

Elevate Youth California is a statewide program addressing substance use disorder (SUD) by investing in leadership development and civic engagement for youth of color and 2S/LGBTQIA+* youth ages 12 to 26 living in communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs.

PROGRAM STRATEGIES
**SUD PREVENTION EDUCATION,
SERVICES, AND SUPPORTS**

- **Youth-led civic engagement** for policy, systems, and environmental change
- **Mentorship** and relationship building
- **Peer-led support** and leadership programming
- Youth **SUD listening sessions**
- **Training and technical assistance** to build organizational capacity



Fresh Lifelines for Youth, Inc. - Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties

STANDARD TRACK – COHORT 1

191

APPLICATIONS

\$21.6M

AWARDED
Grants Up to \$1M

26

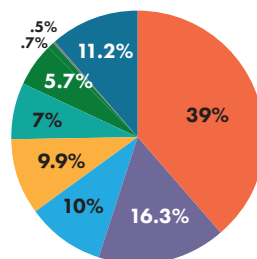
PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS
Community-based and
Tribal Organizations

12,203 youth engaged in programming focused on SUD prevention and civic engagement.

3,139 youth participated in **98 listening sessions.**

Funded partners engaged **729 adults or peer mentors** and **1,701 mentees.**

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS SELF-IDENTIFIED AS...



Standard Track–Cohort 1 (n = 27,020):**

- 39% Hispanic, Latino/a or Spanish Origin**
- 16.3% Black or African American**
- 10% American Indian or Alaskan Native**
- 9.9% White**
- 7% Asian**
- 5.7% Multiracial**
- 0.7% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander**
- 0.5% Middle Eastern or North African**
- 11.2% Other/Declined to State**

**The total n= is larger than the total number of youth engaged due to some youth identifying as multiple race/ethnic categories.

*2S/LGBTQIA+ = Two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning, and additional identities used by community members. This report covers data from EYC Round 1 funded partners from March 2020 to November 2022.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Latino Center for Prevention & Action in Health & Welfare - Orange County

Youth from **Latino Center for Prevention & Action in Health & Welfare** met with local council members to share their personal stories of how substance use impacts their lives and community. Participants attended city council meetings to give

public comments advocating for job and internship opportunities, mental health services for youth, and the creation of a board to reduce youth criminalization.

This Orange County-based partner collaborates with low-income immigrant Latinx youth in Santa Ana to implement a youth-led SUD education campaign. Their goal is to foster youth leadership and create participatory mechanisms that promote risk prevention and drive system-wide changes to better address SUD-related health needs and reduce substance use among youth in the city and County of Orange.



Action Network - Mendocino and Sonoma counties

A native youth from **Action Network** advocated for the protection of cultural sites and sacred Pomo Land.

Action Network empowers rural Latinx and Native American youth in Mendocino and Sonoma counties through the "Action Teen Program," creating adult-supervised, peer-led youth groups that utilize a three-pronged approach, including teen-led meetings, increased youth civic engagement, and a safe space where youth can gather.

OVERCOMING BARRIERS

The timeline of this program coincided with the height of the COVID 19 public health emergency, requiring swift and strategic action to reimagine programming through a virtual lens. To prioritize health and safety, EYC was transitioned to a 100% remote program during the early days of the public health emergency. Subsequently, \$876,178 was granted to 18 partners, supporting technological solutions to address the digital divide, support youth and family engagement, and enable program enhancement.

STRONGER ORGANIZATIONS, GREATER YOUTH IMPACT

Young people benefitted from leadership opportunities, increased advocacy and organizing skills, experience leading efforts to create youth-centered safe spaces, and contributed to policy, systems, and environmental initiatives at school, city, and state levels. **Program grantees self-reported:**

- Increased competence to serve youth and young adults at risk of SUD
- Increased equity in organizational policy and procedure
- Increased capacity to conduct evaluation
- Strengthened partnerships and expanded reach
- Increased competitiveness for similar funding opportunities

Elevate Youth California is a program of the California Department of Health Care Services funded through Proposition 64 California Cannabis Tax Fund, Allocation 3, Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention, and Treatment Account. The Center at Sierra Health Foundation is contracted to support the implementation of EYC. This statewide program provides funding and technical assistance for organizations that are developing or increasing community SUD prevention, outreach and education focused on youth.