

Dr. Nanci Coppola Bio

Youth Development, Public Health, and Adolescent Risk Prevention Expert

Dr. Nanci Coppola is a nationally recognized youth development and public health leader with more than two decades of experience designing, implementing, evaluating, and advising on programs that support healthy adolescent development, strengthen families, and help young people navigate social and behavioral risks. Her work has focused extensively on equipping parents, educators, community leaders, and policymakers with practical tools to protect young people while promoting resilience, decision-making, self-worth, and long-term well-being.

Dr. Coppola currently serves as Vice President of Clinical and Client Solutions at LTS, where she leads clinical strategy, client partnerships, and technical assistance for public health initiatives designed to expand access to care and respond to community needs. Her work reflects a long-standing commitment to integrating public health strategy, education, prevention, and community-based solutions.

From 2018 to 2021, Dr. Coppola served as Senior Legislative and Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of Population Affairs. In that role, she advised federal leadership on adolescent health strategy, program design, research, and cross-agency collaboration, including work with the Administration for Children and Families. She also helped shape the department's Optimal Health framework, emphasizing holistic adolescent development, prevention, and long-term well-being.

Internationally, Dr. Coppola served as a Senior Technical Advisor to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, where she developed prevention strategies for adolescent girls in DREAMS and DREAMS-like countries, including Malawi, Rwanda, Mozambique, Zambia, and Haiti. She has also provided training and technical assistance in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St. Lucia, Guatemala, and other communities focused on strengthening youth development, parent-child communication, and healthy decision-making.

Before her federal service, Dr. Coppola served as CEO of Program Reach, a New York-based nonprofit organization providing health education, youth development, and prevention programming in schools and community settings. Under her leadership, Program Reach secured and implemented more than \$10 million in federal grants and delivered programs across New York City and neighboring communities. She oversaw curriculum and program development, instructor training, grant management, evaluation, and fidelity monitoring, and served as Principal Investigator for a large-scale randomized control trial.

Dr. Coppola is the author of six youth development curricula and has trained hundreds of health educators through national and international presentations, workshops, webinars, and technical

assistance initiatives. Her training work has addressed adolescent brain development, high-risk behavior prevention, curriculum fidelity, parent-child communication, cultural responsiveness, trauma-informed approaches, and strategies for helping trusted adults respond to societal influences that can undermine parental authority and youth well-being.

Through her work with parents, schools, faith communities, government agencies, and international partners, Dr. Coppola has consistently emphasized prevention, boundary-setting, trusted adult engagement, and the protection of healthy childhood and adolescent development.

Dr. Coppola holds a Doctorate in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery from Kent State University, a Master of Science in Community Health Administration and Health Education from the California College of Health Sciences, undergraduate degrees in Biology and Psychology from the University of Rochester, and a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy.