

ELEVATE YOUTH CALIFORNIA: YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION PROGRAM: COHORT 8 STANDARD TRACK

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
AUGUST 2026



Table Of Contents

1.	BACKGROUND	3
1.1.	ABOUT ELEVATE YOUTH CALIFORNIA.....	3
2.	ELEVATE YOUTH CALIFORNIA FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	4
3.	ELEVATE YOUTH CALIFORNIA FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION PROGRAM: COHORT 8 STANDARD TRACK	5
3.1.	PROJECT TIMELINE	5
3.2.	MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS	5
3.3.	ADDITIONAL REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS	6
3.4.	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES	6
3.5.	STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION	7
3.6.	EXAMPLES OF ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES	8
3.7.	UNALLOWED ACTIVITIES	9
4.	PROJECT FUNDING INFORMATION	10
4.1.	TOTAL AWARD AMOUNTS.....	10
4.2.	PRE-AWARD RISK ASSESSMENT (PARA)	11
4.3.	GEOGRAPHIC AND POPULATION CONSIDERATIONS.....	12
4.4.	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	12
4.5.	EXTERNAL EVALUATION	14
4.6.	YOUTH LISTENING SESSIONS	14
4.7.	IN-PERSON CONVENINGS	14
4.8.	INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.....	15
5.	SELECTION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA	15
6.	POST-AWARD GRANT MANAGEMENT	17
7.	APPLICATION TIMELINE.....	17
7.1.	PROPOSERS' WEBINAR	18
7.2.	IMPORTANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES	18
7.3.	APPLICATION CHECKLIST	19
	APPENDIX A – GLOSSARY	21
	APPENDIX C – APPLICATION FOR REFERENCE ONLY.....	24
	APPENDIX D – INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.....	31
	APPENDIX E – RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FROM THE FIELD	33

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND CRITERIA CAREFULLY

1. BACKGROUND

On November 8, 2016, Proposition 64 (Prop 64) was passed by California voters, allowing adults ages 21 years or older to possess and use cannabis. Prop 64 created two new taxes, the revenues of which are deposited into the California Cannabis Tax Fund (CTF). Under current law, after other specified disbursements, 60% of the remaining CTF is deposited into Allocation 3, the Youth Education, Prevention, and Early Intervention Account (YEPEITA). YEPEITA funds are disbursed to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for youth programs aimed to educate about and to prevent substance use disorders (SUDs) and to prevent harm from substance use.¹

Launched in 2019 and funded by YEPEITA, Elevate Youth California (EYC) is a statewide program that addresses substance use disorders (SUDs) 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. EYC provides funding and technical assistance for organizations to implement projects. For information about EYC and its partners, visit www.elevateyouthca.org.

DHCS contracts with Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management (The Center) to administer EYC. The Center is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization bringing people, ideas, and infrastructure together to create a collective impact that reduces health disparities and improves community health for the underserved living in California. For information about The Center, visit www.shfcenter.org.

1.1. ABOUT ELEVATE YOUTH CALIFORNIA

EYC is grounded in social justice youth development (SJYD),^{2,3} which expands the concept of a positive youth development framework and addresses social factors including racism, xenophobia, and other racial inequities youth face as they develop into adulthood. SJYD recognizes these systemic forces and supports youth and young adults in developing the skills and knowledge to transform the systems that influence their lives, neighborhoods, and broader community. Additionally, SJYD expands the traditional asset-based youth development approach to support youth civic engagement and leadership development to dismantle the structural inequities and harmful narratives. The inequities include the criminalization of youth of color, the school-to-prison pipeline, housing insecurity/homelessness, and inequitable education and economic opportunities, to name a few.

Through a public health and harm reduction lens, EYC supports culturally and linguistically responsive, healing-centered, and trauma-informed strategies that prevent substance use before it begins, particularly in communities disproportionately harmed by the war on drugs. According to the results of the 2024 United States National Survey on Drug Use and Health, over 5.6 million Californians ages 12 and older have struggled with a SUD in the past year.⁴ Researchers and health advocates have identified

¹ Revenue and Taxation Code Section 34019 subdivision (f)(1).

² Ginwright, Shawn, and Julio Cammarota. "New Terrain in Youth Development: The Promise of a Social Justice Approach." *Social Justice*, vol. 29, no. 4 (90), 2002, pp. 82–95. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/29768150.

³ Social Justice Youth Work: Actualizing Youth Rights <http://jyd.pitt.edu/ojs/jyd/article/viewFile/488/462>.

⁴ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 2023 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt56987/2024-nsduh-sae-totals-tables-csvs/2024-nsduh-sae-totals-tables.pdf>.

various risk and protective factors associated with substance use that can emerge during adolescence. Understanding these factors is crucial for effective prevention efforts, as it allows for timely interventions that can significantly reduce the likelihood of individuals experiencing substance use issues later in life.

EYC serves youth of color and 2S/LGBTQIA+ youth ages 12 to 26 living in communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs. These include but are not limited to American Indian/Alaskan Native, African American, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and Latinx communities in California; youth with disabilities or who have life experiences that increase the risk of SUD; youth who have been system-impacted and formerly incarcerated; and youth who have experienced the foster care system or homelessness. Youth may experience more than one form of oppression or marginalization. This analysis of the intersections of race and other forms of oppression is commonly referred to as “intersectionality.” DHCS encourages applications that seek to reach youth who are at even greater risk for substance use due to intersectional identities and social factors.

To date, DHCS has awarded more than \$370.187 million through 517 grants with seven rounds of Standard Track grants, three rounds of Capacity Building Track grants, and one round of Innovation Track grants. EYC has awarded grants in all 58 California counties.

For information about EYC partners, visit www.elevateyouthca.org.

2. ELEVATE YOUTH CALIFORNIA FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The required goal of this funding opportunity is to address SUD prevention by investing in youth leadership 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. DHCS is seeking applications from 501(c)(3) community-based organizations, Tribal organizations (including federally recognized Tribal 638 organizations and 501(c)(3) nonprofit urban Indian clinics)⁵ and county behavioral health organizations that:

- Support youth engagement that focuses on youth civic engagement, specifically in communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs.
- Possess cultural humility and responsiveness with staff and organizational leadership who reflect the racial, ethnic, and cultural community they intend to serve.
- Prioritize public health solutions that focus on positive messages to prevent SUD.
- Develop culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate social justice youth development, peer-to-peer support, and mentoring programs that are healing-centered, trauma-informed, and focused on youth ages 12 to 26.
- Utilize an intersectional approach to health equity through policy, systems, and environmental change.
- Implement SUD prevention activities that address the root causes of SUD, reduce risk factors, and increase protective factors.

In addition to youth civic engagement, applicants must support youth and young adults through mentoring and/or peer-to-peer support to educate communities, change social norms around substance

⁵ California county behavioral organizations that are the sole provider of prevention services in their respective county may apply for Elevate Youth CA funding. To learn if your county might be eligible, email elevateyouthca@shfcenter.org.

use, and prevent harms and risks associated with substance use. Recognizing how critical family engagement (biological, adoptive, or chosen) is to successfully support and engage youth and young adults; project strategies are encouraged to incorporate family engagement throughout project implementation.

3. ELEVATE YOUTH CALIFORNIA FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION PROGRAM: COHORT 8 STANDARD TRACK

3.1. PROJECT TIMELINE

Grants will cover activities for the following time period: January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2029.

