HCTAYC Youth Advocacy Board

Together, We Thrive 2025

Humboldt County Transition-Age Youth Collaboration [Humboldt DHHS]

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Application Form

Together, We Thrive

Grant Amount/Range:
Grant size is anticipated to be in the range of $5,000-$15,000.

Grant Description
The Together, We Thrive grant round was created in response to hearing the needs of our community partners who are supporting the most vulnerable youth and families in our region.

It is meant to link Foundation resources to opportunities where we can deepen the commitment to our strategic focus area of Thriving Youth and Families: Investing in the future by creating a safe, healthy place where generations of families can grow and have the chance to succeed — where everyone has the chance to experience support and success in their community and reach their greatest potential.

Priorities
Funding priorities may be adapted from year to year, depending on the needs we learn of in the community and available funding. This spring 2025, Together, We Thrive prioritizes capacity building, program/project, and general operating supports for organizations/groups that address:

- Youth at-risk: Example program areas may include mental health, housing, foster youth, upstream food security, and victims of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence.
- Childcare support
- Expecting mothers support

Priority will be given to organizations that demonstrate a strong connection to the communities served, and/or organizations acting as a hub: collaborating with partners to expand and deepen their reach.

Eligibility

- Organizations must address at least one of the above priority areas.
- Applicants must serve communities within the HAF + WRCF service area
- Applicants must be one of the following: nonprofit organizations with 501c(3) status, organizations with a qualified fiscal sponsor, or public benefit groups.

Not Eligible:
Food Distribution
Housing Development

Grant Review and Decision Details
Applications will be reviewed in Mid-Late May. Applicants will be notified of grant decisions by early-mid June.

Please note: If you have limited internet access or other technical barriers, our staff is available to assist you. Contact us at 707.442.2993 or grants@hafoundation.org. Please note that you are seeking *Together, We Thrive* application assistance so that we may connect you with an appropriate team member as quickly as possible.

Organization Type

Organization Type*

Please select the option that best describes your organization.
(Public benefit organizations include churches, educational organizations/schools, hospitals, government units, tribal governments, etc.)

If you are unsure of your organization type, check out the links below or contact us at grants@hafoundation.org.

- Types of Tax-Exempt Organizations (IRS)
- Exempt Org Types (IRS)

Other

Other Organization Type

Organization Description*

Please describe your organization.

The Humboldt County Transition Age Youth Collaboration is a youth leadership and advocacy development program dedicated to empowering young people 16-26 with lived experience in the Foster Care, Juvenile Justice, Homelessness, and Behavioral Health systems to transform those very same systems that shape their lives. We also include secondary focuses, issues that are disproportionately relevant to systems-impacted youth, such as substance dependency & healing, education, sexual health, parenting, racial justice, indigenous rights and culture, and lgbtq+ identity to name some. All of our work is grounded in the youth-adult partnership model, lived experience as expertise, and positive youth development philosophy.

HCTAYC has four elements: training & technical assistance; policy & advocacy; peer coaching; and youth leadership & wellness development. It is a program of Humboldt County DHHS and historically has been a public-private partnership but currently is without a private partner.

Charitable Project*

Please describe how your project is charitable.

HCTAYC provides free training, advocacy, and support to systems-impacted young people and youth-serving professionals in Humboldt County. This includes the foster care, juvenile justice, homelessness, and behavioral health systems, as well as intersecting programs/agencies/systems that disproportionately impact young people in these systems. In addition to our primary focus of systems-impacted youth, our secondary focuses includes common issues/barriers/experiences that young people in these systems experience, this includes: Substance Dependency & Healing / Harm Reduction, 2-S & LGBTQIA+, Education, Pregnant & Parenting Youth, Suicide Prevention, Indigenous Rights & Culture, Racial Equity & Multicultural Justice, and Sexual & Reproductive Health.

Contact Information

Primary Contact*

Are you (the applicant) the primary contact for the project/program in this request?

Yes

Application Questions

Program Name*

Please enter the name of your project or program.
If you are requesting more broad support, please enter 'program support' or 'general operating support.'

HCTAYC Youth Advocacy Board

Amount Requested*

Please enter the amount you are requesting with this application.

$15,000.00

Geographic Region*

What geographic areas will your project or program serve? Please select all that apply.

Humboldt County

Racial Demographics*

Please select the primary demographic that will benefit from your project/program.

Two or more

Demographics (Continued)

Please use this space to share any additional information about the demographics of the community served (i.e. vulnerable youth, houseless populations, seniors, etc.), and include anticipated number of people reached for each.

