



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Samantha Garcia

sgarcia@sierrahealth.org; (916) 996-8987

**California Awards \$52 Million to 61 Community-Based and Tribal Organizations
for Youth Substance Use Prevention**

*Funds Support a Third Round of Youth Prevention and Education Partnerships
Across the State*

Sacramento, Calif. – Elevate Youth California, a project of The Center at Sierra Health Foundation under contract with the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), today announced grants totaling \$52.776 million awarded to 61 community-based and Tribal organizations throughout California for youth substance use prevention activities.

Funded by revenue generated by Proposition 64, which legalized adult non-medical use of cannabis in California, the *Elevate Youth California: Youth Substance Use Disorder: Standard Track* will prioritize youth leadership and provide youth social justice, peer support and mentoring in low-income communities of color, including Tribal communities and LGBTQ communities.

Partner organizations will work with youth ages 12 to 26 years in urban and rural areas of the state. A full list of organizations that received cohort-three awards is posted on the [Elevate Youth California website](#).

“Elevate Youth California prioritizes youth leadership and invests in healing and community growth,” said Chet P. Hewitt, president and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation and The Center. “Our new partners will work directly with youth to improve the environment for communities impacted by the War on Drugs, which has led to inequity in health systems and criminalization of youth in low-income communities and communities of color. California’s youth are talented, capable and ready for this investment.”

Multi-year grants of up to \$1 million per project will support activities that build youth leadership and activism, providing culturally relevant services and promoting policy, systems and environmental change. Funding will support efforts through November 2024.

“It is inspiring to see the level of positive change that the 61 culturally responsive Elevate Youth California community partners presented in their applications,” said Marlies Perez, chief of DHCS’ Community Services Division.” As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, and our young people re-engage in school and community, the third cohort of nonprofit community and Tribal partners have found innovative ways to meet the multiple complex needs of our young people.”

The [first Standard Track cohort of 26 community-based organizations](#) was awarded \$21.5 million in March 2020, when the program launched. In November 2020, \$29.7 million was granted to the [second cohort of 32 community-based organizations](#) to support racially and culturally responsive, trauma-informed, population-based and place-based approaches, particularly for California’s demographic communities disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs. In August 2021, The Center awarded a new [cohort of 18 community-based organizations to build their capacity](#). With this current round of funding, The Center has awarded a total of \$109.976 million to support the prevention of youth substance use.

Funding for the program comes through the DHCS Proposition 64 California Cannabis Tax Fund, Allocation 3, Youth Education Prevention Early Intervention and Treatment Account.

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About The Center at Sierra Health Foundation: *The Center works to promote health and racial equity in communities throughout California with local, state and national partners. Learn more at www.shfcenter.org.*

About Department of Health Care Services (DHCS): *DHCS provides nearly 14 million Californians – more than one-third of the state’s population – with access to affordable, integrated, high-quality health care, including medical, dental, mental health, substance use treatment services, and long-term care. DHCS’ vision is to preserve and improve the overall health and well-being of all Californians. Learn more at www.dhcs.ca.gov.*

About Proposition 64: *Proposition 64 funding prioritizes youth education, prevention, and early intervention, connecting youth and their families to programs that include wraparound care in communities disproportionately harmed by past and current drug policies and criminalized for substance use.*