3.2. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

The applicant must have at minimum, the following qualifications for the submitted application to be considered:

- The applicant must have an office located in California.
- The applicant must provide services in California.
- The proposed project's key staff must reside in California.
- The applicant must be one of the following:
 - A 501(c)(3) community-based organization.
 - A federally recognized Tribal 638 organization.⁶
 - Fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community-based organization. Applicants with a fiscal year 2025-26 operating budget at or below \$50,000, whether tax exempt or not, must apply under a fiscal sponsor. Fiscally sponsored projects may not have for profit status.
 - A coalition or collaborative of 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Partner organizations that will receive grant funds or implement program activities must be identified as a subrecipient and are required to meet all applicable programmatic, fiscal, and regulatory requirements, as administered by the lead applicant.
 - A county behavioral health organization that is the sole provider of prevention services in their respective county.
 - School districts, schools, charter schools, and county offices of education are ineligible to apply.
- The applicant must meet the following regulatory and registration requirements by the time of award and maintain active registration, tax-exempt status, and good standing with all required agencies for the duration of the award:
 - Tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
 - Tax-exempt status and good standing with the California Franchise Board (FTB) ([website link](#)).

⁶ Tribal organizations may be, federally recognized Tribal 638 organizations, or 501(c)(3) nonprofit urban Indian clinics.

- Current registration with the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Registry of Charities and Fundraisers (DOJ-AG) ([website link](#)).
- Current registration with the California Secretary of State (SOS) ([website link](#)).

All subrecipients of applicants must also meet and maintain good standing with the requirement outlined above.

- The applicant (implementing organization) must not have an active EYC award; however, EYC funded partners whose current award ends December 31, 2026, are eligible to apply. Fiscal sponsors are allowed to oversee more than one active EYC award.

DHCS and The Center reserve the right to ask for documentation of minimum qualifications at any point during the application evaluation or award period, should the applicant be awarded a subcontract. If adequate documentation is not provided, the application may be rejected for further consideration during the evaluation phase. In addition, if the awarded applicant is unable to provide adequate documentation after the execution of the subcontract, the applicant may be required to return all grant funds.

3.3. ADDITIONAL REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Assessment of application qualifications will be based on the following criteria:

- The applicant demonstrates commitment to and/or successful record of partnering with youth and young adults of color and 2S/LGBTQIA+ youth ages 12 to 26 living in communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs (e.g., history working with impacted communities, including representation on the board and staff, clients served, and neighborhoods served).
- The applicant has a successful record of providing and or can demonstrate that it has a strong capacity to implement SUD prevention activities that reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors.
- The applicant has a successful record of providing and/or can demonstrate that it has a strong capacity to implement social justice youth development activities.
- The applicant has a successful record of providing and/or can demonstrate that it has a strong capacity to provide services in a culturally and linguistically responsive manner.
- Applicant organizations and their partners must have demonstrated evidence of inclusivity and shall not discriminate based on race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status in any of its activities or operations.

3.4. DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

EYC funded partners are responsible for implementing comprehensive strategies that reduce risk factors (e.g., trauma, disconnection from school or community) and strengthen protective factors (e.g., cultural identity, adult or peer mentorship, community and civic engagement) associated with youth substance use prevention.

Projects are recommended to utilize evidence-based, promising, and/or community-driven practices in their prevention approach and incorporate social justice youth development in all programming, and aim to engage youth within the first quarter of the award. Funded partners will conduct annual listening

sessions to gather feedback from youth and young adults on the impact of project activities and to identify opportunities for project improvement. Additionally, funded partners are expected to actively participate in technical assistance opportunities hosted by The Center, engage in an external evaluation to assess the effectiveness of EYC, and attend at least two regional convenings over the award period. EYC funded partners will be required to submit progress and financial reports as indicated in the reporting schedule in Section 4.4.

Success will be measured by progress towards programmatic and P.S.E. change goals and objectives contained in an approved work plan. The approved work plan must incorporate a process for monitoring and evaluation of youth engagement, SUD prevention and social justice youth development activities that include EYC implementation strategies. Progress towards youth-led P.S.E. change goals and participant outcomes will be assessed using quantitative and qualitative methods. Additional indicators of success include participants' increased knowledge of SUD prevention, reduced stigma around seeking SUD prevention services, and evidence of community-level P.S.E. changes related to substance use issues or their root causes.

3.5. STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Proposals are **required** to include youth civic engagement and at least one other strategy, including mentorship and/or a peer-led support and leadership program. Applicants should review the EYC Logic Model, which details the inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and long-term impacts of the program to ensure their proposed activities align with the program's focus on youth-led P.S.E. change for SUD prevention. The logic model can be found [here](#). The chart below offers definitions and examples of strategies for implementing EYC.

EYC Strategies for Implementation		
EYC Required Component	Option 1	Option 2
Youth civic engagement for policy, systems, and environmental change	Mentorship/relationship building	Peer-led support and leadership program
Definition	Definition	Definition
Policy, systems, and environmental change is a way of modifying larger structures to make healthy choices practical and available to all community members. For EYC, this includes youth civic engagement related to substance use issues or their drivers/root causes (i.e., trauma, systemic oppression, and marginalization). Youth voices must play a central role in determining policy focus.	Projects that address social isolation and disconnection from community by establishing at least one stable, caring relationship with an adult/older youth mentor.	Projects that include cultural peer(s) or peers with similar cultural and lived experiences to foster an environment of inclusiveness and belonging or project activities led by youth aged 12 to 26.

Example	Example	Example
Latinx 14-16-year-olds organize a campaign educating local decisionmakers to address cannabis access and/or advertisement/ marketing in a city.	Adult credible messengers provide one-on-one developmental support to youth actively on probation.	Student-led leadership development programming for 2S/LGBTQIA+ high school-age students of color that creates a safe space and supports the mental well-being of 2S/LGBTQIA+ youth.

All proposed projects should include substance use prevention, education, services, supports, and social justice youth programming activities. This includes outreach, education, and training activities aimed at preventing substance use. Additionally, proposed projects should have the ability to navigate youth to a higher level of substance use prevention care or behavioral health care if needed.

Throughout the project period, awarded organizations that are new to P.S.E. change will have access to training and technical assistance.

3.6. EXAMPLES OF ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES

All selected activities must be related to youth of color and 2S/LGBTQIA+ youth ages 12 to 26 living in communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs. Proposals are required to address youth SUD prevention by implementing youth civic engagement and at least one other strategy, including mentorship/relationship building and/or peer-led support/leadership program. Examples include:

- Culturally rooted, healing-centered youth civic engagement that addresses policies and systems that allow for an oversaturation of cannabis businesses in low-income communities.
- Providing youth mentoring and coaching, as well as skill-, knowledge-, and leadership-building programs.
- Art-based, youth-driven projects that strengthen the public's will to support non-punitive, public health approaches to youth substance use intervention.
- Culturally rooted, healing-centered mentoring programs that utilize circle keeping practices for youth of color and other marginalized youth to develop a communications campaign to build community awareness around youth substance use and misuse prevention and intervention.
- Policy-focused campaign development activities that reduce targeted marketing of substances toward youth of color or other marginalized youth in communities impacted by the war on drugs.
- Youth-led participatory action research projects focused on developing and implementing stigma-reduction strategies for peers.
- Credible messenger street outreach programs led by formerly incarcerated or other system-impacted young adults to re-engage system-impacted youth of color in positive, healing-centered mentoring programs.
- Peer-based mentoring groups for youth and young adults currently experiencing homelessness, led by young adults who have experienced homelessness themselves.
- Development of a cross-sector coalition that analyzes a community's policies and practices that continue to criminalize youth of color.

- Participation in the regulatory process and advocate for protective practices in accessing, distributing, marketing, and use of substances in communities (e.g., buffer zones, retail restrictions, health claims).
- Encouraging the incorporation of equity principles in the licensing and distribution of taxation benefits for communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs.
- Establishment of a youth-led, cross-cultural coalition to address the disproportionate rates of school suspension and expulsion, reducing disparities in all suspensions/expulsion using interventions like culturally rooted, healing-centered and restorative practices as an alternative.
- Policy-focused campaigns led by transgender college students of color to increase a college district's investment in support services for 2S/LGBTQIA+ students.

