

National
Adolescent Health
Month

May 2022

#NationalAdolescentHealthMonth

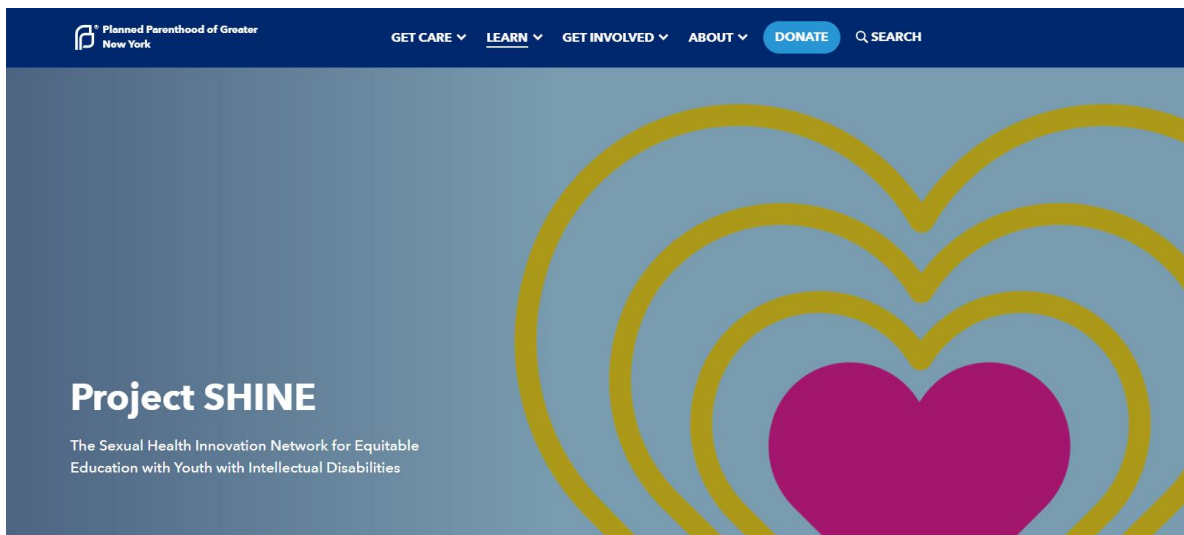
#HealthyYouthNAHM

Voices from the Field

Planned Parenthood of Greater New York

[Project SHINE](#) envisions a world where youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have equitable access to high-quality information and affordable healthcare, with supportive laws and policies that ensure the greatest autonomy and informed sexual well-being possible across the lifespan.

Project SHINE centers equitable engagement in every aspect of our work as an intentional practice by including stakeholders most impacted by barriers to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education at each project stage. Youth with IDD, especially those from historically marginalized groups—such as youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth—have been centered in data collection and in our design of innovative and easily accessible sexual health tools. Project SHINE’s two key groups, The Partner Network and Advisory Board, embody our core collaborative ethos through including youth and other self-advocates with IDD, parents and caregivers, and professionals from the disability field. Throughout the formation of the Partner Network and Advisory Board, PPGNY has applied a race + equity approach, which centers race explicitly but not exclusively in efforts to address inequities. This intersectional framework ensures representation of a diverse group of stakeholders, considering race as well as ethnicity, disability, languages spoken, age, sexual orientation, and gender. Partner Network and Advisory Board members use formative research findings and bring their experience to bear as they create a sexuality education toolkit of interactive and accessible information about bodies and sexuality. This toolkit will include a multifaceted, interactive glossary; bank of realistic stories; reflection and discussion questions; a choose-your-own adventure style game; and resources that put accessible SRH information into the hands of youth with IDD to use on their own, with caregivers, and/or with other supports.



This story was written by the Planned Parenthood of Greater New York.

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