



State Public Health Youth Advisory Structures

Profiles of State Structures Managed & Engaged by
State Adolescent Health Coordinators

February 2022 (rev. August 2022)

Introduction

Engaging youth meaningfully in programs and policies for and about them is integral to positive youth development. Not only do opportunities for youth to contribute to their communities support their developmental transition to adulthood, engaging youth as a regular practice helps adults, providers, and professionals design better programs, policies, and practices to meet their needs.

Many state public health entities engage youth and young adults in a variety of ways; through MCH funded state level advisory councils and groups, program/grant level youth advisory structures, as interns and employees, and through advisory structures managed by partners and other agencies.

Building on decades of technical assistance to state adolescent health programs in maternal and child health and other public health divisions and agencies, the State Adolescent Health Resource Center (SAHRC) at the University of Minnesota hosted a [webinar](#) [\[slides\]](#) on state level youth advisory structures in March 2021 featuring Alaska, Colorado, Rhode Island and Kansas.

These examples and more are also featured in [Partnerships with Youth and Young Adults](#), an Association of Maternal and Child Health Association brief that includes lessons, tips, and state level examples, including youth engagement in Title V/MCH Block Grant needs assessment. This compilation includes examples gathered over the last decade as well as more recent examples gathered: in preparation for the 2021 webinar; from a Fall 2021 Survey of state adolescent health coordinators (SAHCs); and through other technical assistance interactions with SAHCs. This compilation also includes robust youth advisory structures managed outside of DOH and MCH/SAHC managed programs but working with/access by SAHCs.

This compilation is intended to be a living and growing resource – not an exhaustive list. If your state/program example is not reflected here or if you have updates to share, please [connect with SAHRC](#).

What this compilation includes

- **Quick Reference** Chart of State Public Health Youth Advisory Structures, page 3.
- State Public Health Youth Advisory Structure **Profiles**, page 7.

Google Drive Library

A companion library of supporting documents, reports, and tools from 17 state public health youth advisory structures (and more!) can be accessed [here](#), along with lessons learned and local, state, and national examples from public health and other fields.

For assistance with the library, or to add your examples, please [connect with SAHRC](#).

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| AK YAHA | CO YHP | FL YE COVID Toolkit |
| Foster Youth AC Examples | KS Youth Health Guide | Lessons Learned & Compilations |
| Local YAB Examples | Minnesota YouthChat | National YE Structures |
| NC Youth Public Health Advisors | ND Youth Health Advisors | NJ YAB & 2020 Virtual Youth S... |
| NM YE structures | Ohio Youth Led Initiative | OK PHYC |
| PR YAC | RI Youth Health Ambassadors | State Legislated YACs |
| Toolkits - YACs, YABs, YE | VA youth advisors (DOH emplo... | VT Youth4Youth Grants |
| WI PATCH Youth Health Advisors | WV Regional AHCS | |

Quick Reference Chart of State Public Health Youth Advisory Structures

| State Structure | Year Est. | # of youth | Age range | Compensation | Funding | Staffing |
|--|-----------|---|---|--|---|--|
| Youth Alliance for a Healthier Alaska DOH/state level advisory structure | 2008 | 10 youth during the 2021-2022 school year | 14-21 year old's; but 18-24 year old's engaged on issues impacting youth over 18. | Responsive support, letters for school credit for volunteer hours, gift cards, hotspot internet access, and (in one case in 2020) emergency groceries and rent assistance. | Division of Public Assistance, with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding | Coordinated by the Alaska State Adolescent Health Coordinator, located in the Family Services Bureau, Division of Child and Adolescent Health. |
| Colorado Youth Partnership for Health DOH/state level advisory structure | 2000 | | 13-19 | Stipend of \$15/hour and reimbursement for travel to meetings. | Title V/MCH Block Grant funds YPD coordinator position. Receives financial support from numerous CDPHE programs, including state-funded tobacco and marijuana programs. | Coordinated by MCH staff |
| Kansas Department of Health and Environment WHY Adolescent Health Campaign State level | 2019 | 180 students | Middle and high school, and college age | | Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Maternal and Child Health Program | Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Maternal and Child Health Program |
| Maine Youth Action Network State and district level | | Over 1,800 youth in FY2020 | Varies across MYAN network and district partners. | | The Opportunity Alliance | The Opportunity Alliance |

