Humboldt County Transition Age Youth Collaboration (HCTAYC)

Together, We Thrive '25-26

Humboldt County Transition-Age Youth Collaboration [Humboldt DHHS]

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Application Form

Grant Round

Grant Amount / Range:
Grant size is is anticipated to be in the range of US $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.

Funding Priorities
Funding priorities may be adapted from year to year, depending on the needs we learn of in the community and available funding. Together, We Thrive 2026 prioritizes capacity building, program/project, and general operating supports for organizations/groups that address:

- Youth at-risk: Example programs 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 501(c)(3) status, organizations with a qualified fiscal sponsor, or public benefit groups.

Grant Review and Decision Details
Applications open **Monday, November 24, 2025** and close **Thursday, January 15, 2026.**
Applications will be reviewed in mid to late January. Applicants will be informed of grant decisions by late February.

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)

Public benefit organization

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.'

Humboldt County Transition Age Youth Collaboration (HCTAYC)

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)

Optional: Please use this space to share any additional information about the demographics of the community served. (i.e. vulnerable youth, houseless populations, seniors, etc.)

This grant will support systems-impacted young people with lived experience in the foster care, juvenile justice, behavioral health, and homelessness services systems in Humboldt County. Youth served by these funds are the HCTAYC Youth Advocacy Board (YAB) members. The number of individuals impacted by the work of the YAB range between 150-500 individuals. We do not have discreet data around the composition of the YAB, we do have data regarding participation in HCTAYC's activities. HCTAYC obtained 221 demographic survey forms from 7/1/24, to 6/30/25. Data may contain duplicate respondents. 55% reported experiences with homelessness. 76% responded they experienced a diagnosed mental health condition. 20% reported past involvement in the juvenile justice system. 54% reported an assigned birth sex of female, and 33% identified female as their gender identity. 26% responded an assigned birth of male, and 20% identified male as their gender identity.

Application Sharing*

May we share this application with other potential funders?

Yes

Narrative

Request Description*

Please describe your request.

HCTAYC is a youth leadership development, policy, and advocacy program within the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS). It is housed under Behavioral Health (BH) and is an integrated program with Child Welfare Services (CWS). HCTAYC is part of the Transition Age Youth Division (TAY) and co-located with TAY BH and CWS.

HCTAYC continues to be affected by budget challenges across the sate and within DHHS. Funding for HCTAYC was reduced last fiscal year, affecting much of the core programming we once accomplished including: youth leadership development trainings, 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. This funding cut also included a reduction in cost of the YAB, meaning reducing the number of members. Currently, we have gone from a staff of four, plus a supervisor, to a staff of one, plus a shared program manager. We will also be losing our long standing youth development consultant in July of 2026. With these loses, the YAB remains the priority and core of HCTAYC's work. Although we are short-staffed compared to prior years, prioritizing YAB stipends continues to be our goal.

YAB is 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 paid a stipend to volunteer on our board. 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, and 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. We currently receive 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 staffing and core programming needs.

HCTAYC is in the process of revisioning its core programing and focus priorities. The YAB held two visioning world cafe sessions in December of 2025; one with youth and one for community partners. We plan to adjust programming goals based on budget constraints and staff capacity. The funds from this grant would allow us to keep the YAB as priority and continue to message that youth voice is fundamental in systematic change.

Project Timeline*

Please describe the proposed project timeline.

YAB programming is currently ongoing and will continue to operate as we are able to. The YAB meets a 3-4 times a month, the first meeting is our "Grove" meeting (all member meeting), and then the subsequent meetings are our "foster homeless committee", "LGBTQIA+2S and multicultural committee," and our "behavioral health and substance use committee." In addition, YAB members attend policy tables that meet monthly, such as the Behavioral Health Board, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission, and the Humboldt Housing & Homelessness Commission.

In addition, there is regular ad hoc work for the YAB to participate in, including regular "leader labs" and office work. Leader Labs are designed for YAB members to have individual mentorship from staff to work on current projects and skills. YAB members complete leadership self assessments and create leadership and wellness goals. YAB members also have the option to participate in ongoing advocacy and leadership skills training opportunities. Recent examples include facilitations skills training and hosting HCTAYC's revisioning world cafe's, and preparing for a youth panel for current MSW students at Cal Poly Humboldt.

Project Impact*

Please discuss your organization's goals for the impact of this project or program.

The impact of this funding would mean that the functioning of the YAB for this upcoming fiscal year can remain our priority and paying the youth for their expertise is met. Our program would be able to engage

thoroughly and successfully in strategic planning and restructuring, and be able to maintain a 10-15 member YAB.

HCTAYC and YAB produce policy recommendations based on youth identified gaps in our systems. The last round of policy recommendations, called "A Safe Place to Go" is based identifying needs for LGBTQIA+2S system impacted youth. We are looking forward to creating new training material for service providers, based on mental health and best practiced working with young people. The curriculum would be youth created and presented. HCTAYC also plans to deepen community collaborations to expand capacity and resources for TAY youth.

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 YAB members will not have to suddenly stop receiving a stipend, or other elements of our programming will not have to immediately cease. YAB members are encouraged to not rely on YAB stipends as their sole source of income. However, many members do rely on these stipends to live off of. Stipends are based on the graduated levels of participation, with the ability to earn more with additional participation. YAB members leverage their monthly stipends as a means of survival in the context of the often 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 youth with lived experience on the YAB as our core. We also 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, as well as with Queer Humboldt. We work with Redwood Coast Action Agency (RCAA) on the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) grant. The essential part of this grant is having a youth board made up of youth with lived experience with homelessness that guide the policies and procedures of permeant supportive and rapid rehousing of transition age youth.

HCTAYC is often 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 Pop Up Museum and World Cafe.

HCTAYC's is the lead agency in a quarterly youth homeless meeting, Humboldt Houseless Youth Support Collaboration (HHYSC), in which we engage other youth serving organizations to share information, resources, and advocacy needs for and about youth experiencing homelessness.

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.

$10,000.00

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**.*

FY 26_27 HCTAYC Together We Thrive Budget - Sheet1.pdf

Federal Funding Cuts*

Have federal funding cuts impacted your organization's funding? If so, how?

HCTAYC's budget has been affected by multiple factors. The passing of Prop 1 and the Behavioral Health Services Act shifted funds away from prevention and early intervention work, historically the operating force of HCTAYC's programing. HCTAYC is an integrated program within DHHS, shared between Child Welfare and Behavioral Health. Both branches face budget challenges, with a priority to keep state mandated programs and services running. HCTAYC is not considered a mandated program and thus program and staffing funding have been reduced and positions frozen from ability io recruit and hire at this time.

The YAB has put a significant amount of time into applying for, obtaining and prioritizing for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant for Humboldt County. Funding for this has been affected by federal cuts.

Additional Budget Information

Optional: 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

- FY 26_27 HCTAYC Together We Thrive Budget - Sheet1.pdf

HCTAYC Youth Advocacy Board Funding			
FY 2024-2025			
HC DHHS - Behavioral Health Services Act			*$19,644.52*
DHCS - Housing & Homelessness Incentive Program			*$10,000*
HA+WRCF - Together, We Thrive			$10,000
YAB Stipends		**Total**	***$39,644.52***

HCTAYC Youth Advocacy Board Funding		
FY 2025-2026		
HC DHHS - Behavioral Health Services Act		*$14,644.52*
DHCS - Housing & Homelessness Incentive Program		*$10,000*
HA+WRCF - Together, We Thrive		*$15,000*
YAB Stipends	**Total**	***$39,644.52***