. Jagers is conducting the first phase of a larger collaboration with YouthVille, a community-based youth serving organization in Detroit. Previously, there has been no systematic evaluation of YouthVille's six program strands. His study uses a mixed-method, participatory approach to better understand and help refine the didactic and community service components of the youth leadership development program strand. The aims of the study are to discern how youth leadership is conceptualized by YouthVille stakeholders; to examine alignment between views of youth leadership and the educational content and processes in YouthVille course offerings; and to document program processes and short-term outcomes for youth enrolled in leadership classes.

Robert J. Jagers is a Co-PI of the newly funded Center for the Study of Black Youth in Context (CSBYC). He has basic and applied research interests in culture and its relevance for the social and emotional development of African American children and youth. As a developmental psychologist, Dr. Jagers studies how culture influences and is influenced by African-American youth and their functioning in the different contexts they negotiate. His work is important for the design of interventions designed to limit risky behaviors and support positive youth development. His current work focuses on school, family and community partnerships to promote social and emotional competence, with a particular focus on boys and young men. Dr. Jagers is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and received his PhD from Howard University.

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