Quick Reference Chart of State Public Health Youth Advisory Structures

| State Structure | Year Est. | # of youth | Age range | Compensation | Funding | Staffing |
|--|-----------|--|---------------|---|---|--|
| New Jersey Department of Health Local Youth Advisory Boards Local level/Grantee | 2017 | 11 local YABs serve ~100 youth | 13-19 | \$50/quarterly meeting. (\$200 max/year). Planning committee members receive \$25/meeting and \$50/event (\$500 max/year). Local sites also provide incentives (e.g. gift cards, earbuds, water bottles, and meeting snacks). | NJDOH funded program services (PREP, SRAE and School Health), part of the NJ State Title V/MCH Block Grant. | Each NJDOH sub-awardee must have one advisor and one co-advisor to run the YAB. The SAHC leads the youth engagement team around youth advisory board engagement. |
| New Mexico Department of Health Peer to Peer Natural Peer Helpers (YP2PH) Program Local school level | 1994 | 8-25, depending on school size; ~ 1,000 youth served statewide | School age | Sponsor stipends: School Population & Funding Amount: 1-234 = \$2,600 235-1,299 = \$3,500 1,300+ = \$4,400 Some schools also provide youth stipends/ scholarships. Youth stipends are sometimes provided for statewide Train-the-Trainer retreats. | New Mexico Department of Health's Office of School & Adolescent Health (NMDOH OSAH). | The SAHC is the contract monitor for NMDOH OSAH YP2PH. She manages the training & contract deliverables for 37 schools statewide, and is also contracted by Albuquerque Public Schools to provide training and TA for 22 of their schools. |
| North Carolina Youth Health Advisors DOH/state level advisory structure | 2019 | 15 in 2021 | 14-18 | \$20/meeting reimbursement as "family partners" to the Division of Public Health's Children and Youth Branch. | Division of Public Health's Children and Youth Branch. | Behavioral Health Consultant/Adolescent Health Coordinator |
| North Dakota Health Equity Youth Advisory Board DOH/State level advisory structure | | Up to 20 youth | Ages of 15-21 | North Dakota Department of Health, Health Equity Office | | Health Equity Director/ Maternal Child Health Grant Coordinator |
| Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network Youth Council Non-Profit/State level | 2011 | Up to 15 | High school | | Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services | Prevention Action Alliance |

Quick Reference Chart of State Public Health Youth Advisory Structures

| State Structure | Year Est. | # of youth | Age range | Compensation | Funding | Staffing |
|---|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|---|---|--|
| Puerto Rico Consejo Asesor Juvenil/ Youth Advisory Council (PRYAC) DOH/state level advisory structure | 2016 | 18 youth, 2018-2021 | 14-22 | Stipend for time in meetings, transportation funds, food at meetings. Youth help identify their own needs and workshops are provided as needed. | Puerto Rico Title V/Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program (CAHP) funds and administers. | Puerto Rico Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division's Associate Director (adolescent health coordinator) and PYD Coordinator co-facilitate. |
| Rhode Island DOH Youth Health Ambassador Program DOH/state level advisory structure | 2020 | 15 | 14-17 | Gift cards, Youth Health Ambassador swag, community service credit, and official recognition from RIDOH | RIDOH Adolescent and School Health Program, and thinking of ways to engage other partners to build and sustain the program. | Adolescent, School and Reproductive Health Program Administrator, located in the Center for Preventive Services Division of Community Health & Equity (Women's health/Title X) |
| Virginia Department of Health Youth Advisors DOH/state level | 2021 | 2 | College seniors | \$20/hr. | Virginia Title V/MCH Block Grant | Virginia State Adolescent Health Coordinator |
| Wisconsin PATCH Youth Advocacy Fellowship External structure that advises the state DOH | 2016 | 15 annually | 12-21 | Paid hourly, plus other supplemental support (food, swag) | Title V MCH Block Grant, Title V State SRAE, PREP, Rape Prevention and Education, potentially non-state dollars. | The Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services (DHS), Title V/MCH Program contracts with the Alliance for Women's Health's PATCH Program to run and staff the Youth Advocacy Fellowship. |
| Wyoming Youth and Young Adult Council DOH/state level advisory structure | 2020 | 12 | 12-24 | Compensated for attending meetings and related travel. | Title V / MCH Block Grant | Wyoming Department of Health contracts with external facilitators to coordinate the Youth and Young Adult Council. |

