

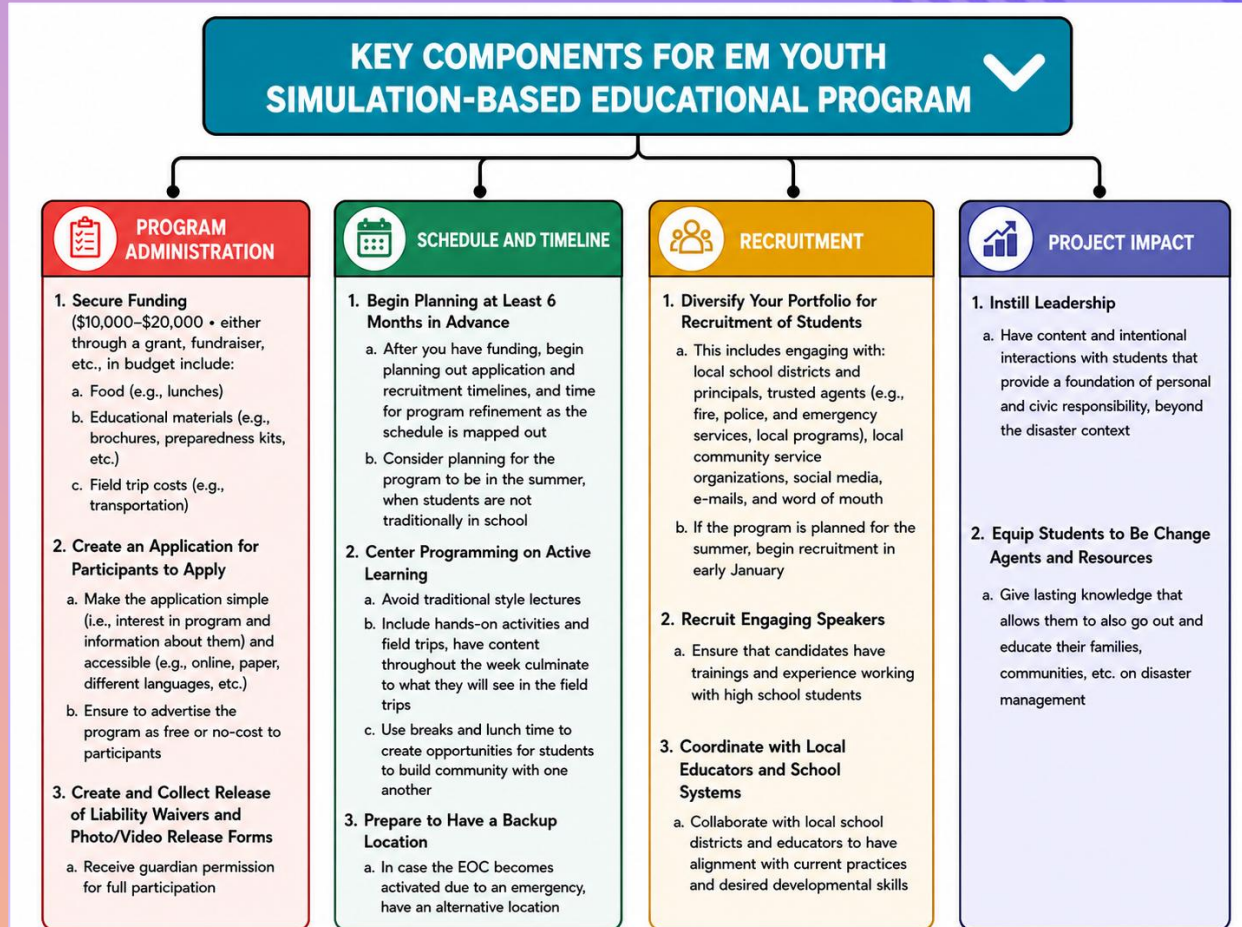
Civic Capacity Through Simulation: Insights from a Sonoma County Youth Program

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Why programs like Model EOC

Matter: Youth are rarely included in emergency management education despite growing exposure to disasters. Simulation based learning, used in programs like Model UN has been shown to improve engagement, critical thinking and career awareness. The Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management's **Model Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** program addressed this gap by immersing high school students in real-world emergency management roles.

This study asks: How can simulation-based youth programs be designed and replicated to build civic capacity and workforce pathways in emergency management?



Methods

Approach

- Qualitative case study of Model EOC Program
- 15 semi-structured interviews (75% of stakeholders)

Analysis

- Iterative thematic coding (deductive + inductive)
- Collaborative coding using qualitative software

Outputs

- Findings were synthesized into 4 key implementation areas (see figure to the left)

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Scan here for full list of references



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Want to start your own  Model EOC?

Scan QR Code for example materials from Sonoma County



Takeaways

- **Start early and plan intentionally** – This allows for the greatest impact on students
- **Design for accessibility and equity** – Remove barriers to allow for optimal recruiting
- **Use simulation to build civic capacity** – Alternative methods for community buy-in



Model EOC students on field trips to CAL FIRE Sonoma Air Attack Base (Above)