

YouthPower: Definition of PYD

Positive Youth Development (PYD) **engages** youth along with their **families, communities and/or governments** so that youth are **empowered** to reach their full potential. PYD approaches build **skills, assets and competencies**; foster healthy **relationships**; strengthen the **environment**; and transform **systems**.

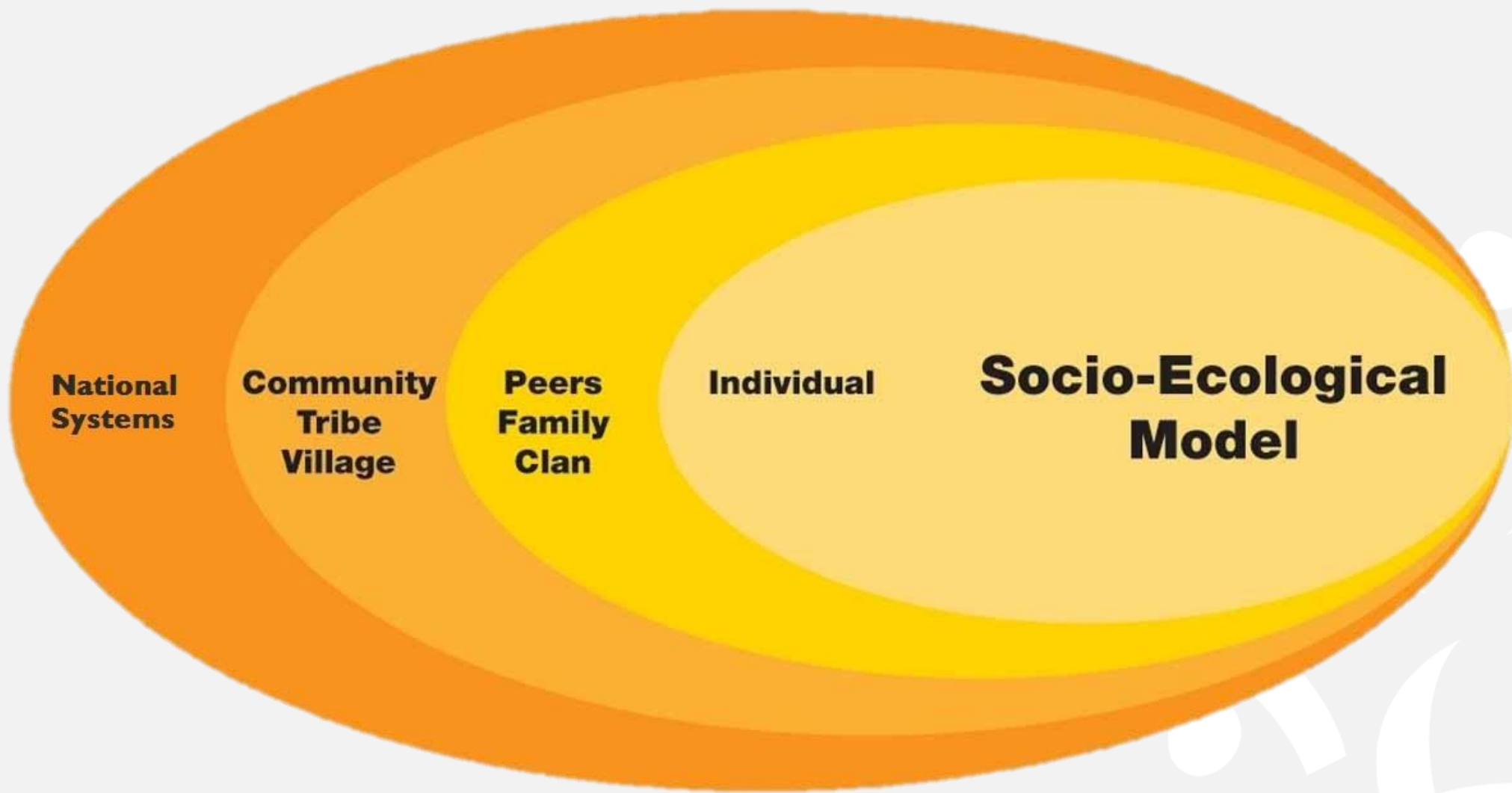
Shifts in youth programming

Old

- Focus on single problems ignores the whole child.
- Focus on the individual and downplays the role of the environment.
- Developmental needs and competencies ignored.
- Being problem free does not mean youth are prepared or healthy.

New

- Focus on whole child
- Focus on developmental needs and challenges.
- Focus on the individual as well as the environment.
- Focus on assets and competencies (80s and (90s)
- Engage youth (90's)



PYD Achieves Multi-Sector Outcomes

Crime &
Violence
Prevention

Delay of Sexual
Activity

Increased
Academic/Soft
Skills

Increased
Community
Engagement

Substance
Abuse
Prevention

Improved
Relationships

Source: YouthPower Learning

Key Features

- Build skills, assets, competencies
- Healthy relationships and role models
- Youth engagement and contribution
- Belonging/membership
- Clear norms, expectations and perceptions
- Safe spaces
- Access to integrated youth friendly services

Adapted from National Resource Council of
the National Academies of Science