



# YOLO YOUTH COMMISSION

*IMPACT, LESSONS LEARNED, AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES*

PRESENTED BY:

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# YOUTH COMMISSION

Pilot-Program (2022-2024)

[www.ycoe.org/youthcommission](http://www.ycoe.org/youthcommission)



## PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

1. Youth Commission Pilot-Program Overview
2. Evaluation and Key Findings
3. Partner Convening:
  - a. Program Review
  - b. Program Recommendation
4. Proposed Next Steps

***Youth Commission Mission Statement:***

*To enhance the quality of support, services, and programs for youth through working with local leaders to make funding decisions to make a positive impact on youth development and empowerment to all.*

# YOUTH COMMISSION PILOT PROGRAM

- Purpose & Objectives:
  - Create a Youth Commission of 15 youth members to facilitate youth civic engagement and leadership development
  - Administer grants to youth-led efforts and organizations (A total of 7 grants were awarded).
- On May 10, 2022, the Board of Supervisors initiated the Youth Commission two-year Pilot Program
  - Yolo County Office of Education was designated to administer program
- Pilot Program Funding:
  - County Cannabis Tax Revenue
  - YCOE Funds
  - MLK Freedom Center Grant
- The Youth Commission was composed of 15 youth members from across the County
  - Three (3) youth per Supervisorial District, ranging from 13 to 18 years of age
  - Total of 24 youth served in the Youth Commission
    - First Cohort: 15 commissioners
    - Second Cohort: 15 commissioners (6 continuing commissioners, plus 9 new commissioners)

# PHOTOS OF YOUTH COMMISSIONERS



**2023 Youth Commission swear in ceremony**



**2024 Youth Commission Recognition of Service**

# YOUTH COMMISSION EVALUATION



2023 Youth Commission Roadmap Workshop

- Evaluation Period:
  - Full term of the pilot program
- What was evaluated?
  - Evaluated existing documents
  - Survey of Youth Commisisoners
  - Interviews with participants in the pilot program at all levels (e.g., commissioners, funders, staff)
- Evaluation Goals:
  - Measure the impact of the two-year pilot program
  - Develop recommendation for future programming



## QUOTES FROM YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

*“It definitely made me feel more comfortable about going back to my own school because now I’m actually ASB president. I feel like, well, since I go to these meetings all the time, I see how these young people run and lead the whole commission. So it helps me. Like I could just go back and lead the ASB class.” - Youth Commissioner*

*“Speaking up more, I kind of found my voice. I just also got the opportunity to understand how an organization at that magnitude works. We’ve learned how to like, make friends talking, like in settings where you have to stay professional” - Youth Commissioner*

*“Everyone has a really completely different life. Everyone can see things differently. At first, like at the very first meeting, I kind of had like a culture shock almost. I’m like, wow, all these people are from different backgrounds you know, different cultures...everyone’s really unique and everyone will bring their own opinions and tell ‘em like, ‘Hey I think this and this and this.’ And it’s like, I never thought of it that way, you know?” - Youth Commissioner*

# KEY FINDINGS: IMPACT ON YOLO COUNTY YOUTH & COMMUNITY

## GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

APPLY NOW

**YOUTH  
EMPOWERED  
THROUGH  
ACTION (YEA!)  
GRANTS**



### 1. YEA! Grant Program Successes

- a. Youth-driven decision making to support youth programs
- b. Examples of impact:
  - i. Providing essentials to youth
  - ii. Expanding program access & quality

### 2. Government & Community Engagement

- a. Increased youth voice and perspective in county decisions
- b. Positive recognition from elected officials

## QUOTES FROM ROUND 1 YEA! GRANTEES

*“A grant like this allows me access so that I don’t have to wait. I can do these things when they need them. Like, I have a kid who needed a bed - he was sleeping on the floor - and I can go buy him a blow up mattress or you know, a small single size mattress where he’s not sleeping on the floor. That’s the kind of stuff I’m talking about - where a kid who walks to school, whose mom doesn’t have a car - I can go get him a bike, a lock, helmet. Boom. Solved.” - YEA! Grant Recipient*

