4-H Beyond Ready Initiative Building Self-Reflection Notebook

Beyond Ready

National 4-H Leadership Meeting
February 2026

Support for this meeting provided by
National 4-H Council and the Marcus Foundation.



Guiding Principles of the Beyond Ready Initiative

1. **Youth development and program quality research remains at the center.**
   All Beyond Ready resources are grounded in our program quality foundation - sparks, belonging, relationships, and engagement.
2. **Youth voice will continue to be elevated.**
   We are committed to meaningful youth engagement initiative building and implementation.
3. **Initiative direction provided within existing shared leadership structures.**
   Beyond Ready should continue to uplift and support our shared leadership structures to be high-functioning and impactful in stewarding and advancing system opportunities. For sustainability, we won't want to create brand new/additional structures as burden to sustain and participate in.

What guiding principles are important to your LGU Beyond Ready Plan?

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Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of Your Beyond Ready Initiative

What signals progress toward the bold goals you have for your LGU?

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The Pillars of Building Our 4-H Beyond Ready Initiative

How would you rank the current momentum or progress of each pillar as part of your LGU Beyond Ready Initiative?

Place pillars in order of "most progress" (1) to "least progress" (7)

____ Mobilizing internal/external stakeholders to be committed and engaged in advancing your LGU Beyond Ready goals

____ Implementing concrete steps in support of your target growth strategy

____ Strengthening the capacity of your staff/volunteers/partners to apply research-based best practices in support of program quality and readiness outcomes

____ Aligning state/county/parish programming with the Beyond Ready Framework

____ Accessing the data needed to track progress toward your Beyond Ready goals (e.g. growth, program impact, staff capacity, etc.)

____ Using data to tell your Beyond Ready impact story, to mobilize stakeholders and inform program planning

____ Raising funds in support of your Beyond Ready goals

What ideas for action steps did I hear from our small group discussions that I want to explore further?

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MEETING WORKBOOK

Pilot: 4-H Beyond Ready Program Leadership Academy

Audience:

LGU-level 4-H Program Leaders

Purpose:

The 4-H Beyond Ready Program Leadership Academy builds the leadership capacity of 4-H Program Leaders across land-grant institutions to build, implement, and advance the Beyond Ready initiative. Through applied learning, peer collaboration, mentorship, and real-world practice, participants strengthen their ability to lead change and drive strategic growth and impact.

Phase 1:	National 4-H Leadership Meeting/ Academy is Embedded (In-Person, February)
Phase 2:	Peer Leadership Circles April Zoom meeting Summer Regional Meeting
Phase 3:	NAE4-HYDP Conference Leadership track (In-person October)
Phase 4:	Culminating Virtual Summit (1 Day- 3 hours, January)

This academy model is designed to integrate with our existing organizational infrastructure by using regularly scheduled meetings, established networks, and online platforms. This approach reduces costs, maximizes existing resources, and fosters an efficient, peer-led learning environment.

Components

- ☐ System Mobilization
- ☐ Implementing Growth Strategies
- ☐ Building High-Capacity Staff, Volunteers, & Partners
- ☐ Delivering High-Quality Programming
- ☐ Data Collection and Evaluation
- ☐ Using Data to Show the Way (Internal Planning) and Light a Fire (External Storytelling)
- ☐ Fundraising

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Putting Growth Strategies Into Action

What ideas from other LGUs could help me advance our LGU's target growth strategy?

What measurable, actionable steps can you take to implement your growth strategy(ies)?

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Build Your 4-H Beyond Ready Elevator Pitch

What is an Elevator Pitch?

A **30–60 second** audience-focused description of **what you do** and **why it matters**.

- Clear, compelling, and easy to remember

The 5 Parts of a Pitch

1. **Hook** → Grab attention
2. **What You Do** → Describe your role or program
3. **Why It Matters** → Explain the impact or problem you address
4. **Example / Proof** → Share a quick result or story
5. **Call to Action** → Invite next steps or engagement

Draft Your Pitch

Use the space below to write your **rough draft** in 3–5 sentences.

Hook:

“Did you know ___?” or “Over ___% of youth experience ___.”

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What You Do:

"Our program equips youth ___."

Why It Matters:

"For partners, this means ___."

Example / Proof:

"For example, last year we ___."

Call to Action:

"We'd love to ___."

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What feedback or suggestions for refinement did I get from peers on my Beyond Ready elevator pitch?

NOTES:



Mobilizing Current & New Donors

Imagine that the 4-H Tentpole Moments and your LGU-level storytelling generate interest from a donor...Are you ready to say how current/new donors can be a partner to help you advance your LGU Beyond Ready Plan and goals?

How can new investment help you move the needle toward your LGU Beyond Ready goals?

- Expanding readiness experiences to reach more youth (growth goal and strategy)
- Strengthening your data infrastructure
- Aligning 4-H experiences to emerging work and life needs
- Investing in the capacity of staff & volunteers
- Amplifying your impact story
- OTHER: _____

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What ideas did you hear from your peers around their fundraising efforts?

What are 1-2 actionable steps you can take to advance your Beyond Ready fundraising efforts?