Youth Alliance for a Healthier Alaska

State level, est. 2008



| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| # of youth | 10 (for 2021-2022 year) |
| Age range | 14-21 year old's for 2021/2022. In 2021, also began engaging youth 18-24 (not just as members of YAHA), especially on issues impacting those over 18, such as health care. |
| Compensation | Providing letters for school credit for volunteer hours, gift cards, hotspot internet access, and in one case in 2020 – emergency groceries and rent assistance. YAC strives to ensure youth have supportive adults and to determine what they need to fully participate, not just compensation. |
| Funding | Division of Public Assistance, with TANF funding (a partnership with Family Services Bureau, Division of Child and Adolescent Health for 15 years). |
| Staffing | YAHA is coordinated by the Alaska State Adolescent Health Coordinator, located in the Family Services Bureau, Division of Child and Adolescent Health (adjacent to MCH/Title V in the Family Services Bureau). |
| Youth recruitment | Through school administrators and Department of Education; social media; encouraging YAHA members to recruit peers. |
| Meetings/engagement activities | YAHA meets once a month throughout the school year. YAHA members in 2021/2022 collaborate on a statewide community action project focused on sexual and reproductive health and mental health. YAHA also works with feeder organizations such as Health Occupation, Students of America, Biomedical Careers Academy, Volunteers of America, and smaller grassroots youth-led organizations such as Youth Homeless Connect to engage youth. |
| Consultation | YAHA advises state level prevention campaigns addressing supportive adult relationships, teen dating violence, substance misuse, depression, community engagement and more. |

In 2021, the Family Services Bureau, Division of Child and Adolescent Health (DCAH) engaged a college level intern to support our youth engagement efforts and increase YAHA communications. The DCAH also developed a high school-based Youth Public Health Club to diversify opportunities for youth as mentors, peer supports, and ambassadors (and create a template for local entities interested in engaging youth). Reaching rural youth, especially in areas with poor internet access, has been a challenge. Community partners include First Alaskans Institute and Elders and Youth Conference.

Resources

- [Celebrating 10 years Alaskan Youth Voice in Public Health \(YouTube Video\)](#), 2018 YAHA members share their powerful story of youth engagement and experiential learning.
- YAHA Featured in State Level Youth Advisory Structures, March 2021 [webinar](#) [\[slides\]](#).
- [Amplify Youth Voices Alaska](#), a state level partnership including YAHA and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, is engaging youth ages 10-25 in interactive online platforms (stories, art) and local artist-led workshops to keep youth connected with messages of hope, encouragement and innovation during COVID.



Colorado Youth Partnership for Health

State level, est. 2000



| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Age range | Members range in age from 13-19, represent urban, mountain and rural experiences, varying sexual and gender identities, both native and immigrant experiences, as well as different races and ethnicities. |
| Compensation | Stipend of \$15/hour and receive reimbursement for travel to meetings. |
| Funding | The YPH receives financial support from numerous Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Programs, including state-funded tobacco and marijuana programs. |
| Staffing | The state Title V/MCH Block Grant funds MCH staff to coordinate the YPH. |
| Recruitment | The YHP seeks to engage youth with a wide range of lived experience (not just that that might be looking for the letter of recommendation, or community service). Youth are recruited in many ways in order represent urban, mountain and rural experiences, varying sexual and gender identities, both native and immigrant experiences, as well as different races and ethnicities. |
| Meetings/engagement activities | YPH meetings are held in a hybrid setting with meetings in person at the CDPHE building in Denver and virtually through the Zoom platform. Members meet one Saturday per month from September to May. |
| Consultation | Members of the council provide feedback and recommendations to CDPHE and it's partners' programs and initiatives. |

In Colorado, youth engagement is written into state legislation as an approach to ensure that all systems are working on behalf of young people. (See [Statewide Youth Development Plan Statute Summary HB 13-1239](#); and [2019-2020 Statewide Youth Development Plan](#)). The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Programs (CDPHE) embeds a youth engagement approach into all programming for youth. The YHP is built around a youth engagement continuum, part of the community engagement continuum. The YHP serves as a pipeline for young people to continue engagement in bringing a public health and youth engagement lens to their communities and other settings (such as college settings). CDPHE also hires young people as state employees to advise on and contribute to state youth health programs.

Resources

- Colorado Youth Partnership for Health [website](#), [flyer](#), and [Facebook](#) page.
- [Colorado's PYD In Action \(PYD Toolbox\)](#): Developed to foster reflection, discussion, and continuous improvement for youth-serving entities. Examples provided for each PYD principle.
- [The Value of Youth Advisors: Promoting Promising Practices to Help Youth and Young Adults Reach Their Potential](#): a guide to the implementation of the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment's innovative Youth Advisor Model.
- [CDPHE Readiness Assessment for hiring youth advisors](#)
- Colorado YE efforts featured in State Level Youth Advisory Structures, March 2021 [webinar](#) [[slides](#)].



