

Frequently Asked Questions

What is “Philly 4 Life?”

Philly 4 Life is an innovative youth violence intervention in Philadelphia targeting youth ages 14 to 19. The overall campaign is partially funded by the Pennsylvania Commission for Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). All youth under the age of 18 must have parental/guardian permission in order to participate.

What is the Purpose of Being “Philly 4 Life?”

The purpose of **Philly 4 Life** is to embrace the resilience of our youth and young adults and harness their power as frontline leaders to help stop community violence in Philadelphia. We will be providing teens across Philadelphia with protective-factor (resiliency) skills that will allow them to focus on living and thriving, rather than merely surviving community violence. Youth will learn ways to respond to conflict, stressors and trauma without resorting to violence. Young people who continue past the beta test and into the pilot-level training and associated activities, will eventually become part of a citywide community of young people who care deeply about preventing youth violence and are taking action in their neighborhoods, schools, and even homes to stem the tide of violence that has affected so many families.

Are There Any Risks to My Participation?

The physical risks to you being a part of this pilot are minimal; you will not be placed in any danger or harm. Emotions such as worry or anxiety may be triggered in some teens as they review potential stressors and symptoms and threats of community violence their peer group deals with. As a precaution, the campaign website includes information about a crisis text line. You are encouraged to stop the training process if you are feeling overwhelmed. In addition, if you feel in immediate danger of harming yourself or someone else, please call 911 and request the immediate assistance of emergency personnel. If you are under age 18, and are in a potentially harmful or dangerous situation, your parent/guardian will be notified.

What Will Happen During the “Philly 4 Life” Skills-Building Journey?

First, the youth’s Adult Ally will be their partner during the pilot. Then, as part of the registration process, each teen will create a unique username and password to access the **Philly 4 Life** portal. Next, each teen will complete a short (and HIPAA-compliant/confidential) online survey about their life and experiences. After they complete the survey, he/she will have access to the four training lessons. During each online lesson, he/she will connect with their Adult Ally to talk more about what they’ve learned. Some Adult Allies will also introduce and link youth to a local high-quality, mental health service provider to make them aware of places where they can get additional wellness support. Each teen will receive a certificate for completing the **Philly 4 Life** pilot.

Frequently Asked Questions

What Skills Will Youth Gain During “Philly 4 Life”?

At the end of the **Philly 4 Life** journey, teens in Philadelphia will be able to....

- Define and describe the different kinds of stressors that youth face in their lives and that can lead to violence
- Cope positively with stress, anxiety, trauma or depression, both in a crisis and in everyday life, without resorting to violence
- Support peers, friends and classmates in making changes that promote mental wellness and address the stressors and traumas that put young people at risk for violence, as a victim or perpetrator
- Know when and how to escalate concerning or emergency situations to a parent/guardian, Adult Allies or our vetted local mental health providers, who are sensitive to young people’s needs and will treat them with the respect they deserve
- Increase awareness and reduce stigmas related to mental health issues facing Philadelphia youth and young adults

Are There Any Risks to Participating Teens?

The physical risks to teens from being a part of the pilot are minimal; they will not be placed in any danger or harm. Emotions such as worry or anxiety may be triggered in some teens as they review potential stressors and symptoms and threats of community violence their peer group deals with. As a precaution, the campaign will prominently display information about a crisis text line and encourage youth to stop the training process if they are feeling overwhelmed. Youth who feel in immediate danger of harming themselves or someone else will be directed to call 911 and request the immediate assistance of emergency personnel. Parents/Guardians of youth under 18 will be immediately notified if their teen indicates a potentially harmful or dangerous situation.

Can Teens Opt Out of Being Part of “Philly 4 Life”?

Participation in the **Philly 4 Life** pilot is entirely voluntary. Even after they begin the process, youth may decide not to participate with the project and/or quit the beta test or pilot at any time, without any problems from anyone, including their Adult Ally. If a teen decides not to participate, it will not affect their ability to access any mental wellness or behavioral health services.

Who Can I Contact If I Have Questions About “Philly 4 Life”?

The **Philly 4 Life** Campaign and its training for youth are sponsored by the PCCD and MEE Productions Inc.. You can learn more about the overall campaign at our Website, www.meeproductions.com/philly4life/. If you have specific questions about the beta testing process, please email Philly4Life@meeproductions.com.

Participant (Youth) Consent

Thanks for your interest in **Philly 4 Life**, partially funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). This consent is part of the registration process to enroll in a pilot for an innovative youth violence intervention in Philadelphia targeting youth ages 14 to 19. Approximately 500 young people across the city will be participating in the pilot of this strengths-based violence-prevention campaign, which includes online training, along with virtual and in-person peer support and networking opportunities.

Note: All youth under the age of 18 must have parental permission in order to participate in the pilot. ([Click here to view/access the Parent Permission Form.](#))

What Is the Purpose of Being “Philly 4 Life?”

The purpose of **Philly 4 Life** is to embrace the resilience of our youth and young adults and harness their power as frontline leaders to help stop community violence in Philadelphia. We will be providing you and your peers with protective-factor (resiliency) skills that will allow you to focus on living and thriving, rather than merely surviving community violence. You'll also learn ways to respond to conflict, stressors, challenges and trauma in positive ways that will make you feel even better about yourself, and without resorting to violence. Young people who complete the pilot and associated activities, will eventually become part of a citywide community of young people who care deeply about preventing youth violence and are taking action in their neighborhoods, schools, and even homes to stem the tide of violence that has affected so many families.

In the **Philly 4 Life** pilot, you will get information about how to take care of yourself in a crisis, through an online course with videos and graphics, along with a discussion with your Adult Ally.

What Will Happen During the Pilot of the Training?

First, your Adult Ally will be your partner during the pilot. As part of the registration process, you have created a unique username and password to access the **Philly 4 Life** portal. Next, once we have all required consent & permissions, you will complete a short (and HIPAA-compliant/confidential) online survey about your life and experiences. After you complete the survey, you will have access to the four training lessons. During each online lesson, you will connect with your Adult Ally to talk more about what you've learned. Your Adult Ally will also have the opportunity to introduce and link you to a local high-quality, mental health service provider near you to make you aware of them in case you need additional wellness support. Finally, you will receive a certificate for completing the **Philly 4 Life** pilot.

At the end of the activities contained in the full training, you will be able to:

- Define and describe the different kinds of stressors that youth face in their lives and that can lead to violence
- Cope positively with stress, anxiety, trauma or depression, both in a crisis and in everyday life, without resorting to violence

Participant (Youth) Consent

- Support peers, friends and classmates in making changes that promote mental wellness and address the stressors and traumas that put young people at risk for violence, as a victim or perpetrator
- Know when and how to escalate concerning or emergency situations to Adult Allies or our vetted local mental health providers, who are sensitive to your needs and will treat you with the respect you deserve
- Increase awareness and reduce stigmas related to mental health issues facing Philadelphia youth and young adults

Are There Any Risks to My Participation?

The physical risks to you being a part of this pilot are minimal; you will not be placed in any danger or harm. Emotions such as worry or anxiety may be triggered in some teens as they review potential stressors and symptoms and threats of community violence their peer group deals with. As a precaution, the campaign website includes information about a crisis text line. You are encouraged to stop the training process if you are feeling overwhelmed. In addition, if you feel in immediate danger of harming yourself or someone else, please call 911 and request the immediate assistance of emergency personnel. If you are under age 18, and are in a potentially harmful or dangerous situation, your parent/guardian will be notified.

Protections Against Data Risks

In addition to complying with industry-standard practices, MEE has a strict policy on confidentiality during community-based participatory research projects and those that involve the collection of any personal information from participants. **Philly 4 Life** will maintain the confidentiality of information about its participants according to the following guidelines:

1. Data about **Philly 4 Life** participants will be protected so that project information cannot be use in any punitive manner against you. No personal identifying information about you, such as your name, address and social security number, or any medical or mental health record, will be shared with or released to agencies such as the police department, the school district, or social services.
2. Individual records will be kept by assigned project numbers rather than personally identifying information. MEE will maintain a locked file cabinet that holds the only list linking project identification numbers to names. Only the President and Vice President of MEE (who have signed MEE's Confidentiality Agreement form and received certification in federally approved human subjects research training) will have access to this list.
3. All data collected during the online survey you will fill out to start the beta test will be stored behind a secure, HIPAA-compliant firewall of our research partners, the University of Colorado School of Public Health's mHealth Impact Lab. This password-protected firewall will not be accessible by anyone outside the mHealth Impact Lab's

Participant (Youth) Consent

- Director or her designee at the Lab.
4. Completed, signed consent forms from you, your parent/guardian (if you are under 18) and your assigned Adult Ally will be stored in a separate, locked cabinet that holds no other study information.
 5. Once the pilot project is completed, MEE will maintain locked files of all gathered data, stored off-site and permit access only to authorized individuals.
 6. MEE will periodically review data as it is being collected to ensure that there have been no breaches of confidentiality and to address any such breaches immediately upon discovering them.
 7. Conclusions and final results from the pilot project will be presented as aggregate data only, with no disclosure of specific cases.
 8. Any collected information that is personally identifiable will not be released without your explicit consent and your parent or guardian (if you are under 18), according to the Privacy Act.

Can I Opt-Out of Being Part of the Philly 4 Life Pilot Project?

Although you have started the process to register for the **Philly 4 Life** pilot test of the training process, your participation is entirely voluntary. Even after you begin the pilot, you may decide not to participate with the project and/or quit the pilot at any time, without any problems from anyone, including your assigned Adult Ally. If you decide not to participate, it will not affect your ability to access any mental wellness or behavioral health services.

