

What to Ask For

Influential community leaders can help increase awareness of your project, group/organization, and the issues you care about by getting involved in your project. They can also help create policy change and gain funding for your project. Here are the **Top 10 Ways Influential Community Leaders Can Support**:

1. Participate in and/or speak at a project. (Encourage their staff and partners to participate as well.)
2. Meet with youth leaders or project organizers before or after a project for a discussion about the public policy issues related to their service project.
3. Host a youth forum, or invite youth to speak at public meetings to discuss the issues they are working to address through their service.
4. Recognize youth volunteers with an award, certificate, or letter.
5. Host a recognition or celebration event in a culturally important location.
6. Promote youth service in your community. Record a Public Service Announcement, issue a press release, write an op-ed in the newspaper, or feature on their website.
7. Support projects by facilitating partnerships between project organizers and your influential community leaders. (Help make introductions to new partners, help secure government services such as hauling away trash from clean-up projects, etc.)
8. Sponsor your project by funding a specific piece of your work.
9. Form a youth council to engage youth in government. Download "[Building Effective Youth Councils: A Practical Guide to Engaging Youth in Policy Making](#)."
10. Fund technology initiatives that will expand service opportunities.