



Empowering Youth to Say "No" to Gangs



WrapED Partners:

Africa Centre

Edmonton John Howard Society

Edmonton Police Service

Native Counselling Services of Alberta

REACH Edmonton

YOU CAN Youth Services

Wraparound Edmonton, or WrapED, is a partnership of six Edmonton organizations working together; helping young people affected by violent crime move away from the threat of gangs and learn to thrive in our community.

WrapED uses an intentional approach to help youth build meaningful relationships. WrapED youth engage one-on-one with a youth worker.

- They learn to understand their needs and develop goals to make positive life changes.
- Each WrapED youth identifies a personalized care team to provide the long-term supports they'll need.

WrapED youth want to find a positive place in our community. They want to enjoy the everyday life experiences most of us take for granted.

WrapED Youth Worker

WrapED: Unique in Canada

The six WrapED partners integrate services, using a collective impact approach to bring the most effective wraparound supports to some of Edmonton's most at-risk youth. This initiative is one of 14 selected by the federal government out of 168 proposals from across Canada. It's partially funded by Public Safety Canada, Crime Prevention, until September 2018.



Who Are the WrapED Youth? They Are Survivors.

Youth who feel society has turned its back on them.

- They often live in poverty and on the streets.
- They've experienced trauma.
- Their families may be dealing with the impact of residential schools, or war and refugee camps.

How Does WrapED Work?

- Youth workers develop a relationship with youth.
- Each youth identifies priorities and develops a personalized plan and support team.
- The 'team' may involve family members, religious leaders, and/or service providers such as addiction counsellors.
- The 'plan' can involve school and job supports, leadership and/or conflict resolution training.
- Youth workers use culturally sensitive and appropriate approaches.
- An Edmonton Police Constable helps make referrals and build positive relationships with police and community.
- Clinical psychologists provide counselling.
- Wisdom Keepers from the immigrant, refugee, and Aboriginal communities help WrapED youth connect with their cultures.

What Makes It Different?

- Each WrapED youth identifies his or her personalized team to provide 'wraparound' supports.
- Youth workers have lower caseloads; they have time to build trust with WrapED youth and their families to work together through difficult challenges.
- WrapED's youth workers receive specialized training; learning together as a team, building relationships and coordinating approaches.
- Youth workers are in continuous communication; sharing learnings and resources.

Success Means Young People and Their Families Living with Hope

- A decrease in gang membership and violent crime.
- A decrease in relapse into criminal behaviour.
- Taking responsibility for making fundamental life changes.

- Holding down jobs, going to school, giving back to society.
- Feeling they belong to a supportive, positive community.
- Developing positive relationships that will help with long-term success.

Measuring Success

This is an innovative, dynamic and complex collaborative project. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation are critical: the sooner it is known what works and what doesn't, the quicker partners can adapt to ensure WrapED continues to be as effective as possible. WrapED is undergoing three types of evaluation.

Process and Impact: measuring how well WrapED is operating as intended, hitting quantifiable targets, and whether outcomes are being reached.

Social Return on Investment (SROI): assigning a monetary value to the social benefit created by WrapED.

Developmental: providing stakeholders with evaluative questions and real-time feedback in support of their efforts to create and/or radically re-invent models, programs or strategies.



What's different about WrapED is that, as youth workers, we can reach out to each other; bounce ideas, discuss issues, and learn from the different approaches we each take.

WrapED Youth Worker



WrapED: The Collective Impact Approach

The six WrapED partner agencies have worked with each other in the past on various initiatives. But this time, they've purposely come together to address one specific social problem: gang involvement.

Each partner is committed to collaborating.

- Sharing a common agenda.
- Maintaining continuous communication.
- Mutually reinforcing each other's activities.
- Sharing measurement and evaluation tools.
- Working together to overcome funding barriers.

REACH Edmonton acts as the backbone organization for WrapED: providing overall strategic direction, facilitating dialogue between partners, managing data collection, handling communications, coordinating community outreach and mobilizing funding. Best collective impact practices learned from the WrapED project will be shared with other service providers in Edmonton.



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To protect the identity of WrapED participants, the youth pictured in this brochure are actors.