Other innovative efforts to expand youth SUD prevention and education in California's racial, ethnic, and cultural communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs. While focused on youth, this funding is also a chance to reimagine opportunities and ways of healing for both youth and the community.

3.7. UNALLOWED ACTIVITIES

The following activities will not be funded under this funding opportunity:

- Debt retirement
- Operational deficits
- Partisan activities
- Lobbying or lobbying activities
- Religious organizations for explicit religious activities
- Activities that exclusively benefit the members of sectarian or religious organizations
- Clinical services such as counseling, therapy, case management, and substance use treatment.
- Purchase of vehicles
- Purchase, construction, or permanent improvement (other than minor remodeling) of any building, other facility, or land
- Major equipment without prior written approval from DHCS and The Center. Major equipment has an expected useful life greater than one year and a per-unit cost greater than \$5,000. Software and videos are examples of intangible items that meet this definition.
- International travel and international expenses.
- Out-of-state travel without prior written approval from DHCS.
- Travel undertaken for the purpose of visiting an amusement park or the purchase of amusement-park entry tickets.
- Subcontracting with a for-profit organization for core EYC program activities.
- Stockpiling. Goods or services purchased under the award must be used during the award period.
- The purchase of alcoholic beverages.
- Services that can otherwise be billed to Medi-Cal.
- Contributions and donations (i.e., transfers of value without receipt of programmatic goods or services)
- Interest expense (e.g., borrowing or financing costs)
- Bad debts (i.e., uncollectible receivables or financial losses)

- Directly or indirectly purchase, prescribe, or provide cannabis or treatment using cannabis
- Harm reduction activities:
 - Create or provide information on safer drug use
 - Create or sustain drug consumption rooms
 - Create or sustain needle and syringe programs
 - Overdose prevention and reversal (including Narcan or Naloxone distribution)
 - Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT)
 - Housing
 - Drug checking
 - Legal/paralegal services

4. PROJECT FUNDING INFORMATION

Applicants are required to adhere to the budget guidelines included in the Budget Template. Applicants must submit their proposed budgets in the template format. Applications that do not conform to this template will not be considered. All items budgeted must be inclusive of all costs, including taxes and fees, in United States dollars.

Applicants are required to submit a detailed cost budget and budget justification to establish the cost reasonableness.

4.1. TOTAL AWARD AMOUNTS

Up to \$1,000,000.00* for three years can be requested by 501(c)(3) community-based organizations, Tribal organizations (including 638s and urban clinics), collaboratives/coalitions, and county behavioral health organizations.

**Up to 20% of direct costs may be requested as indirect costs.*

Applicants may use the table below to find the maximum grant amount that can be requested based on the applicant's fiscal year 2025-26 budget. Organizations with fiscal year 2025-26 operating budgets at or below \$50,000.00 must apply under a fiscal sponsor. If applying under a fiscal sponsor, use the fiscally sponsored organization's operating budget to determine the maximum grant amount. Applicants may request less than the maximum amount shown.

Current Fiscal Year Operating Budget	Maximum total amount requested from EYC Standard Track Cohort 8
\$0.00-\$200,000.00*	\$300,000.00
\$200,000.01 - \$300,000.00	\$450,000.00
\$300,000.01 - \$400,000.00	\$600,000.00
\$400,000.01 - \$500,000.00	\$750,000.00
\$500,000.01 - \$600,000.00	\$900,000.00
\$600,000.01 and above	\$1,000,000.00

*Please note that if your organization's current fiscal year operating budget is at or below \$50,000.00, you are required to apply under a fiscal sponsor.

Responsive payment schedule:

Understanding that a significant infusion of resources upfront may be a challenge for project implementation, The Center will balance the need for upfront capitalization with responsible stewardship of public funds. The Center will utilize a structured, phased payment approach combining an initial advance with subsequent semi-annual disbursements and a modest recoupment/holdback mechanism.

Payments to awarded partners will be made as follows:

1. Initial Advance (20%)

Twenty percent (20%) of the total award amount will be issued upon full execution of the subrecipient agreement, completion of all required onboarding materials, and verification of insurance and eligibility requirements.

2. Semi-Annual Payments (Up to 5 Disbursements)

Following the initial advance, the remaining award will be reimbursed in semi-annual installments over the three-year grant period (up to five payments), with 2% of the award amount recouped with each payment:

- a. Submission and approval of required progress reports and financial reports, and
- b. Demonstrated satisfactory progress toward agreed-upon deliverables.

3. Final Payment and Closeout

Final disbursement (inclusive of any remaining balance and potential holdback release) is conditioned upon:

- a. Approval of all final programmatic deliverables,
- b. Submission and acceptance of cumulative financial reporting, and
- c. Resolution of any outstanding compliance or audit matters.

Under this payment schedule, awards will generally result in up to seven payments over the grant term, including the initial advance, five-semi-annual disbursements, and the final payment.

Additional Provisions

- DHCS and The Center reserve the right to withhold, delay, or adjust payments based on performance concerns, noncompliance, or failure to meet reporting requirements.
- Payment amounts and timing may be further refined in individual subrecipient agreements to reflect project-specific considerations while adhering to the overall structure described above. Understanding that a significant infusion of resources upfront can be a challenge for program implementation, DHCS and The Center may offer flexible and phased payments. Payments will be issued to awarded partners based on the achievement of a set of agreed-upon deliverables as defined in the grant.

4.2. PRE-AWARD RISK ASSESSMENT (PARA)

Pre-award Risk Assessment (PARA): As part of The Center's application process, all applicants are required to complete a Pre-Award Risk Assessment. This assessment helps The Center evaluate an applicant's administrative, financial, and operational capacity to successfully carry out the proposed work. Responses to the assessment will not affect eligibility or funding recommendations. The PARA helps inform The Center's ongoing support, technical assistance, and monitoring activities throughout the funding period. Please use this [link](#) to complete the Pre-Award Risk Assessment.

4.3. GEOGRAPHIC AND POPULATION CONSIDERATIONS

Funding will be distributed to ensure equitable coverage across underserved urban and rural areas throughout California. Geographic location and population characteristics are key considerations in determining award distribution.

Up to 85% of this funding will be set aside to support urban programs and organizations, and up to 15% will be set aside to support rural programs and organizations.

Urban: For purposes of this grant program, urban is defined according to the United States Census Bureau as an identified territory with at least 2,000 housing units or a population of at least 5,000.⁷

Rural: For purposes of this grant program, rural is defined as a Medical Service Study Area (MSSA) that has a population density of 250 persons or less per square mile and has no incorporated area greater than 50,000 people. To determine if the geographic area to be served by your proposed project is rural, please connect to the [California Resources and Human Services Agency website](#) to find your county and specific area.

Underserved: Underserved areas may refer to communities with Healthy Places Index scores <50, designated Medically Underserved Areas, or more locally specific metrics.

The [Round 3 Elevate Youth California \(EYC\) Evaluation](#)⁸ identified gaps in service delivery for transitional age youth (ages 16–26) and young men and boys of color. DHCS may prioritize applicants that demonstrate a documented history of effectively serving these populations or provide clear evidence of organizational capacity to provide EYC services to these populations. This prioritization aligns with the [Governor’s Men and Boys: Path and Purpose Executive Order](#),⁹ which calls for coordinated statewide efforts to address the growing crisis of suicide, mental health challenges, and social disconnection among California’s young men and boys. Priority consideration includes applicants that implement culturally responsive and developmentally appropriate strategies designed to engage transitional age youth and/or boys and young men of color ages 12–26.

Geographic criteria, including urban and rural designations, and population-based considerations, such as underserved communities and identified priority youth populations, will inform funding decisions to ensure equitable statewide distribution of resources.

4.4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

EYC funded partners will be required to submit regular progress reports that address the performance measures outlined in their grant agreement and work plan, as well as financial reports describing actual expenditures of grant funds. Performance measures include but are not limited to the number and types of outreach and education activities conducted, number and demographics of the people reached, evidence of effectiveness; increase in information available to community youth; and progress towards

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Urban and Rural. [Census.gov](#). Retrieved July 17, 2025.

⁸ Education Northwest. (2026). Elevate Youth California: Round 3 evaluation. California Department of Health Care Services, Sacramento, California.

⁹ Office of Governor Gavin Newsom. (2025, December 19). *Governor Newsom announces \$47 million in grants to help prevent substance use among California youth, including supports for struggling young men and boys.* <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/12/19/governor-newsom-announces-47-million-in-grants-to-help-prevent-substance-use-among-california-youth-including-supports-for-struggling-young-men-and-boys/>

participant outcomes, organization-level outcomes, and P.S.E. change outcomes. Technical assistance will be available to assist with successful report submission.

Mandatory EYC program evaluation metrics may be revised as needed to address current situations and high-priority challenges. Required deliverables will follow the timeline below. Deliverables are subject to change.

Report	Period	Due Date to The Center
Interim Progress Report 1	1/1/2027 – 3/31/2027	4/16/2027
Progress Report 1	1/1/2027 - 6/30/2027	7/30/2027
Financial Report 1 and Detailed Expenditure Listing	1/1/2027 - 6/30/2027	7/30/2027
Interim Progress Report 2	7/1/2027 – 9/30/2027	10/15/2027
Progress Report 2	7/1/2027 - 12/31/2027	1/28/2028
Financial Report 2 and Detailed Expenditure Listing	7/1/2027 - 12/31/2027	1/28/2028
Interim Progress Report 3	1/1/2028 – 3/31/2028	4/14/2028
Progress Report 3	1/1/2028 - 6/30/2028	7/28/2028
Financial Report 3 and Detailed Expenditure Listing	1/1/2028 - 6/30/2028	7/28/2028
Interim Progress Report 4	7/1/2028 – 9/30/2028	10/13/2028
Progress Report 4	7/1/2028 - 12/31/2028	1/31/2029
Financial Report 4 and Detailed Expenditure Listing Budget modifications may be required for organizations who are not on track to spend down their entire award. The Center and DHCS have the right to reduce awards at this time due to low spending.	7/1/2028 - 12/31/2028	1/31/2029
Interim Progress Report 5	1/1/2029 – 3/31/2029	4/20/2029
Progress Report 5	1/1/2029 - 6/30/2029	7/27/2029
Financial Report 5 and Detailed Expenditure Listing	1/1/2029 - 6/30/2029	7/27/2029
Interim Progress Report 6	7/1/2029 – 9/30/2029	10/19/2029
Progress Report 6 and Cumulative Final Report	7/1/2029 - 12/31/2029	1/25/2030
Financial Report 6 and Detailed Expenditure Listing	7/1/2029 - 12/31/2029	1/25/2030

4.5. EXTERNAL EVALUATION

In addition to the required reporting outlined above, funded partners will be requested to cooperate in an external evaluation of the EYC, which is focused on the statewide program as a whole and is not an evaluation of individual funded projects. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine the extent to which EYC met its intended outcomes and inform planning, implementation, and sustainability of the program.

Evaluation activities are anticipated to include, but not limited to, funded partners administering a youth survey and participating in a virtual youth focus group. Some partners may be asked to participate in a virtual staff focus group or interview to speak in depth about program outcomes. Funded partners are also expected to support planning logistics for the youth survey administrative logistics and the virtual youth focus groups (e.g., scheduling, selecting youth participants) in coordination with DHCS, The Center staff, and an external evaluator. DHCS, The Center, and the external evaluator will provide guidance and technical assistance for all external evaluation activities.

Funded partners must allocate appropriate funds for program stipends to encourage youth engagement in the youth survey and focus groups.

4.6. YOUTH LISTENING SESSIONS

EYC funded partners are required to host a minimum of one youth listening session with their constituency each year of project implementation to hear directly from impacted youth on project outcomes and implementation.

Youth listening sessions are designated times for youth to provide feedback on project strategies and implementation. This unique activity, centered around youth voices, differs from regular programming. For some, a youth listening session may be called a healing circle or focus group. These sessions should include a series of questions that seek feedback and input from youth on specific aspects of the project, including, but not limited to, project planning, project activities, policies to change, prevention campaigns, project materials or youth engagement.

Applicants must include a minimum of one youth listening session each year in their proposed activities and budget.

4.7. IN-PERSON CONVENINGS

EYC funded partners are required to participate in two regional in-person convenings. These convenings are designed to provide valuable training and technical assistance, foster peer-to-peer learning, and create opportunities for collaboration with other funded partners. Attendance at convenings is essential for sharing evidence-based and promising practices for SUD prevention and outreach.

Applicants must include travel expenses for the two regional convenings in their proposed budgets. If DHCS determines that in-person convenings will not take place per public health guidance or other reasons, EYC funded partners can work with The Center to modify their budgets and reallocate associated costs to other line items.

4.8. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

There will be insurance requirements under these grants, the costs of which can be built into the project budget. Once organizations have been awarded, communication will be sent to awarded organizations to upload the insurance documents and demonstrate compliance with all insurance requirements. Payment will not be released until insurance compliance requirements are met. The Center recognizes that the terms and coverage conditions for insurance requirements are technical in nature. If you need additional support to answer these questions, you can contact elevateyouthca@shfcenter.org. Refer to **Appendix A** for more information.

5. SELECTION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

DHCS will award approximately \$44 million for EYC Round 8 Standard Track. Eligible EYC grant applications undergo a competitive review process. Applicants who submit the most complete and responsive applications, demonstrating a strong combination of relevant credentials and experience, organizational capacity, cost-effectiveness, and potential for positive outcomes, will be selected. Successful applications should clearly articulate how the applicant will deliver comprehensive, culturally responsive, and linguistically appropriate youth SUD prevention services.

DHCS will fund the highest-ranked applications. If there are no applications proposing to serve diverse geographies and the focus populations across the state among the highest-ranked applications, DHCS may fund applications with a lower ranking to reach diverse geographies and focus populations. In addition to the application score, additional factors (such as the specific population served and geographic diversity) may also be considered to select the most favorable mix of funded partners across the state.

If the applicant is currently receiving funds or has been funded by DHCS and/or The Center, the organization must be in good standing to be considered for an award.

DHCS holds the final decision-making authority in selecting funded projects.

The following criteria will be used in the application review:

Organization/Fiscally Sponsored Program Description. 5 points

- The applicant clearly describes the organization's vision/mission, goals, primary services or programs, population(s) served, and geographic area.
- The description clearly describes how the organization's vision/mission, goals, and core activities align with the goals of EYC.

Population Description. 5 points

- The proposed population aligns with EYC's priority population: youth of color and 2S/LGBTQIA+ youth ages 12 to 26 living in communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs.
- The applicant demonstrates a strong track record working with youth ages 12 to 26.

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services. 5 points

- The applicant clearly describes its experience providing services that are rooted in the culture(s) and language(s) of the proposed population. The applicant demonstrates an understanding of the proposed population's needs.

- The applicant demonstrates experience/familiarity with culturally rooted healing practices and utilizing a stigma-reducing approach.
- The applicant clearly describes how culturally and linguistically relevant services will be provided to the proposed population, including specific examples and methods, if awarded.

Qualifications of Project Team. 5 points

- The applicant identifies the key staff and subcontractors, if applicable, that will be involved in the project.
- The applicant clearly describes their roles, qualifications, and strong experience providing services to the proposed population, including familiarity with relevant culture(s) and language(s).

Social Justice Youth Development Track Record. 15 points

- The applicant demonstrates strong experience and/or capacity to engage youth in civic participation, advocacy, and community-driven action.
- The applicant demonstrates strong experience and/or capacity to implement peer-led support, leadership development, and/or mentorship/relationship-building programs.
- The applicant demonstrates strong experience and/or capacity for youth-led programming that centers youth voice and decision-making.

Substance Use Disorder Prevention Track Record. 15 points

- The applicant clearly describes its experience implementing programs to prevent youth substance use, reduce risk factors, and increase protective factors.

Project Activities (inclusive of work plan). 30 points

- Proposed activities address substance use prevention and its root causes.
- The applicant clearly describes how youth will be engaged in identifying a policy goal.
- The applicant clearly describes how youth will be trained in civic engagement for policy, systems, and environmental change.

Project Monitoring and Reporting Process. 10 points

- In the work plan, the applicant clearly describes the methods for tracking progress towards the identified project objectives.

Budget and Budget Justification. 10 points

- The applicant allocated funds for staffing at appropriate levels.
- The applicant allocated funds for program stipends for youth participation, including incentives to complete the external evaluation youth survey.
- The applicant is not requesting indirect costs that are more than 20% of the direct costs.
- The applicant allocated funds for at least one listening session per year.
- The applicant included travel costs for two one-day in-person regional convenings.
- If applicant plans to re-grant/subcontract the funds, they describe the use of funds and if the subrecipients are secured or pending.

Additional application requirements.

- The applicant has executive support for the proposed project, as evidenced by a signed letter of support from the senior administrator, affirming:
 - A willingness to commit staff time and resources to the proposed activities.

- The ability to submit biannually data and financial progress reports on a specific set of measures.
- Participation in activities of the external evaluation for the EYC program.
- Participation at in-person regional convenings.

6. POST-AWARD GRANT MANAGEMENT

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email. Awarded entities may be requested to adjust submitted budgets. Not all applicants will receive the total amount requested. EYC reserves the right to make final determinations about award size, including whether to award full or partial coverage of the applicant's proposed expenses. EYC may require an awarded partner to submit revisions to the budget and the work plan. The contents of the awarded partner's application will become contractual obligations, subject to negotiation.

Note: There is no appeal process. Modification of grant terms and conditions will be considered only under exceptional circumstances.

Upon approval of a budget that aligns with the awarded amount, a subcontract agreement will be provided. The Center will provide a list of combined insurance requirements from DHCS and The Center (see Appendix A). Initial and subsequent payments under this agreement are contingent upon the execution of the subcontract agreement; receipt and approval of all insurance compliance documentation; and verification of the applicant's good standing and compliance with all required due diligence requirements, as outlined in Section 3.2 Minimum Requirements. Successful applicants are expected to comply with all grant requirements. These include, but are not limited to, provisions regarding insurance and indemnification, HIPAA mandates, and fiscal requirements. In the final year of the award, if awardees are not on track to fully spend their full award amount, The Center and DHCS may reduce award amounts to ensure appropriate spending in the final year.

Nothing in this Request for Application (RFA) and its associated documents shall be construed as committing DHCS and The Center to issue an award. If funding for any fiscal year is reduced or deleted by the Budget Act for purposes of this program, DHCS must have the option to either cancel the grant agreement with no liability occurring to DHCS or offer an agreement amendment to the funded partner to reflect the reduced amount. EYC may seek clarifications or recommend adjustments to applications or budgets as a condition of the award.

7. APPLICATION TIMELINE

The timeline below is subject to change to best meet programmatic needs and funder requirements.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

September 21, 2026, at 1 p.m. (Pacific Time)

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS:

September-November 2026

APPROXIMATE AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT:

December 2026

APPROXIMATE DATE GRANTS ISSUED:

January 1, 2027

NOTE: All funding will be backdated to January 1, 2027, even if grant agreements are signed after January 1, 2027.

To be considered, organizations must submit applications online by **1:00 p.m. Pacific Time** on the deadline date of **September 21, 2026**.

Proposals received after the due date/time will not be reviewed. Submission before the deadline date is highly advised in case you experience technical difficulties with submitting your application through the portal. We may not be able to respond to your requests for help on the deadline date.

7.1. PROPOSERS' WEBINAR

We have scheduled two proposers' webinars to review the EYC funding opportunity and the application process and to answer questions. Participation in a webinar is strongly recommended. The content of each webinar will be repeated and the same. Please review the application materials prior to registering for a webinar. Additionally, we will host office hours to provide additional support on the application.

RFA Review Webinars

Wednesday, August 26 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

Wednesday, September 2, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

Office Hours

Tuesday, September 1, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

Thursday, September 10, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

Wednesday, September 16, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

Note: A confirmation e-mail with the link to join the webinar will be sent immediately after registration. If you do not receive it, please check your spam/junk folder.

7.2. IMPORTANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

To help us process your application, please follow these submission guidelines:

- We encourage you to submit your application before the deadline date in case you need help with any of the RFA components.

- Applications are due no later than 1 p.m. Pacific Time on September 21, 2026.
- Submit the application via our online portal through [this link](#). You will use the link that you will receive via e-mail to continue working on your saved application.
- When working on your application in the portal, use Microsoft Edge, formerly known as Internet Explorer, as the browser when working on a PC, and Safari as the browser when working on a Mac.
- Respond to all required fields (marked with an *).
- Upload all attachments listed under “Application Checklist” below.
- On the portal, you may click “Save & Finish Later.” You will receive an e-mail with a link to return to your in-progress application.
- Click “Save & Finish Later” at any time you will not be working in your application for a few minutes.
- You may submit your application only once. Be sure your application is complete and accurate, including required documents (see Application Attachment Checklist), before submitting it. Revised applications will not be accepted.
- If you are unable to submit your application online or need help, please contact us at elevateyouthca@shfcenter.org with the subject line: EYC Application Online Help - (Your Organization Name).

**Send questions and inquiries related to this funding opportunity
to elevateyouthca@shfcenter.org with the subject line:
EYC RFA Question - (Your Organization Name)**

7.3. APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Initiate the funding application [online](#). The link is posted on the [EYC website](#).

Required Application Attachments

- ☐ Proposed budget and budget justification completed with Form 1: Proposed Budget Template (template available on the website)
- ☐ Form 2: Work plan completed with the required template (template available on the website)
- ☐ Support letter signed by the applicant’s director/CEO. If the applicant has a fiscal sponsor, a signed support letter from both the fiscal sponsor and the fiscally sponsored project/implementing organization should be attached
- ☐ Applicant’s current fiscal year operating budget. Applicants applying under a fiscal sponsor must submit the current fiscal year operating budget for the fiscally sponsored project/implementing organization.
- ☐ Applicant organization’s W-9
- ☐ Most recent IRS determination or affirmation letter confirming current federal tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3)
- ☐ Your organization’s most recent IRS Form 990 (or 990-EZ / 990-N, as applicable)
- ☐ Your organization’s most recent audited financial statements, if available
- ☐ Your most recent unaudited financial statements (e.g., year-end or year-to-date)

- ☐ Applicants applying under fiscal sponsorship must provide an executed fiscal sponsorship agreement (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding or equivalent) between the fiscal sponsor and the sponsored project.
- ☐ Completion of the Pre-award Risk Assessment (PARA) survey. Please use this [link](#) to complete.

Incomplete, as well as, ineligible applications will not be reviewed. Applications received after the above deadline will not be considered.

If you are unable to submit your application online or need help, please contact us at elevateyouthca@shfcenter.org with the subject line: EYC Application Online Help - (Your Organization Name)

APPENDIX A – GLOSSARY

501(c)(3) Organization: A tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, commonly referred to as charitable organizations, operates exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, testing for public safety, literary, educational, or other specified purposes that meet certain other requirements and must not operate for the benefit of private interests or inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.¹⁰

Addiction: The chronic neurobiological disorder centered on a dysregulation of the natural reward system. [View this video on rethinking addiction.](#)

Case Management: A coordinated, individualized approach that links individuals with appropriate services to address their specific needs and help them achieve their stated goals. Case management is framed around screening to identify an individual’s medical, psychosocial, behavioral, and functional needs, and then working directly and/or through community resources to address those needs. If these services can otherwise be billed to Medi-Cal, they are ineligible for the EYC program.

Harm Reduction: Strategies that seek to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with substance misuse for those for whom abstinence is not an immediate and/or feasible goal. Harm reduction aims to reduce at-risk, moderate, and high-risk behaviors often associated with substance misuse.

Healing-centered: An engagement strategy that supports youth and communities by focusing on strengths, culture, relationships, leadership, and sense of belonging to support resilience, well-being, and collective healing.

Intersectionality: Intersectionality is a theoretical framework for understanding how multiple social identities such as race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and disability intersect at the micro level of individual experience to reflect interlocking systems of privilege and oppression (i.e., racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism) at the macro social-structural level.¹¹

Lobbying: *Direct* lobbying refers to attempts to influence a legislative body through communication with a member or employee of a legislative body, or with a government official who participates in formulating legislation. *Grass roots* lobbying refers to attempts to influence legislation by attempting to affect the opinion of the public with respect to the legislation and encouraging the audience to take action with respect to the legislation. In either case, the communications must refer to and reflect a view on the legislation.¹²

Mentoring: A formal, defined partnership between an adult mentor and mentee (individual or group) providing both with opportunities to share talents, skills, experiences, and expertise as part of an educational process that considers cultural, global, and systemic reform approaches to build individual capacity. Mentoring is a reciprocal approach whereas the mentor provides guidance, feedback, and/or

¹⁰ Internal Revenue Service. (2025) Exemption requirements – 501(c)(3) organizations. [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/direct-and-grass-roots-lobbying). Retrieved July 16, 2025.

¹¹ The Problem with the Phrase Women and Minorities: Intersectionality—an Important Theoretical Framework for Public Health. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3477987/>

¹² Internal Revenue Service. “Direct and Grass Roots Lobbying.” [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/direct-and-grass-roots-lobbying), <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/direct-and-grass-roots-lobbying>. Retrieved July 8, 2026.

advice to support mutually agreed upon goals promoting whole person health. Mentorship goals may contribute to the mentee's personal, academic, and/or professional progress, growth, and development. NOTE: Clinical interventions and infrequent educational interactions with participants are not considered mentoring.

Peer-led Support/Leadership Program: Projects that include cultural peer(s) or peers with similar cultural and lived experiences to foster an environment of inclusiveness and belonging or project activities led by youth aged 12 to 26. This does not include [Medi-Cal Peer Support Services](#).

Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change: Policy, systems, and environmental change is a way of modifying larger structures to make healthy choices practical and available to all community members. By changing policies, systems, and/or environments, communities can help tackle health issues by looking at them from a population level. Organizations, agencies, and stakeholders make policy decisions. Policy approaches include legislative advocacy, fiscal measures, taxation, and regulatory oversight. Systems change refers to a fundamental shift in the way problems are solved. Within an organization, systems change affects organizational purpose, function, and connections by addressing organizational culture, beliefs, relationships, policies, and goals. Environmental change strategies involve changing the economic, social, or physical surroundings or contexts that affect health outcomes. Environmental strategies address population health outcomes and are best used in combination with other strategies.¹³ Additional details and examples can be found in this [Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change fact sheet on the California Dialogue on Cancer website](#) and this resource for [Mobilizing Communities for Policy Change on the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America website](#).

Prevention: Activities that promote healthy behaviors, reduce risks, and build protective factors that either prevent new starts of substance use or mitigate consequences and contributing factors associated with substance misuse.

Rural: For purposes of this grant program, rural is defined as a Medical Service Study Area (MSSA) that has a population density of 250 persons or less per square mile and has no incorporated area greater than 50,000 people. To determine if the geographic area to be served by your proposed project is rural, please connect to the [California Resources and Human Services Agency website](#) to find your county and specific area.

SMARTIE: An acronym for specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, timebound, inclusive, and equitable. SMARTIE criteria promotes tangible and actionable steps that are rooted in equity and inclusion.

Social Justice Youth Development: Social justice youth development expands the concept of a positive youth development framework and addresses social factors including racism, xenophobia, and other racial inequities youth face as they develop into adulthood (Ginwright & Cammarota, 2002). Social justice youth development recognizes these systemic forces and supports youth and young adults in developing the skills and knowledge to transform the systems that influence their lives, neighborhoods, and broader community.

¹³ Rural Health Information Hub: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/toolkits/health-promotion/2/strategies/policy-systems-environmental>

Substance Use Disorder (SUD): Recurrent use of alcohol and/or substances causing significant problems, including health problems; disability; and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home.

Tribal 638 Organization: A federally recognized tribe or tribal organization that operates federally funded programs (e.g., health services) under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (PL 93-638).

Underserved: Underserved areas may refer to communities with Healthy Places Index scores <50, designated Medically Underserved Areas, or more locally specific metrics.

Urban: For purposes of this grant program, urban is defined according to the United States Census Bureau as an identified territory with at least 2,000 housing units or a population of at least 5,000.¹⁴

Urban Indian Clinic: A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in an urban area that provides health and related services to American Indian and Alaska Native populations under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

Youth civic engagement/leadership opportunities for policy, systems, and environmental (P.S.E.) change: Active youth civic engagement related to substance use issues or drivers/root causes such as trauma, systemic oppression, and marginalization). Youth should be provided with opportunities to develop their leadership skills to educate and inform decisionmakers and policymakers about issues related to the drivers/root causes to substance use disorder. It is required for organizations to have youth play a role in determining the focus of the P.S.E. change goal. Additionally, youth are expected to lead the P.S.E. change efforts and activities.

¹⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Urban and Rural. [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov). Retrieved July 17, 2025.

APPENDIX C – APPLICATION FOR REFERENCE ONLY

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION USING THE ONLINE PORTAL

If you are unable to submit your application online or need help, please contact us at elevateyouthca@shfcenter.org with the subject line: EYC Application Online Help - (Your Organization Name)

EYC Grant Application

Applicant Eligibility

This section is to be completed by the implementing organization; **please ensure that you have checked each of the agency websites to ensure good standing by the time of application.**

Note: Certain requirements may not apply to all entity types. Applicants must indicate status for each item below and provide an explanation if an item is not applicable.

Does your organization currently hold federal tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Pending
- ☐ Not Applicable

Is your organization currently registered and in good standing with the California Secretary of State (SOS)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Pending
- ☐ Not Applicable

Is your organization currently active and in good standing with the California Franchise Tax Board (FTB)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Pending
- ☐ Not Applicable

Does your organization currently hold California tax-exempt status with the California Franchise Tax Board (FTB)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Pending
- ☐ Not Applicable

Is your organization currently registered and in good standing with the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Registry of Charities and Fundraisers?

- ☐ Yes

- ☐ No
- ☐ Pending
- ☐ Not Applicable

Organization and Contact Info

This section must be completed by the qualifying organization, using its legal name as registered with the IRS, or if a Tribal organization, its federally recognized Tribal name. Qualifying organizations are defined as organizations that have their 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax-exempt status, are Tribal organizations (including federally recognized Tribal 638 organizations and nonprofit urban Indian clinics) or are county behavioral health organizations that are the sole providers of prevention services in their respective counties.

Organization name:

Street Address:

City

State/Province:

Zip/Postal Code:

County:

Phone:

Website/URL (required):

Instagram (optional):

Applicant Organization Tax ID (EIN):

California Secretary of State Entity #

Enter the applicant organization's California Secretary of State (SOS) Entity Number associated with the legal entity that will enter into the agreement.

What is the organization's annual budget amount?

Applicant is eligible to request a maximum funding amount of \$_____ (Auto-populated based on the current fiscal year operating budget).

Does the applicant organization have an annual financial audit? Circle One: Yes No

Legal Entity: Please select the closest legal entity from the options below. This should match what the organization wrote in question 3 on the W-9

Director/CEO Contact Information

The Director/CEO should be associated with the qualifying organization from the section directly above.

Director/CEO Contact First Name:

Director/CEO Contact Last Name:

Director/CEO Contact Title:

Director E-mail Address:

Director Office phone:

Director/CEO Contact Office Phone Extension:

Application Contact:

Application Contact E-mail Address:

Application Contact Phone:

Is the project sponsored by the applicant organization? Circle One: Yes No

A fiscal sponsor organization is a tax-exempt nonprofit 501(c)(3) entity that provides fiduciary oversight, financial management, and administrative support to an entity or group, and assumes legal and financial responsibility for funds received on the entity or group's behalf. Entities with annual operating budgets under \$50,000, whether tax-exempt or not, must apply under fiscal sponsor.

Fiscally Sponsored Entity Information, if applicable

Name of fiscally sponsored project:

Street Address:

City:

State/Province:

Zip/Postal Code:

County:

Phone:

Website/URL (required):

Instagram (optional):

What is the sponsored organization's annual budget amount?

Primary Project Contact Information

For applicants applying under fiscal sponsorship, please enter a contact affiliated with the fiscally sponsored organization.

First Name:

Last Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

Phone Extension:

Project Information

Project Name (20 words maximum):

Brief Purpose of Project

Briefly describe the proposed services and who will be served. The description must start with "To." (100 words or less)

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Start Date: January 1, 2027

End Date: December 31, 2029

Proposed Implementation Strategy (select at least two)

- ☐ Youth Civic Engagement for Policy, System or Environmental Change (required)
- ☐ Mentorship/Relationship Building
- ☐ Peer-led Support and Leadership Program

Project Geography

For the county or counties that the organization benefits, indicate your best estimate of the percentage of the project work that would take place there (best estimate). (Total must add up to 100.)

Alameda	Kings	Placer	Sierra
Alpine	Lake	Plumas	Siskiyou
Amador	Lassen	Riverside	Solano
Butte	Los Angeles	Sacramento	Sonoma
Calaveras	Madera	San Benito	Stanislaus
Colusa	Marin	San Bernardino	Sutter
Contra Costa	Mariposa	San Diego	Tehama
Del Norte	Mendocino	San Francisco	Tuolumne
El Dorado	Merced	San Joaquin	Trinity
Fresno	Modoc	San Luis Obispo	Tulare
Glenn	Mono	San Mateo	Ventura
Humboldt	Monterey	Santa Barbara	Yolo
Imperial	Napa	Santa Clara	Yuba
Inyo	Nevada	Santa Cruz	
Kern	Orange	Shasta	

Urban/Rural

Indicate whether the proposed project benefits people living in an urban or rural area, or both.

Region where services will be implemented (see definition in RFA):

- ☐ Urban
☐ Rural
☐ Both Urban and Rural

Race and Ethnicity

For the racial and ethnic populations that will be affected, provide your best estimate of the percentage of the total people of each population that will be directly engaged through your proposed project [able to choose multiple; Total must add up to 100]

- ☐ American Indian and Alaska Native [Provide specific population(s) ____]
☐ Asian-American [Provide specific population(s) ____]
☐ Black or African American [Provide specific population(s) ____]
☐ Hispanic or Latino [Provide specific population(s) ____]
☐ Middle Eastern or North African [Provide specific population(s) ____]
☐ Pacific Islander [Provide specific population(s) ____]
☐ White [Provide specific population(s) ____]
☐ Multi-racial/Multi-ethnic: [Provide specific population(s) ____]
☐ Another race ethnicity or origin not on the list: [Provide specific population(s) ____]

Age Group

All selected activities must be related to youth 12-26 years old. For the age groups that will be directly engaged through the proposed project, provide your best estimate of the percentage in each age group. (Total must add up to 100.)

Under 12 ____% 12-15 ____% 16-17 ____% 18-20 ____% 21-24 ____%
25-26 ____% 27+ ____%

Additional Area of Focus

Select only the application area(s) of focus for the youth that will be engaged through the proposed project. If additional area(s) of focus are chosen, please be sure to include in the Population Description.

- ☐ **Foster Youth**
- ☐ **2S/LGBTQIA+ Youth**
- ☐ **Youth with Disabilities**
- ☐ **Youth Experiencing homelessness/housing insecurity**
- ☐ **Immigrant Youth and Youth from mixed immigration status families**
- ☐ **Youth/Young Adult who are in county jail, state prison or juvenile detention, on state parole, on county probation, or under post release community supervision**
- ☐ **Youth with known risk factors for poor behavioral health outcomes, such as trauma or Adverse Childhood Experiences.**
- ☐ **Youth with involvement in the child welfare system.**
- ☐ **Youth with limited English proficiency**
- ☐ **Youth from low-wage families**
- ☐ **Uninsured and youth formerly enrolled in Medi-Cal**
- ☐ **Other: _____**

Racial/Ethnic Make-up of Board and Staff

For the racial and ethnic populations that make up the board and staff of the applying organization, provide your best estimate of the percentage of the total people of each population [able to choose multiple; Total must add up to 100]

- ☐ **American Indian and Alaska Native [Provide specific population(s) _____]**
- ☐ **Asian-American [Provide specific population(s) _____]**
- ☐ **Black or African American [Provide specific population(s) _____]**
- ☐ **Hispanic or Latino [Provide specific population(s) _____]**
- ☐ **Middle Eastern or North African [Provide specific population(s) _____]**
- ☐ **Pacific Islander [Provide specific population(s) _____]**
- ☐ **White [Provide specific population(s) _____]**
- ☐ **Multi-racial/Multi-ethnic: [Provide specific population(s) _____]**
- ☐ **Another race ethnicity or origin not on the list: [Provide specific population(s)_____]**

NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. **Organization Description.** Provide a brief overview of your organization (the entity that is carrying out the project) including: a) when it was established, b) its vision/mission c) its population(s) served, d) its primary services or programs, and e) geographic area the organization provides services currently. If applying as a coalition, information about the coalition should be provided. (200 words maximum)
2. **Population Description.** Describe the population that will be directly served by the proposed project. Include any relevant information available on their geographic setting or neighborhood as well as demographic characteristics (such as gender and race/ethnicity), socioeconomic status, etc. If the proposed population includes boys and young men of color or transitional age youth ages 18 to 26, please include details here. (200 words maximum)
3. **Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services.** Describe your organization's experience providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services to the proposed population. Include a) an explanation of the proposed population's needs, b) any experience or familiarity with culturally rooted healing practices and utilizing a stigma-reducing approach, and c) a description of how your

organization will ensure services to the proposed population are culturally and linguistically responsive. (200 word maximum)