Who Can I Contact If I Have Questions About the Pilot Project?

The Philly 4 Life Campaign and its training for youth are sponsored by the PCCD and MEE Productions Inc. You can learn more about the overall campaign at our Website, <http://www.meeproductions.com/philly4life/>. If you have specific questions about the pilot project process, please email Philly4Life@meeproductions.com.

Parental/Guardian Consent/Permission Form

Parent/Guardian Permission to Participate in a Pilot of the Philly 4 Life Training

Your teen has expressed interest in participating in the pilot of **Philly 4 Life**, an innovative youth violence intervention in Philadelphia targeting youth ages 14 to 19. The overall campaign is partially funded by the Pennsylvania Commission for Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). All youth under the age of 18 must have parental/guardian permission in order to participate. Approximately 500 young people across the city will be participating in the pilot of this strengths-based violence-prevention campaign, which includes online training, along with virtual and in-person peer support and networking opportunities

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What Will Happen During the Pilot?

Your teen will work with their Adult Ally, a caring non-judgmental adult from the community or one of his/her/their existing natural supports, to be their partner during the pilot. Then, as part of the registration process, your teen will create a unique username and password to access the **Philly 4 Life** portal. Next, your teen will complete a short (and HIPAA-compliant/confidential) online survey about their life and experiences. After they complete the survey, he/she/they will access to the four training lessons. During each online lesson, your teen will connect with your Adult Ally to talk more about what you’ve learned. The Adult Ally will also introduce and link your youth to a local high-quality, mental health service provider near you to make them aware of places where youth can get additional wellness support. Finally, he/she/they will receive a certificate for completing the **Philly 4 Life** pilot.

At the end of the activities contained in the full training, teens in Philadelphia would be able to:

- Define and describe the different kinds of stressors that youth face in their lives and that can lead to violence
- Cope positively with stress, anxiety, trauma or depression, both in a crisis and in everyday life, without resorting to violence

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- Support peers, friends and classmates in making changes that promote mental wellness and address the stressors and traumas that put young people at risk for violence, as a victim or perpetrator
- Know when and how to escalate concerning or emergency situations to Adult Allies or our vetted local mental health providers, who are sensitive to your needs and will treat you with the respect you deserve
- Increase awareness and reduce stigmas related to mental health issues facing Philadelphia youth and young adults

Are There Any Risks to This Teen's Participation?

The physical risks to your teen from being a part of this pilot are minimal; he/ she/they will not be placed in any danger or harm. Emotions such as worry or anxiety may be triggered in some teens as they review potential stressors and symptoms and threats of community violence their peer group deals with. As a precaution, youth will be reminded and encouraged to stop the training process if they are feeling overwhelmed. Youth who feel in immediate danger of harming themselves or someone else will be directed to call 911 and request the immediate assistance of emergency personnel. As the parent/ guardian, you will be immediately notified if your teen indicates a potentially harmful or dangerous situation.

Protections Against Data Risks

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1. Data about **Philly 4 Life** participants will be protected so that project information cannot be use in any punitive manner against participating youth. No personal identifying information about your teen, such as their name, address and social security number, or any medical or mental health record, will be shared with or released to agencies such as the police department, the school district, or social services.
2. Individual records will be kept by assigned project numbers rather than personally identifying information. MEE will maintain a locked file cabinet that holds the only list linking project identification numbers to names. Only the President and Vice President of MEE (who have signed MEE's Confidentiality Agreement form and received certification in federally approved human subjects research training) will have access to this list.
3. All data collected during the online survey to start the beta test will be stored behind a secure, HIPAA-compliant firewall of our research partners, the University of Colorado School of Public Health's mHealth Impact Lab. This password-protected firewall will not be accessible by anyone outside the mHealth Impact Lab's Director or her designee at the Lab.

Parental/Guardian Consent/Permission Form

4. Completed, signed consent forms from you, your teen and his/her/their assigned Adult Ally will be stored in a separate, locked cabinet that holds no other study information.
5. Once the beta test and the pilot project are completed, MEE will maintain locked files of all gathered data, stored off-site and permit access only to authorized individuals.
6. MEE will periodically review data as it is being collected to ensure that there have been no breaches of confidentiality and to address any such breaches immediately upon discovering them.
7. Conclusions and final results from the beta test and the pilot project will be presented as aggregate data only, with no disclosure of specific cases.
8. Any collected information that is personally identifiable will not be released without the explicit consent of a youth participant and his/her/their parent or guardian (for youth under 18), according to the Privacy Act.

Can My Teen Opt-Out of Being Part of the Philly 4 Life Pilot?

Although your teen has chosen to register for the **Philly 4 Life** pilot, her/his/their participation is entirely voluntary. Even after they begin the pilot, they may decide not to participate with the project and/or quit the pilot at any time, without any problems from anyone, including their assigned Adult Ally. If your teen decides not to participate, it will not affect your teen's ability to access any mental wellness or behavioral health services.

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