Those served by these funds will exclusively be systems-impacted young people with lived experience in the foster care, juvenile justice, behavioral health, and homelessness services systems who span the geographic region of what is now called Humboldt County. In terms of young people served directly by these funds, the HCTAYC Youth Advocacy Board [YAB] has 23 members, however as the YAB is the driving force of HCTAYC's programming, the number of individuals impacted by the work of the youth leaders funded by this grant would probably range between 150-500 individuals, depending on one's metric of impact. While we do not have discreet data around the composition of the youth advocacy board, we do have data regarding participation in HCTAYC's events/activities/trainings at which demographic surveys were distributed, and our YAB is likewise disproportionately queer youth and/or youth of color. The following data is from our 2023 annual report.

64% of the people who responded to the demographics survey selected White. 9% selected Asian. 9% selected American Indian /Alaska Native, representing local tribes including Yurok, Wiyot, Bear River, and some who selected “American Indian/Alaska Native” but did not list their tribal affiliation. Other tribal regions included Cherokee and Choctaw. 6% selected Black/African American. 1% selected Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. 1% wrote in Hispanic under other, less than 1% Caribbean, and 9% preferred not to answer. Of the 175 survey responses, 22% selected more than one race. While 73% of the survey respondents had an assigned birth sex of female, 39% identified as such. 14% percent of the survey respondents had an

assigned birth sex of male, 12% identified as such. 46% identified with a gender category other than female or male, with the genderqueer category (15%) being the most frequently selected. 19 participants identified with more than one gender identity category, and 8 preferred not to answer.

Application Sharing*

May we share this application with other potential funders?

Yes

Narrative

Request Description*

Please describe your request.

We are requesting funding to supplement the stipends that members of the Youth Advocacy Board receive.

As a result of Department of Health and Human Services' budget crisis and the passage of Prop 1, overall funding for HCTAYC has been dramatically cut, eliminating funding for core elements of our programming such as youth leadership development trainings, our annual wellness week programming, travel to engage in legislative and policy advocacy, the funds that allow us to pay for the logistics of youth-created trainings for youth-serving professionals, and the reassignment of one staff position and reduction in duties/time of another staff position. This funding cut also included direction from DHHS Administration to greatly reduce the cost of the YAB, meaning reducing the number of members dramatically.

The YAB is the core of HCTAYC and the mechanism through which we are able to enact change and transformation at individual, county, state, and national levels. It is a body of young people with lived-experience who are stipended volunteers. The YAB has graduated levels of participation through which they gain the skills and experience necessary to be effective change agents. The YAB holds committees and projects relevant to ongoing issues impacting youth in Humboldt, and ensures that our program is living into our intention and values. YAB Members also participate in a variety of county meetings, committees, and workgroups to provide the youth perspective on policies and practices that affect youth in Humboldt County, to improve and transform systems and services to best serve Transition Age Youth (TAY). YAB members commit to amplifying the voices and experiences of their peers, one way they do this is by leading youth-driven initiatives, projects, and committees to address current issues in the TAY Community.

YAB members develop skills to facilitate trainings, workshops and panels for social workers, probation officers, educators, counselors, parents, TAY youth, and other community partners. YAB members receive training on advocacy, policy, community outreach, group facilitation, professional development, leadership, public speaking, event planning, and personal wellness and growth. Some other benefits of being a YAB member include supportive services and an opportunity to work towards education and employment goals through our Leadership & Wellness Plan process.

The HCTAYC Youth Advocacy Board is structured by graduated levels of participation, with opportunities for participants to grow and develop their leadership and receive corresponding compensation. The intent of this structure is to create a sustainable ecosystem of Transition Age Youth leadership in Humboldt County. We utilize the metaphor of the mighty Coastal Redwood to describe the growth of Youth Leadership as HCTAYC believes that all system-involved youth are capable of becoming leaders for system transformation with appropriate resources and support.

YAB members receive compensation for the time and expertise they provide. This is necessary as they participate at the same tables/committees/projects that paid professionals do, with the same level of

dedication, insight, and often more preparation. To not compensate Transition Age Youth for their time would be to send a message that their time is inherently less valuable and their voice less important than paid professionals. When TAY are compensated for their work they are more engaged, have a greater sense of ownership, and are able to feel valued by the organization.

Each year the cost of YAB stipends is roughly $40k, thus far we have approximately $10k allocated to us from a youth homelessness grant that requires youth leaders to be involved, with no guarantee of other funding amounts from the county. The requested $15k would ensure that no dramatic reduction of the YAB would be necessary, and the work of our powerful young leaders would be able to continue in a way that aligns with intention and current structure of the YAB for this next fiscal year. It would also hopefully mean that if other funds are allocated to HCTAYC by DHHS that we will be able to use them to pay for programming that YAB members identify, such as supplies for workshops or trainings.