Kansas Department of Health and Environment, WHY

Adolescent Health Campaign

State level focus groups & youth-led campaign



| | |
|---|---|
| # of youth | 19 in-person focus groups with 180 students |
| Age range | Middle school, high school, and college age students, across six regions of the state |
| Funding & Staffing | Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Maternal and Child Health Program contracted with DCCCA, Inc. to conduct youth focus groups to inform the 2021-2025 state Title V / MCH Block Grant youth needs assessment. |
| Recruitment | Focus group recruitment included targeted efforts to recruit: foster care, juvenile justice, LGBTQ, BIPOC, SHCN, and ESL youth. |
| Meetings/ engagement activities: | <p>In addition to participating in the youth focus groups, youth have been engaged in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Suicide Prevention art contest • Co-design of the Kansas Youth Health Guide, an interactive PDF with trustworthy information and resources. The topics in the guide were chosen based on feedback from over 180 adolescents focus group participants across Kansas. • Co-Design and launch of the Whole Healthy You (WHY) Adolescent Health campaign |

Resources

- [WHY Adolescent Health Campaign webpage](#)
- [Adolescent health needs assessment report](#) prepared by the Kansas Adolescent Health Project for inclusion in the Kansas Title V MCH Plan (2016-2020), includes description of focus groups with youth (p18) and questions used/discussed (starting on p19).
- Featured in a March 2021, State Level Youth Advisory Structures [webinar](#) [\[Slides Deck\]](#)
- Featured in AMCHP's [Partnerships with Youth and Young Adults](#) brief, including a detailed background on the focus groups efforts.



Maine Youth Action Network

State & district level



| | |
|--------------------|--|
| # of youth | In FY20, MYAN and funded partners engaged 986 new youth in programming, trained over 1,800 youth to support their social and emotional growth, and trained almost 3,000 adults to improve their youth engagement skills. |
| Funding & Staffing | Based out of The Opportunity Alliance in Portland, Maine. The Maine State Adolescent Health Coordinator, located within the Tobacco and Substance Use Prevention and Control Team, is funded by and actively engaged with the Title V/MCH Block Grant) and works closely with the Maine Youth Action Network to collaborate on youth engagement activities. |
| Youth recruitment | MYAN funded and district partners engage youth in nine geographically diverse community organizations across Maine. MYAN strategically collaborates, convenes, and partners with organizations and adult allies to build young people's leadership on social justice, restorative practices, and public health; and the capacity of adults, organizations, and systems to use PYD and social-emotional learning principles in their work with youth. MYAN brings together educators, librarians, after school program coordinators, prevention specialists, School Resource Officers and community members—any adult seeking to collaborate with young people—to practice new skills, make lasting connections, and share their expertise through workshops and trainings. |

Meetings and engagement activities

- **An annual 2-Day Youth Leadership Conference**, designed and led by a team of young people for over 300 middle and high school youth, is an opportunity for young people to present projects, share expertise, and connect in celebration of youth voices.
- Facilitate local **Youth Participatory Action Model** demonstration projects.
- Support for cultural change led by youth, including supporting the [Black Student Caucus](#), and providing micro-funding for [youth racial equity affinity groups](#).
- Support and train network and district partners to facilitate **youth-driven research** projects focusing on schools, towns, and public health districts (called local Youth Policy Boards)
- Run a **State-level Youth Policy Board** (SYPB) using the same YPAR model as network partners. The SYPB is a team of young people from across the state, deciding on topic areas that affect them and their communities (currently researching mental health and suicide prevention).
- [The Gateway to Opportunity Program \(G2O\)](#) Youth Employment initiative connects low-income young people (both in-school and out-of-school) with paid, work-based summer learning projects, a new approach developed by the Cutler Institute's [Youth & Community Engagement \(YCE\)](#) team at the University of Southern Maine.

Resources

- [MYAN FY2020 Annual Report](#)
- [MYAN 2021 Youth Engagement Network Success Stories](#)
- [Juneteenth and the Black Student Caucus: Our Space for Unity](#)

Follow us on Social

[MYANfans](#) | [WeAreMYAN](#) | [WeAreMYAN](#)