*“I think it’s awesome that it’s youth [reviewing and selecting applications], right? Because sometimes we keep ‘em out of the narrative. And we assume that we know what the community needs, but they have lived experiences so that when [YCOE staff] says, ‘oh, one of the commissioners grew up in that area and knows that there’s a need for this.’ Yeah. Right. And this is what stood out to them.” - YEA! Grant Recipient*

# CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED



2023 Seeding Success for Self - Youth Conference

## 1. Organizational Capacity

- a. Staffing instability & turnover caused challenges for communication and engagement with Youth Commissioners
- b. Considerations for fiscal management and technical assistance required for YEA! Grant program.

## 2. Transportation Challenges

- a. Deciding on a rotating meeting location can alleviate transportation challenges

## 3. Calendar Alignment

- a. Running the program based on calendar year versus school year caused some interruptions in meeting cadence and civic engagement activities

# YOUTH COMMISSION PARTNER CONVENING

## FEBRUARY 2025

### **Purpose of the Convening:**

- Review the two-year pilot program evaluation report
- Co-develop a recommendation for the future of Youth Commission

### **Partners:**

- Mark Bryan, Yolo County Administrators Office (CAO)
- Dr. Tom Adams, Yolo County Youth Civics Initiative (YCYCI)
- Dr. Roy Wilson, MLK Freedom Center
- Ursa Kaiser, MLK Freedom Center

### **YCOE Leadership:**

- Superintendent Garth Lewis
- Stan Mojsich, Assistant Superintendent
- Edwin Ortega Beltran, Youth Development Specialist

# PARTNER RECOMMENDATION

## 1. Scope:

- a. Expand youth civic engagement and leadership opportunities
- b. Reduce grant oversight
- c. Keep membership of 15 Youth Commissioners (Three per Supervisorial District)
- d. Continue with meeting structure to ensure youth voice in decision-making process

## 2. Key Components:

### a. Mentorship & Training:

- i. Guidance from County Supervisors, YCOE Staff, elected officials, and community organizations

### b. Engagement in Policy Workflows:

- i. Aligning Youth Commission initiatives with Youth Commission Priorities, Yolo County Strategic Plan, and the Roadmap to the Future Needs Assessment

## 3. Measuring Success: Clear Metrics

- Number of youth leaders engaged
- Policy recommendations adopted
- Community project outcomes

# RECOMMENDED FUNDING NEEDS



**Future Estimated Funding Cost:  
\$200,000 annually  
(with no grants)**

## 1. As acknowledged by the original pilot program, we propose the Youth Commission continues to be directly supported by:

- a. Commission Project Specialist
- b. Administrative Support Staff
- c. Fiscal Support Staff (only if grants are administered)

## 2. Funding Need Summary:

- a. Estimated Funding Cost: \$200,000 annually (with no grants)
- b. Purpose of Funding:
  - i. 1.0 FTE for Commission Project Specialist
  - ii. .35 FTE for Administrative Support Staff
  - iii. Operating Budget for Youth Commissioners
- c. Expected Outcomes:
  - i. Increased program capacity and sustainability
  - ii. Expansion of direct support to Youth Commissioners for civic engagement opportunities and activities

## PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

### **Action Needed:**

Direct County staff to coordinate with YCOE Staff to develop a detailed proposal and contract outline.

**Proposed Deadline:** April 19th, 2025

### **Outcome:**

Establish clear metrics to ensure successful implementation.



Photo of 2024 Youth Commission Meeting



**Photo of Youth Commission Officers, from left to right: Olivia Interbitzin, Boyeon Choi, Jazmin Garcia, Isabelle Chan-De Silva, and Sa'Mya Dixon.**



**THANK YOU!**