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Session Title: Developing Diverse Leaders: Best Practices in 4-H Healthy Habits Programming

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The 4-H Healthy Habits program focuses on using a positive youth development framework to promote health and wellness among youth and to train teens to become leaders in their communities as Healthy Living Ambassadors. These Healthy Habits programs have been funded in recent years to focus on reaching youth from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. In this poster, we present our mixed-methods work to identify best practices among Healthy Habits programs, particularly when it comes to reaching and retaining youth of color. Case study sites were selected to represent both high-achieving programs, where many teens of color were engaged as Healthy Living Ambassadors, and programs who did not appear to be as successful in engaging youth of color in these leadership roles. We present our approach of assessing diversity and share findings around promising practices for Healthy Habits programs.