New Jersey Department of Health

Youth Advisory Boards

Local/grantee level, est. 2017



| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| # of youth | In 2021, 11 local youth advisory boards engaged 98 youth. |
| Age range | 13-19 |
| Compensation | \$50 for each quarterly business meeting they attend (\$200/year). Members of the planning committee receive \$25 for each planning committee meeting attended and \$50 for each volunteer event (up to \$500, and can be in addition to what they earn from their local YAB). Local sites provide incentives such as gift cards, earbuds, water bottles, and food (if in-person). |
| Funding | Funded by NJDOH funded program services (PREP, SRAE and School Health), part of the NJ State Title V/MCH Block Grant. |
| Staffing | Each NJDOH PREP, SRAE and CDC Grant sub-awardee is required to have one advisor and one co-advisor to run the YAB. At the state level, the SAHC leads the youth engagement team around youth advisory board engagement (composed of youth from local YABs plus some graduates now in college.) |
| Youth recruitment | Youth are recruited by local grantees. |
| Meetings/engagement activities | <p>All YABs are required to meet quarterly but most meet monthly. Aligned with a PYD and 40 Developmental Assets philosophy, the goal is to increase opportunities for youth input and ensure that youth are actively engaged in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of all NJDOH supported programs.</p> <p>Launched in 2017, the youth advisory board structure keeps growing. In 2021, NJDOH managed 11 local youth advisory boards, each identifying their own focus areas. The NJDOH brings together representatives from all 11 YABs at an annual meeting where they talk about activities and recommend focus areas for NJDOH. YAB topics are totally youth driven. Many of the local YABs maintain social media accounts and websites. Check out this example from the Center for Supportive Schools Teen PEP YAB Instagram.</p> |

Resources

- Featured in Virtual Youth Town Halls – SAHC Peer Learning & Sharing Call, August 26, 2020. Watch the [Recording](#), view the [NJ Town Hall Materials \(agenda, PPT, poll, summaries\)](#)
- New Jersey [Student Focus Group Facilitation Tips \(2010\)](#) for the Coordinated School Health Demonstration Project Learning Partner Schools (a different youth engagement structure in NJ) includes a facilitation guide and tips for leading youth focus groups, active listening guide, parent letter, focus group recording document, and sample questions/format from the New Jersey Coordinated School Health Demonstration Project.

New Mexico Department of Health Peer to Peer Natural Peer Helpers (YP2PH) Program

Local school level, est. 1994



| | |
|--|--|
| # of youth | Numbers vary from 8-12 youth from smaller schools to 15-25 from larger schools, with approximately 1,000 youth peer helpers statewide. |
| Age range | School-age |
| Compensation | <p>Sponsor stipends - School Population & Funding Amount:</p> <p>1-234 = \$2,600 235-1,299 = \$3,500 1,300+ = \$4,400</p> <p>Schools provide youth stipends/scholarships. Youth stipends are sometimes provided for statewide Train-the-Trainer retreats.</p> |
| Funding | New Mexico Department of Health's Office of School & Adolescent Health (NMDOH OSAH). |
| Staffing | The SAHC is the contract monitor for NMDOH OSAH YP2PH. She manages the training & contract deliverables for 37 schools statewide, and is also contracted by Albuquerque Public Schools to provide training and TA for 22 of their schools. |
| Meetings/ engagement activities | <p>YP2PH Programs are hosted in schools across the state. NM YP2PH identifies, trains, and supports a diverse cross section of trusted, caring youth representing various subgroups (jocks, skaters, 7th graders, LGBTQ+, etc.) to serve as peer resources on topics like self-care, healthy relationships, and building safe, supportive communities. Each group plans, implements, and evaluates a health promotion project and a service-learning project based on their school and community needs.</p> <p>NM OSAH also hosts an annual Youth Leadership Forum, in 2021 hosted with the New Mexico Civic Engagement Partnership, The New Mexico Youth Alliance, and the Albuquerque Partnership. It brings together youth statewide who participate in community-based organizations, allowing them to network, share experiences and concerns, develop a statewide youth agenda, and get support for achieving their articulated goals.</p> |

Resources

- [NM YouthCHAT](#), a communications skill-building tool for providers of adolescent health care that uses role play with youth actors/teachers (based on Minnesota's YouthCHAT program). In partnership with the [Albuquerque Public Academy for Performing Arts](#).
- [Youth Health Literacy Toolkit](#) for providers scales up YouthCHAT wisdom.
- [NM Know Your Health Toolkit](#) helps healthcare providers and staff build culture, communication, and practice in support of adolescent and young adult health.
- [SAHRC Connections Newsletter, June 2021](#), featured an interview with NM State Adolescent Health Coordinator, Tessa Medina-Lucero, about NM's youth engagement work.

