



Association of New York State Youth Bureaus YOUTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK PROPOSAL

The Association of New York State Youth Bureaus respectfully requests in the SFY 2021-22 budget, \$250,000 to continue to implement and oversee a NYS Youth Leadership Network. This network, which was funded by the Legislature in SFY 2019-20 will continue to provide needed supports and services to youth and youth development professionals statewide through evidence-based training and engagement. Research has found that effective and engaging training can empower youth to avoid at-risk behaviors and give them the foundation upon which they can make positive decisions, be their best advocate, and achieve lifelong success.

The Youth Leadership Network would be comprised of the following components:

1. Statewide Youth Leadership Forum

- This forum offers statewide youth, many high-risk and from marginalized populations, opportunities to develop skill sets and learning on issues such as citizenship, social and racial justice, mental health & substance use, etc.
- Youth will be connected to one another, especially as COVID-19 has kept them isolated, and empowered to further develop their leadership skills through civic engagement opportunities and remote learning.

2. Regional Youth Leadership Forums

- Youth Bureaus will expand the number of youth across the state that will engage in training and services on social and racial injustices, alcohol and substance use prevention, mental health, civic engagement, sexual and interpersonal violence, and issues pertaining to COVID-19.

3. Sharing of Best Practices & Capacity Building

- To oversee, facilitate, and collect data and outcomes of the Youth Leadership Network, it will be necessary for the Association of New York State Youth Bureaus (ANYSYB), as well as county, city, town & village youth bureaus, and youth-serving community based organizations, to maintain and build capacity to support New York's youth and families.
- A statewide learning exchange will offer hundreds of youth and youth serving professionals the ability to share practices and learn new, innovative ideas to assist youth to gain the confidence and skills they need to become strong leaders, avoid at-risk behaviors and obtain strong college and career readiness skills that will help them succeed.

The Youth Leadership Network will empower youth in communities across the state by creating opportunities for youth and youth serving professionals to participate, lead and succeed through essential training and services that will help build and sustain a healthy youth network. Investing in our youth means investing in the future of New York State.

Youth Bureaus across the state report that the youth they serve are experiencing growing challenges as communities continue to be plagued by poverty, homelessness, gangs and food insecurity.

More than 2 out of 5 Children, approximately 4.6 million, live in low-income families.¹

More than 3 million New Yorkers rely on nutrition assistance programs all year long.²

According to Mental Health America, 2021 report, youth mental health is worsening. **9.7% of youth in the U.S. have severe major depression**, compared to 9.2% in last year's dataset. This rate was highest among youth who identify as more than one race, at 12.4%.

Nearly 21% of New York's children and youth, ages birth-17 years, are living below poverty level.⁴

According to the CDC, by 12th grade, **about two-thirds of students** have tried alcohol.

About **half of 9th through 12th grade students** reported ever having used marijuana.

About **4 in 10 9th through 12th grade students** reported having tried cigarettes.

Among 12th graders, **close to 2 in 10 reported** using prescription medicine without a prescription.

CONTACT

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact:

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http://www.nccp.org/media/releases/release_12.html

<https://hungersolutionsny.org/hunger-nys/>

http://www.nccp.org/media/releases/release_12.html

Combating the Heroin and Opioid Crisis: Governor Cuomo's Heroin and Opioid Task Force Report, June 9, 2016.