

Centering Youth Voices and Prioritizing Youth Engagement



Erica Koepsel, MA
PATCH Director of Youth Engagement

PATCH MISSION...

To improve adolescent health and wellbeing alongside and in true partnership with youth.



PATCH VISION...

A supportive environment in which
all youth are healthy, connected, and
thriving.



Managing our own health care – like driving a car – is an important part of becoming an adult. At the end of the day, it's just making sure we're physically and mentally well so that we can do so many amazing things in life!

- PATCH Teen Educator

HEALTHY: Youth are able to reach optimal health, safety, and well-being.

CONNECTED: Youth have strong connections to, and communication with, peers and trusted adults.

THRIVING: Youth have the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to flourish into adulthood.

We do this work through implementation of the PATCH Model for Youth Engagement. This model utilizes **youth-driven programming** that is centered on strong and meaningful **youth-adult partnerships**, and integrates key components of **employment, education, and empowerment**.

TEEN EDUCATOR PROGRAM

PATCH for Providers

During this 90-minute teen-facilitated workshop, trained PATCH Teen Educators share their accurate and authentic insights into the concerns, preferences and realities that impact the health care experiences of today's youth.



PATCH for Teens

PATCH Teen Educators want to share what they've learned with their peers! They want their peers to feel empowered in health care settings and have the knowledge and skills to become responsible managers of their own health.



YOUTH ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP

Learning Series

- Completing a Needs Assessment
- Choosing an Issue for Advocacy
- Identifying Influential Leaders
- Holding Leaders Accountable
- Hosting a Relational Meeting
- Building Your Advocacy Plan
- Sharing Your Success