4. **Qualifications of Project Team.** Identify the key staff and applicable subcontractors that will be involved in the proposed project and describe their roles and qualifications. If additional staff or subcontractors need to be hired, please also describe their roles and qualifications. Explain how these staff and subcontractors will carry out the proposed activities and support the requirements of this funding opportunity (including reporting requirements). (300 words maximum)
5. **Social Justice Youth Development Track Record:** Describe your organization's experience with utilizing social justice youth development and implementing the key strategies outlined in this opportunity (civic engagement for policy, systems, and environmental change; mentorship/relationship building; peer-led support and leadership program). Include clear, concise, and specific examples of ways youth have led P.S.E. change efforts. Describe if your organization has conducted youth-led activities and programs, and if not, describe how your organization plans to implement youth-led activities. (300 words maximum)
6. **Substance Use Disorder Prevention Track Record:** Describe your organization's experience implementing programs to prevent youth substance use, reduce risk factors, and increase protective factors. Provide clear, concise, and specific examples as applicable. You may refer to the RFA for the definition of prevention and logic model as it relates to the prevention work your organization has implemented. (300 words maximum)
7. **Project Activities:** Describe in detail the main activities of your proposed project, including how you will incorporate the EYC implementation strategies. Include your plan to engage youth in identifying the policy goal(s) for the civic engagement strategy and how youth will be trained in civic engagement to lead policy, systems, and environmental change. Provide clarity on the estimated number of youths that will be engaged and the length of cohort(s) engagement, if applicable. Be specific with the frequency of youth engagement activities. If needed, refer to the RFA for the definition of prevention and the EYC logic model. (300 words maximum)

ATTACHMENTS

- ☐ Proposed budget and budget justification completed with Form 1: Proposed Budget Template (template available in the online portal)
- ☐ Form 2: Work plan completed with the required template (template available in the online portal)
- ☐ Support letter signed by the applicant's administrator/executive. If the applicant has a fiscal sponsor, a signed support letter from both the fiscal sponsor and the fiscally sponsored project/implementing organization should be attached
- ☐ Applicant's current fiscal year operating budget. Applicants applying under a fiscal sponsor must submit the current fiscal year operating budget for the fiscally sponsored project/implementing organization.
- ☐ Applicant organization's W-9
- ☐ Most recent IRS determination or affirmation letter confirming current federal tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3)
- ☐ Your organization's most recent IRS Form 990 (or 990-EZ / 990-N, as applicable)
- ☐ Your organization's most recent audited financial statements, if available
- ☐ Your most recent unaudited financial statements (e.g., year end or year-to-date)

- ☐ Applicants applying under fiscal sponsorship must provide an executed fiscal sponsorship agreement (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding or equivalent) between the fiscal sponsor and the sponsored project.
- ☐ Completion of the Pre-award Risk Assessment (PARA) survey. Please use this [link](#) to complete.

APPENDIX D – INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

All evidence of required insurance coverage must be submitted to The Center prior to the release of payment. Awarded organizations will receive an e-mail from “The Center@Sierra Health Foundation” via TrustLayer requesting the same insurance documents as indicated below. A link will be provided for organizations to review and upload the required insurance documents. Please pay special attention to the “Additional Requirements” section for exact instructions and specific language that must be included. Submission of insurance documents within 60 days of receiving notification from TrustLayer is highly recommended.

Commercial General Liability

- Each Occurrence must be greater or equal to \$1,000,000
 - o Coverage Trigger: Occurrence must be present
 - o Insurance is written on an occurrence basis using ISO form CG 0001 or equivalent
- General Aggregate must be greater or equal to \$2,000,000
- Products/Completed Operations Aggregate must be greater or equal to \$2,000,000
- Personal and Advertising Injury must be present
- Primary and Non-Contributory Endorsement must be present
- Additional Insured Endorsement must be present
 - o With Completed Operations language
 - o Using a combination of ISO forms CG2010 10/04 and CG 2037 10/04 or equivalent

Commercial Automobile Liability

- Combined Single Limit (each accident) must be greater or equal to \$1,000,000
- Coverage Applies to: Owned Autos Only must be present
- Coverage Applies to: Hired Autos Only must be present
- Coverage Applies to: Non-Owned Autos Only must be present
- Additional Insured Endorsement must be present
 - o Using ISO form CA 2048 or equivalent

Worker’s Compensation and Employer’s Liability

- Statutory Limits must be present
- Employer’s Liability Each Accident must be greater or equal to \$1,000,000
- Employer’s Liability Disease – each employee must be greater or equal to \$1,000,000
- Employer’s Liability Disease – policy limit must be greater or equal to \$1,000,000
- Waiver of Subrogation Endorsement must be present

Professional E & O Liability

- Each Claim must be greater or equal to \$1,000,000
- Aggregate must be greater or equal to \$2,000,000

Cyber Liability

- Limit of not less than \$2,000,000 for each occurrence
- Annual aggregate limit of \$4,000,000

Improper Sexual Contact and Physical Abuse

- Limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per claim

Additional Requirements

- Certificate Holder must read: Sierra Health Foundation 1321 Garden Highway Sacramento, CA 95833
- A.M. Best rating of at least A-:VI
- Description of Operations must read: The Center, Sierra Health Foundation, The State of California, their respective officers, directors, agents, representatives, constituent entities, affiliates, volunteers, officials, parents, subsidiaries, and employees shall be added as Insureds ("additional Insureds") under each commercial general liability and automobile insurance policy. Agreement number 25-50196 must be present.

APPENDIX E – RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FROM THE FIELD

Below are examples of frameworks and elements that applicants should review to inform the development of their application and project model.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) offers information on public health strategies to improve behavioral health outcomes for individuals with SUD and at-risk of developing SUD. The SAMHSA resource, [Risk and Protective Factors for Substance Use that Present in Childhood](#), explains that effective prevention relies on reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors, and introduces the Strategic Prevention Framework. Applicants should consider the following in their application:

- How risk factors will be addressed across various contexts (e.g., relationships, community, and society).
- How early intervention and prevention strategies are tailored to the target population and their risk level.

For more information, visit SAMHSA at www.samhsa.gov and SAMHSA's Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center www.samhsa.gov/ebp-resource-center.

As presented in the [Prevention Institute's "California's Prop 64 Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment Fund" brief](#), common features of successful initiatives that contribute to impact, outcomes, and sustainability stem from community-rooted organizations with experience in youth leadership, organizing, and advocacy. These initiatives focus on racial and health equity, centering both individual and community healing, strengthening community environments, and the deliberate creation of space for local youth-led approaches.

In alignment with the [Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative's Roadmap for California Prop 64 Expenditures](#), applicants should consider the following in their application:

- Integrate relationship and engagement-centered assessment, interventions, and healing into organizational culture, programs, and services.
- Recruit and retain well-trained staff who reflect the diversity and lived experience of the children and youth, their families and caregivers, and communities served. Provide continuity of care between staff and those they serve whenever possible.
- Implement relationship and engagement-centered trauma screening and assessment practices that are anchored in relationships and trust; assess resilience and well-being in addition to trauma history, and ensure they are coordinated across agencies and providers to develop a specific care plan.
- Implement evidence-based, promising and/or community-driven practices that help individuals and communities engage, cope with adversity, heal trauma, and thrive.

Additionally, in alignment with the ["California Cannabis Tax Revenues: A Windfall for Law Enforcement or an Opportunity for Healing Communities?"](#) report, applicants should consider the following recommendations in their application and work plan:

- Research if your local city or county has a cannabis tax yet and, if so, how it is spending its cannabis tax revenue.
- Share the information collected under the previous point with fellow advocates and news media.

- Educate local officials on the racialized history of the war on drugs and share with them examples of how state agencies and communities are prioritizing cannabis revenues for the most impacted neighborhoods.
- Bring forward proposals to your local officials for how to tax cannabis businesses and invest these revenues in your communities based on your local needs.
- In the absence of action on the part of local officials, think about the ways to educate the public on the use of a local ballot measure to propose an alternative for capturing and spending these funds.¹⁵

¹⁵ Getting it Right From the Start, Model Ordinances: <https://gettingitrightfromthestart.org/our-model-ordinances>.