PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Adolescent and School Health Unit

Oregon Public Health Division’s Statewide Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

**The start:**

Oregon Health Authority’s Public Health Division’s (OHA-PHD) Adolescent and School Health Unit (ASH) started the COVID-19 School Recovery Program with the support of federal COVID-19 recovery and workforce development funds for schools in 2021. The funding supported the formation of a Statewide Youth Advisory Council charged with supporting schools and communities with COVID-19 school-based recovery. The YAC investments included:

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* OHA-PHD Statewide Youth Advisory Council (YAC) grants
* Funding for YAC youth participant payments​
* Funding for staffing and professional facilitation/training​
* Funding for paid partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs)

**Composition:**

The YAC is made up of 20-30 diverse youth between the ages of 15-19 who reside in the State of Oregon (at time of application) who work on various health and wellness topics.

OHA is committed to seeking participation on this council from youth from communities most impacted by health inequities, including youth of color, youth from tribal communities, youth with disabilities, youth experiencing housing instability, youth from immigrant communities, and youth who are LGTBQ2SIA+.

**Mission Statement and Purpose:**

*As the OHA-PHD’s Youth Advisory Council, we recognize and prioritize the challenges youth face, especially when it comes to youth well-being. We also acknowledge and emphasize the importance of inclusivity within communities and strive to make youth-informed decisions that value human life. We do this for the future of Oregon youth, and to promote diversity, safety, stability, quality of life, and the rights of every human being. Our goal is to improve communities’ health across the entirety of Oregon by offering youth feedback on policy, distribution of funds, and more to reach the goals listed above.*

As the YAC, we have defined our **scope** to the following 4 areas that have impact on the youth of Oregon:

1. Education
2. Youth Health
3. Youth Services
4. Youth Engagement

The **responsibilities** of the YAC include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Public policy development and partnership, including partnering with, supporting, and providing information/education to community partners and advocates.
2. Grantmaking and funding
3. Partnership development - extend outreach and engagement with other youth and youth-serving CBOs.
4. Building more opportunities for youth engagement beyond the YAC.

For more information or questions about the YAC please email adolescent.program@odhsoha.oregon.gov.