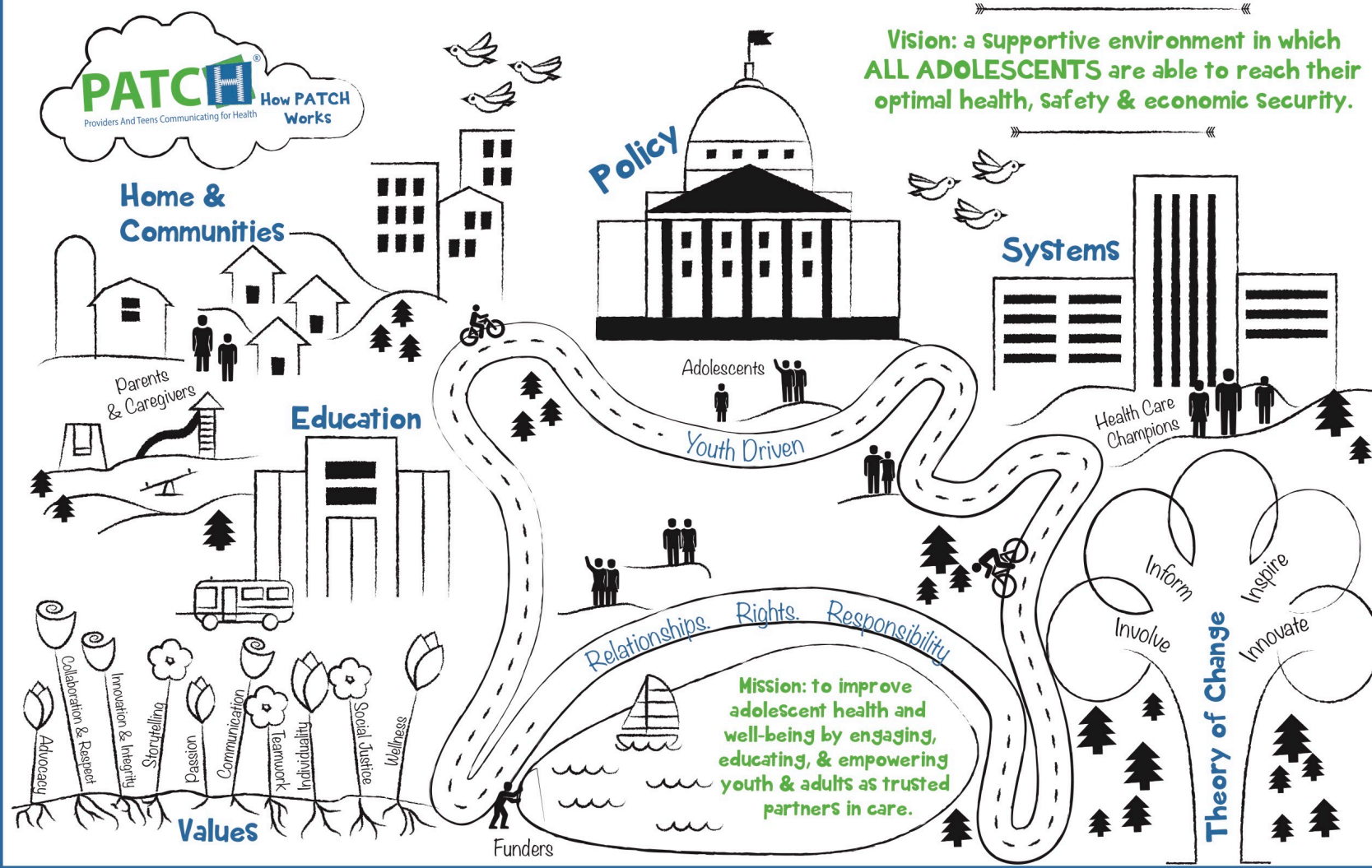
Consulting Sessions

- Sexual Education Curricula
- Barriers to Transition Care
- COVID Campaigns
- Sexual Assault Prevention Billboards
- Body Positivity Lessons
- Wellness Policy Improvements





Vision: a supportive environment in which
ALL ADOLESCENTS are able to reach their
optimal health, safety & economic security.



Home & Communities

Policy

Systems

Education

Adolescents

Youth Driven

Health Care Champions

Relationships, Rights, Responsibility

Mission: to improve adolescent health and well-being by engaging, educating, & empowering youth & adults as trusted partners in care.

Values

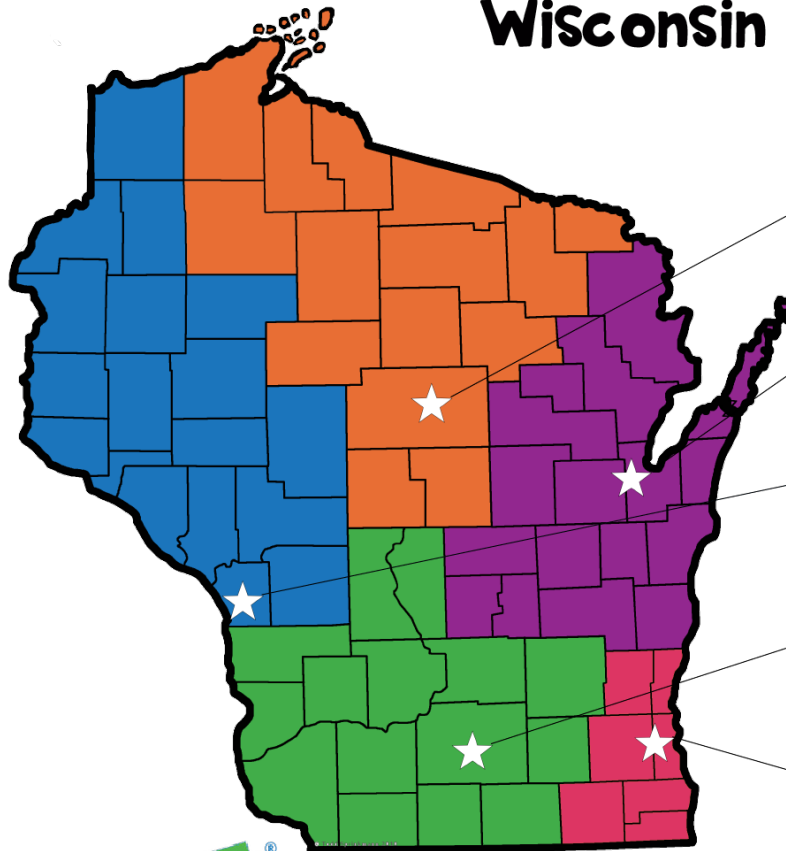
Funders

Theory of Change

Youth Fellowship

Serving as consultants for state-based efforts

Wisconsin PATCH



PATCH Wausau

Serving all northcentral Wisconsin communities

PATCH Green Bay

Serving all northeastern Wisconsin communities

PATCH La Crosse

Serving all western Wisconsin communities

PATCH Madison

Serving all southcentral Wisconsin communities

PATCH Milwaukee

Serving all southeastern Wisconsin communities



www.wipatch.org

PATCH MODEL FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



WHAT IS YOUTH ENGAGEMENT?

When young people are involved in **responsible, challenging** actions to create **positive social change**. This happens through the development of meaningful **youth-adult partnerships**.