North Carolina Youth Health Advisors

State level, est. 2019

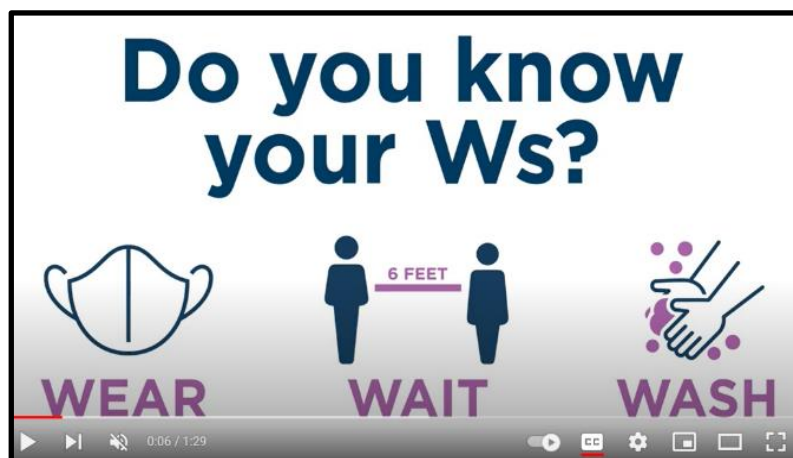


NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| # of youth: | 15 in 2021 |
| Age range | 14-18 |
| Compensation | \$20/meeting reimbursement as "family partners" to the Division of Public Health's Children and Youth Branch. |
| Funding | Division of Public Health's Children and Youth Branch |
| Staffing | Behavioral Health Consultant/Adolescent Health Coordinator |
| Youth recruitment | Application shared on social media and with partners to attract team members from all over NC. |
| Meetings/engagement activities | Meets virtually twice a month to discuss adolescent health issues, create group projects, and help other health programs in their work to keep NC's young people healthy. |

Resources

- [NC Youth Advisors website](#), introduction [flyer](#)(PDF), video introductions by the youth advisors on [YouTube](#), and [Top 5 health topics](#) identified by youth advisors in 2021.
- [One Year of COVID-19: North Carolina Youth Peer Survey Findings](#), a survey of youth by NC Youth Advisors (June 2021)(PDF)
- [Video Presentation](#) (YouTube)
- [Youth Health Advisor Team Know Your W's Video](#) (2020)by the NC YHA team to encourage young people statewide to practice public health safety measures with the COVID-19 virus.



North Dakota Health Equity Youth Advisory Board

State level



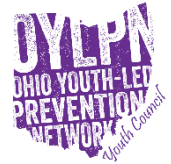
| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| # of youth | Up to 20 are asked to commit two years of service. Depending on age, an additional year of service may be requested. |
| Age range | 15-21 |
| Funding | North Dakota Department of Health, Health Equity Office |
| Staffing | Health Equity Director/Maternal Child Health Grant Coordinator |
| Meetings/ engagement activities | Quarterly meetings (in person or virtual) and orientation including a three-hour Search Institute training. Members as ambassadors and advocates for youth, community, and the YAB; engage youth in their communities through discussion and leadership opportunities, and seek out and listen to others' opinions and experiences. |
| Consultation | The ND DOH's YAB provides an opportunity for young people to learn about, and put into action, community wide planning as well as enhance leadership skills and responsibility. The YAB provides recommendations regarding youth health issues and topics to the North Dakota Department of Health (ND DOH), ensuring youth perspectives are incorporated in planning and decisions for the state. |

Resources

- ND DOH Health Equity Youth Advisory Board (YAB) [Charter](#), and [website](#) (which includes quarterly meeting minutes).

Ohio Youth–Led Prevention Network Youth Council

State level



of youth Up to 15 high school students

Funding [Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services](#)

Staffing [Prevention Action Alliance](#)

Recruitment Statewide outreach

Engagement & Consultation [OYLPN Youth Council](#) emerged out of a need to engage youth voices in behavioral health. It is a community of like-minded teens who want to make an impact; and develop their leadership, public speaking, and advocacy skills.

The Youth Council is part of a larger network (OYLPN) of 150 youth-led substance misuse prevention providers and youth who, since 2011, are committed to the cornerstones of youth-led prevention, peer prevention, positive youth development, and community service. [Ohio Adult Allies](#), organized into six Regional Learning Collaboratives (RLC), are led by seasoned youth prevention leaders.

Every year, the OYLPN Youth Council:

- **Organizes and leads the We Are The Majority Rally** to raise awareness about the fact that most youth do not use drugs.
- **Meets with legislators** to advocate for youth-led prevention and the promotion of mental health wellness.
- **Empowers teens across the state** to take a stand for their communities.
- **Promotes protective factors** in their peers' lives to help prevent drug use.

Resources

- [OYLPN website](#) (details on adult allies and the OYLPN Youth Council)
- OYLPN In Action [YouTube Channel/videos](#)
- [Creating Spaces for Young People to Collaborate to Create Community Change: Ohio's Youth-Led Initiative](#), published in an equity and justice-focused supplement of the Health Education & Behavior journal, Society for Public Health Education, September 2019.

