

YAC Past Projects and Involvement

During the 2022-2023 school year, the first cohort of the YAC, consisting of 20 youth from across Oregon, informed OHA on how to spend \$1,000,000 in COVID-19 Recovery Funds for schools.

During the 2023-2024 school year, the second cohort of the YAC, consisting of 26 youth from across Oregon, built internal infrastructure, including creating the council's charter. Additional projects are detailed below:

- Disbursed additional COVID-19 Recovery Funds. Developed a partnership with the Governor's office.
- Partnered with public health programs to offer youth insight and advice
- Minor Consent and Confidentiality Rights Project to help inform youth of their rights in healthcare settings.

During the 2024-2025 school year, the YAC participated in.

- Received additional funding to initiate a School Based Health Center Subcommittee to provide youth input and feedback on program policies and processes.
- Completed minor consent and confidentiality project work by creating a youth-facing consent and confidentiality document.
- Piloted a YAC mentor program!
- Participated in Title V Needs Assessment and Prioritization meetings with OHA Maternal and Child Health Programs with the goal of selecting the youth health priorities for the next five years.
- Provided feedback on the OHA's State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan aimed at determining statewide priorities for health.

During the 2025 - 2026 school year, the YAC participated in:

- Working with the public health department to develop program and policy recommendations that impact youth all over Oregon. These policy recommendations were youth-led and driven.
- Participated in subcommittees to explore and address new projects and initiatives within the scope of the OHA YAC.
 - School Based Health Center committee (SBHC)
 - Youth Data Committee (YDC)
 - Community Outreach + Media subcommittee (COM)
 - Youth Vaping strategic planning project (not an official subcommittee)
- Merged OHA's Youth Data Council into the Youth Advisory Council! A subcommittee with a focus on data analysis, research skills, and surveys. This year, members had the opportunity to provide input to the [Student Health Survey](#).

- **School Nurse Orientation Project(SNO):** Where Youth gave input on their perspectives of nurses in their own communities and schools so there could be workshops and online modules provided for school nurses during orientation, to improve their aid to students.
- Collaborating with **Friends For Life:** To give feedback on their data and outreach so they can update Overdose materials for the state of Oregon, and invest in those materials needed most. Supporting partners and communities. Also providing feedback on the website and materials available through friends for life.
- State capitol visit in Salem for Legislative days.
- Informative session by the royal rose foundation to give feedback on materials, concepts, and goals.
- Informational session by OHA's government relations team for a policy discussion to provide feedback on policies to be implemented.
- YDC data walk in where we learned about the environmental effects that are currently affecting Youth mental health and gave our own feedback to the YDC in order to incorporate it into their data and bring awareness to potential viewpoints of the data for feedback on presentation and potential action plans.
- Retreat where the YAC got to meet OHA and REAP representatives to partake in fun activities and team bonding, while also participating in talking for future plans for the different subcommittees.
- The review of grant dispersion towards issues prevalent in the youth to gain the YAC's interpretations and ideas on how it should be dispersed.
- Exposed to multiple opportunities available such as, other youth councils, opportunities to attend in person councils for YAC members to give their own input, and getting connected with people in policy making and public health.
- Addressed issues regarding health equity through the cooperation with the OHA and multiple adjacent organizations.