



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Prevention and Community Health
Office of Healthy Communities
Post Office Box 47855
Olympia, Washington 98504-7855.

Dear Colleague:

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is now accepting applications for placement on the Youth Advisory Council housed in the Adolescent and Young Adult Health Unit.

The Youth Advisory Council is a body of young people who discuss their thoughts, opinions, and ideas about public health topics relevant to adolescents and young adults. In addition, the Council provides guidance and recommendations to DOH staff on adolescent and young adult public health programming. Starting in March 2023, members will meet online (over Zoom) every other month for about an hour and a half (90 minutes). Council members will serve for 22 months. They will also have opportunities to participate in topic-specific subcommittees and collaborate with program staff.

We are looking for about forty people aged 13-22 who live in Washington state and have internet, social media, and email access. Our recruitment will center the communities most affected by health care inequities. We especially encourage young people with these lived experiences to apply:

- Affected by visible or invisible disabilities
- Experiences with juvenile justice, child protective services, or foster care systems
- Experiences with behavioral and mental health conditions and treatment
- Experiences with chronic disease conditions and treatment
- Feeling left out or experiencing challenges at school
- From low-income and/or communities facing structural and access barriers
- Experiences with homelessness or unstable housing
- Struggles with access to or challenges with health care

Interested young people can submit [an online application](#) by **January 31, 2023**. See the attached flyer or visit: [Youth Engagement and the Youth Advisory Council | WaPortal.org](#).

Please contact Alexis Bates adolescent health consultant in the Office of Family and Community Health, at alexis.bates@doh.wa.gov or (360)-688-3064 for more information or questions.

We are asking our public health partners to help us get the word out. **Please share with relevant contacts, especially those connected with schools, teachers, youth organizations, and young people in the state.**

Thank you for your assistance with this important health measure,

Katie Eilers
Director of the Office of Family and Community Health Improvement
MCH Director of Title V
Washington State Department of Health

December 2022