Puerto Rico Consejo Asesor Juvenil / Youth Advisory Council (PRYAC)

State level, est. 2016

| | |
|--|--|
| # of Youth: | 25 youth, 2021-2023 |
| Age range | 14-22 |
| Compensation | Stipend for time in meetings, transportation funds, food at meetings. Youth help identify their own needs and workshops are provided as needed. |
| Funding | Puerto Rico Title V/Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program (CAHP) funds and administers the PRYAC. |
| Staffing | Puerto Rico Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division's Associate Director (adolescent health coordinator) and Positive Youth Development Coordinator co-facilitate the PRYAC. |
| Recruitment | The PRYAC forms biannually, and existing members (up to age 19) can apply to continue. Youth recruit others through their own social media, PR DOH, PRDOE, CBOs and entities that work with youth, word of mouth, universities, and private schools. A group activity is held to assess youth's ability to work with others. Youth come from different parts of the island. |
| Meetings/ engagement activities | Youth and two adult facilitators meet monthly (virtually and in person) and connect by email/WhatsApp to discuss issues and plan activities to address identified community needs. Youth establish the meetings' agendas, workgroups, and an annual Work plan. Decisions are made by consensus. |
| Consultation | <p>The PRYAC serves as an accessible source of trusted information on issues that impact youth. It collaborates with the PR MCAH and other entities seeking input on projects and educational materials, including videos or flyers. They participate in committees, MCAH needs assessment, and represent youth at AMCHP events and other partner events.</p> <p>PR CAHP also coordinates the Youth Health Promoters Project with 10-14-year-olds in public schools. They provide feedback and the PR CAHP receives their input as needed through dialogues and surveys. This project works in collaboration with PRDOE.</p> |

Resources

- [PRYAC website](#) and [Operations Guide](#) (Spanish, 2018, being revised due to COVID-19)
- [AMCHP Poster Session \(Infographic, how the PRYAC works\)](#)
- PRYAC has also collaborated with AMCHP to educate others in how to engage youth in the conference and webinars. Visit the Facebook page of the [Consejo Asesor Juvenil](#) where you will find archives of live stream sessions at the 2018 AMCHP conference.

Follow us:



Rhode Island DOH Youth Health Ambassador Program

State level, est. 2020

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| # of youth | 16 |
| Age range | 14-17 (high school students) |
| Compensation | Gift cards, Youth Health Ambassador swag, community service credit, and official recognition from RIDOH. |
| Funding | RIDOH Adolescent and School Health Program , and thinking of ways to engage other partners to build and sustain the program. |
| Staffing | Adolescent, School and Reproductive Health Program Administrator, located in the Center for Preventive Services Division of Community Health & Equity (Women's health/Title X). |
| Recruitment | Open recruitment for applications, Application process promoted through various channels – community partners, social media, other public health programs. For their first open application process in 2020, RIDOH received 80 applications. They offered interviews with every youth who applied. 15 youth were invited to join. |
| Meetings/ engagement activities | <p>The RIDOH Youth Health Ambassadors program is an eight-month program (January-August) designed to help youth build public health knowledge and grow leadership skills to better serve their community. It meets two times per month.</p> <p>Rhode Island also maintains a Youth Advisory Council focused on serving youth with special healthcare needs, although they do welcome all youth (featured in AMCHP Innovation Hub). Recognizing an additional need to provide a platform for youth to learn more about public health, develop leadership skills, and provide opportunities to serve as advisors to RIDOH, YHA was launched.</p> <p>Goals of the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the Ambassadors themselves, to provide foundational public health knowledge and leadership development, build their confidence and knowledge to comfortably collaborate as partners with RIDOH programs, and help think of how to build out other ways of engaging youth. For other DOH program colleagues, to think about more authentic, intentional, proactive approaches to youth engagement. |

Resources

- RI Youth Health Ambassador Program featured in State Level Youth Advisory Structures, [March 2021 webinar \[slides\]](#).



