



What is “Intergenerational Week”?

Intergenerational week provides an opportunity to honor children, teens, adults, and elders. This week lets us celebrate people of diverse backgrounds, ages, and experiences, as well as the gifts they share with each other. Intergenerational programs and initiatives provide opportunities for individuals, families, and communities to enjoy and benefit from the richness of an age-integrated society.

What are Intergenerational Initiatives?

Our elders give us a mature, historical perspective of who we are, where we are, where we came from, and how we got there. Our youth give us a childlike vision of the future and all that we can still be. Intergenerational programs give us the opportunity to bridge these vantage points, creating a strong sense of community and an appreciation for the contributions of each group.

Intergenerational Programs:

- Improve the lives of children, youth, and elders through intergenerational collaboration, public policies, and programs for the enduring benefit of all; and
 - Enhance family and civic responsibilities
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What is DOEA’s Role in Promoting Intergenerational Initiatives?

Defined in Florida Statute (F.S.) Chapter 430.07 the Office of Volunteer & Community Services within DOEA is required to develop comprehensive programs with intergenerational components. The Department’s role is to develop and serve as a resource center, information warehouse, and technical assistant within the State of Florida.

The Department works to ensure the cornerstones are in the state and local levels to reach this goal. Local aging network providers (i.e. youth groups, elder groups, private businesses, and other organizations) have programs that mutually benefit all age groups. At the state level, the Department provides an education and outreach component, coordinating and developing intergenerational activities that connect generations.

Recognizing the projected increase in the number of Florida retirees and the current deterioration of social interaction between elders and youth, the Department seeks to:

- Increase intergenerational partnerships, and
- Encourage elders and young people to make the connections necessary to bridge the generation gap.

What are the Benefits of Intergenerational Initiatives?

- Improved relationships between all age groups in a community,
 - A willingness to cross cultural boundaries to solve problems, and
 - Cultivated relationships across age groups that result in caring, respectful, and active communities.
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For additional information on Communities for a Lifetime, contact the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, 4040 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-7000, (850) 414-2000, or visit our web-site at: <http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/english/cfal.php>.