-ACT for Youth



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Responsible Youth Engagement

Appropriate expectations

Equitable youth/adult partnerships

Equitable accountability



Over-Controlling

Youth forced to participate

Choices made for youth

Over-Permissive

Adults disconnected from all activities

Youth given “free reign” without end

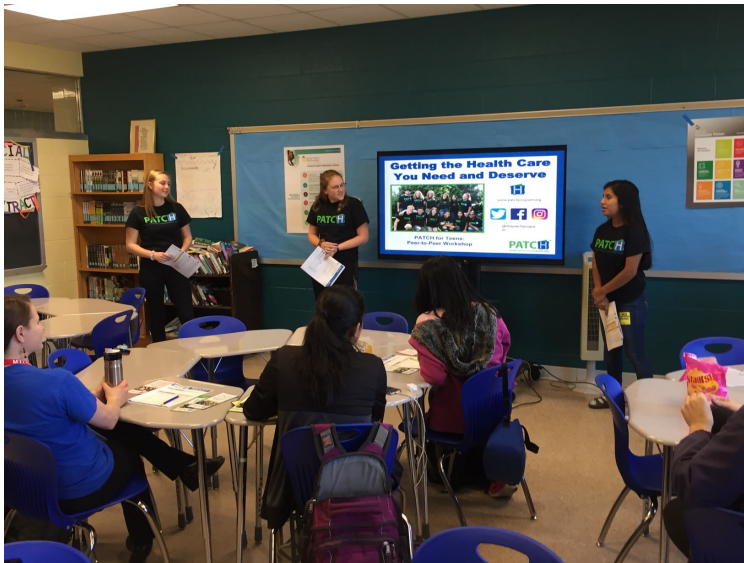
YOUTH-ADULT PARTNERSHIPS

Youth are hired, trained, and supervised by a local professional that is specifically trained in PATCH's unique employment-empowerment model.

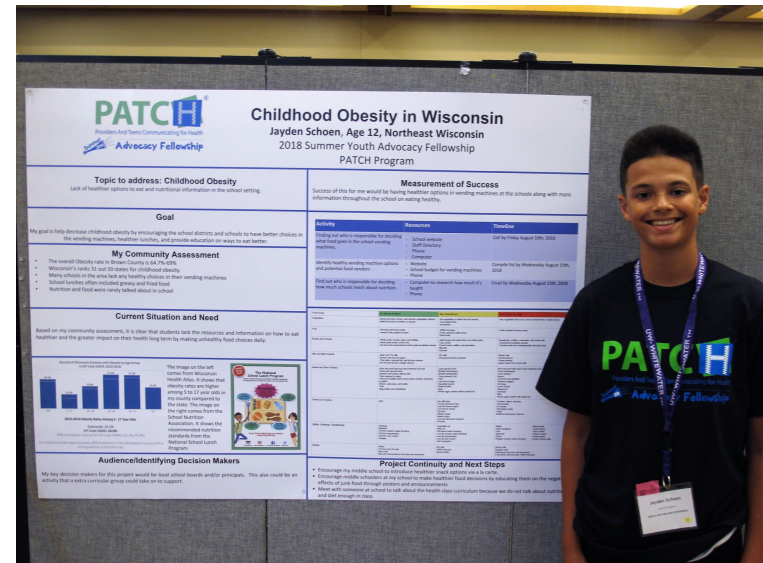
- Developing Relationships
- Offering vulnerability
- Establishing Boundaries
- Cultivating Opportunity
- Business Transparency
- Community Integration



YOUTH-DRIVEN PROGRAMMING



Teen Educator Program

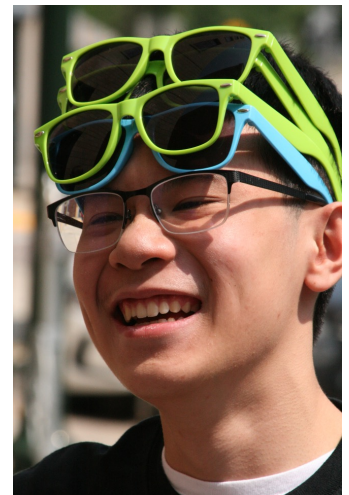


Youth Advocacy Fellowship

IMPACT ON YOUTH

“PATCH has given me so much confidence in public speaking, a new and unique community of friends, opportunities in the public health world, insight, knowledge, compassion, and so many other things I’ll never be able to put into words.
It’s made me my best me.”

“Sometimes I sit back and think...
Wow, I’m a part of this.
I must be really cool.”



Upcoming Sessions...

11/2 - Teen Perspective on Youth Engagement in Adolescent Health Spaces (Youth Panel)

12/14 - Learning From the Field: How to Involved Youth and Family in School Mental Health (Youth & Adult Co-Presenters)

1/11 - Survey Says: Teens Share How to Help Them Start Taking Control of Their Own Health (Interactive & Youth-Led)

2/8 - Transition-Aged Youth: What are Providers Forgetting? (Youth & Adult Co-Presenters)

AND MORE!

Live & NOT recorded!

STAY IN TOUCH!



www.patchprogram.org | www.wipatch.org | [@thepatchprogram](https://www.instagram.com/thepatchprogram)
erica@patchprogram.org