Virginia Department of Health Youth Advisors & Council

State level, est. 2021

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| # of youth | 2 DOH youth advisors (as DOH employees on Adolescent Health team) |
| Age range | Advisors are college seniors; Youth Advisory Council members are high school students |
| Compensation | \$20/hour for DOH youth advisors. |
| Funding | Virginia Title V/MCH Block Grant |
| Staffing | Virginia State Adolescent Health Coordinator |
| Recruitment | Through VDH's job portal, the listing was shared widely in 2021 with youth and youth-serving organizations. |
| Meetings/ engagement activities | DOH advisors are engaged as DOH employees for 20 hours/week. |
| Consultation | <p>Youth advisors provide expertise and leadership VDH public health initiatives that impact young people. VDH programs apply to engage the youth advisors for their expertise and input on projects. Youth advisors also leverage youth voices throughout the state by tapping into other youth advisory structures, and supporting young people to implement their own public health projects in communities.</p> <p>The Youth Advisors also engage adolescents in Virginia's first state level Youth Advisory Council (launched in Fall 2021) and VDH Youth Advisory Council E-Board. The VDH Youth Advisory Council and E-Board are initiatives to get adolescents more involved in decisions regarding their community's well-being. The YA Council and E-Board engage high school students in Virginia that are passionate about public health and want to see change in their community.</p> |

Resources

- [VDH Youth Advisor Program website](#)
- Follow the VDH Youth Advisors on Instagram at @VDHYouthAdvisors or click this [link](#).
- Featured in NNSAHC Regional Call for State Adolescent Health Coordinators, March 17, 2021. Watch the recording [here](#).



Wisconsin PATCH Youth Advocacy Fellowship

State level, est. 2016



| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| # of youth | 15 annually |
| Age range | 12-21 |
| Compensation | Paid hourly, plus other supplemental support (food, swag) |
| Funding | Title V MCH Block Grant, Title V State SRAE, PREP, Rape Prevention and Education, potentially non-state dollars. |
| Staffing | DHS, Title V/MCH Program contracts with the Alliance for Women's Health: PATCH Program to run and staff the Youth Advocacy Fellowship. |
| Recruitment | Listserve, local community organizations, affiliates of the program. Members represent youth throughout the state of (urban and rural). |
| Meetings/engagement activities | The Fellowship spans nine months (September-May) with continual engagement and learning via paid enrichment, individual learning modules, and the development of an individual Community Advocacy Project. Fellows meet regularly (about twice per month) with other touch points in between. |
| Consultation | <p>Youth Advocates serve as consultants to the Title V/MCH program and to other projects and initiatives of individuals, organizations, and systems working to improve adolescent health throughout Wisconsin.</p> <p>The WDHS also engages the statewide and local youth advisory boards of community partners (for example, a needs assessment on Sexual Violence Prevention). They also require/support (with technical assistance) their PREP grant sites to maintain local youth advisory boards/youth engagement opportunities.</p> |

Resources

- [Wisconsin DHS, Adolescent Health Program/Youth Engagement website](#)
- Wisconsin DHS' [Youth Engagement Toolkit](#) helps adult facilitators engage young people as true leaders in local adolescent health programs. It can be used by local health departments, nonprofits, schools, and more to inform programming on a variety of health topics.
- [PATCH Youth Advocacy Fellowship](#) recognized by AMCHP as an [Innovation Station Promising Practice](#) (2020).
- [What is Health Care Transition? HCT 101, animated video by Got Transition?](#) Created in close collaboration with young adults from Wisconsin's PATCH program.



Wyoming Youth and Young Adult Council

Local /grantee level, est. 2020

| | |
|--|---|
| # of Youth | 12 |
| Age range | 12-24 |
| Compensation | Compensated for attending meetings and related travel and training (e.g. conference attendance). Currently considering compensation options for time spent on YaYa projects between meetings. |
| Funding | Title V/MCH Block Grant |
| Staffing | The Wyoming Department of Health contracts with an external facilitator to manage the YaYa Council. |
| Recruitment | Youth are recruited by word of mouth through youth-serving agencies and organizations. |
| Meetings/ engagement activities | <p>Meets twice a month to share stories about their own life experiences as youth and young adults, and identify needs in Wyoming. Guests join meetings to teach about how trauma and stressful life experiences affect children and youth, and what they can do to co-create hope.</p> <p>The YaYa Council's work is inspired by the CDC and Kaiser Permanente's groundbreaking study in Adverse Childhood Experiences, (ACEs). YaYas share their voices and support to decrease Risk Factors and increase Protective Factors. They study what's happening in their neighborhoods and communities and then work to address the issues by connecting with other youth or young adults, parents or caregivers, and others who care about youth through events, partnerships, and storytelling.</p> |
| Consultation | The council provides a youth voice and young adult expertise to the program planning and implementation efforts of the Youth and Young Adult Health Program, as well as other Wyoming programs and statewide collaborations. The DOH does not prescribe priorities/activities: youth define their own issues (and the MCH program then considers how to wrap it into agency priorities). |

Resources

Youth and Young Adult Council [website](#).