Regardless, these funds would allow us a grace period through which we could engage in comprehensive strategic planning with all current YAB members for what the future of HCTAYC and the YAB looks like in light of the dramatic fiscal changes that the new funding landscape leaves us with. It is our plan to finish out this fiscal year with all currently calendared programming, and in the new fiscal year shift to finishing out ongoing projects and engage a YAB-driven stakeholder process to revision our program, including a plan to gradually reduce the size of the YAB to align with sustainable funding available to us and staff capacity.

Project Timeline*

Please describe the proposed project timeline.

The funding cuts identified by DHHS administration will be taking place at the start of the next fiscal year, July 2025. YAB programming is currently ongoing and will continue to operate as we are able to. The YAB meets a minimum of 4 times a month, the first meeting is our "grove" meeting (all member meeting), and then the subsequent meetings are our "foster homeless united committee", "resilient empowered youth across behavioral health committee", and our "justice, equity, liberation, and intersectionality for youth committee". In addition, YAB members attend several policy tables that meet monthly, such as the Behavioral Health Board, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission, Sexual Health Task Force, Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council, and the Humboldt Housing & Homelessness Commission. This is currently roughly 11 meetings a month, with some months having less due to holidays or more if there are emergent opportunities or need for youth participation.

It is uncertain at this time if the YAB will decide to retain the current committee structure in light of the necessary revisioning and potential staffing limitations that are on the horizon. It is possible that during the beginning of this fiscal year there will be a substantial amount of youth engaged that then titrates to a sustainable level per our projected ongoing funding.

Regardless, the end of this timeline in regards to the grant will be a report submitted to HA+WRCF at the end of this grant's cycle.

Project Impact*

Please discuss your organization's goals for the impact of this project or program, and describe what success would look like to you.

The impact of this funding would be that there would have to be no change in the composition or functioning of the youth advocacy board for this upcoming fiscal year, and our program would be able to engage thoroughly and successfully in strategic planning and restructuring, have a gentle titration of YAB membership, and have space to complete ongoing projects such as the development of our "Removing the Blanket: Transforming Substance Dependency & Healing with young people" curriculum and launching our SMART Recovery Group.

Project Impact (Continued)*

Please discuss how your project will support one or more of the following:

- Youth at-risk (ex: mental health, housing, foster, food security, victims of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence)
- Childcare
- Expectant mothers

This funding will ensure that no YAB members will have to suddenly no longer receive a stipend or other elements of our programming will have to immediately cease. Despite being a volunteer position and being told that they should not rely on this money to live, YAB members tend to leverage their monthly stipends as a means of survival in the context of the often abject poverty they experience as a result of their status as systems-impacted young people.

Community Engagement*

Please discuss the following:

- What is your organization's connection with the community being served?
- Is your organization collaborating with other groups that may be doing similar work? If so, how?
- What community resources does this project/program utilize, if any? (local expertise, leadership, volunteers, etc.)

Our organization composes the community that is served, with two of our four line staff being former YAB members, and we collaborate with other youth-serving organizations although none exactly align with our focus of systems-impacted young people or approach the work from a youth-driven, youth-adult partnership model. This includes shared presentations with Two Feathers youth leaders, collaboration with Planned Parenthood's Teen Council and Teen Court youth leaders, and cross over with RAVEN Project Youth Educators on homelessness projects.

We usually are the community resource, providing expertise and support to systems and professional and leadership development to other youth-serving organizations staff and youth. Our YAB members also table at community events and collaborate with other organizations to put on events such as the upcoming Queering Mental Health summit in May.

Budget

Total Project Budget*

Please enter the total budget for this project.

$39,000.00

Percentage Requested*

What percentage of the total budget is being requested?
(Amount Requested = (?)% of Total Budget)

50%

Secured Funds*

If you have already secured a portion of your funding, please enter that amount here.

$10000

Budget Upload*

Please upload your budget for this project/program.
*If you do not already have a documented budget, you are welcome to utilize our **Budget Template**.*

HCTAYC Together We Thrive Budget - Sheet1.pdf

Additional Budget Information

Please use the space below to share any additional information, details, or context about your budget that you would like us to know.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- HCTAYC Together We Thrive Budget - Sheet1.pdf

HCTAYC Youth Advocacy Board Funding		
FY 2024-2025		
HC DHHS - MHSA Prevention & Early Intervention		*$39,644.52*
YAB Stipends	**Total**	*$39,644.52*

HCTAYC Youth Advocacy Board Funding		
FY 2025-2026		
DHCS - Housing & Homelessness Incentive Program		*$10,000*
HA+WRCF - Together, We Thrive		*$15,000*
HC DHHS - Behavioral Health Services Act		*???*
YAB Stipends	**Total**	*$25,000.00*