

# NEWS RELEASE



## **DHCS AWARDS \$58.5 MILLION TO 61 COMMUNITY-BASED AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION**

*Funds Support Youth-led Social Justice, Mentoring, and Peer Support Programs in California Investments Align with California's Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health*

SACRAMENTO — The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) today awarded \$58.5 million to 61 community-based and Tribal organizations through the Elevate Youth California (EYC): Youth Substance Use Disorder Prevention Program. The awards were made as part of the fourth round of EYC. To date, 239 community-based and Tribal organizations have received funding aimed at preventing youth substance use. A list of organizations that have received awards is available on the EYC [website](#).

“Youth mental health and substance use challenges have increased as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency,” said DHCS Director Michelle Baass. “DHCS is dedicated to supporting community and Tribal organizations that are addressing substance use disorder by investing in youth leadership development and activism of youth of color and LGBTQ+ youth.”

In November 2016, Proposition 64 legalized adult non-medical use of cannabis in California. A portion of the Proposition 64 cannabis funds are earmarked for DHCS to fund EYC programs. The EYC implements youth-led social justice, mentoring, and peer support programs for youth ages 12 to 26 living in low-income, under resourced communities of color disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs.

“In spite of the pandemic’s negative impact on behavioral health, young people throughout the state continue to reengage in school and community,” said Marlies Perez, Chief of DHCS’ Community Services Division. “We commend the fourth EYC cohort of community and Tribal partners that have found innovative ways to meet the needs of and expand support services to youth.”

The Northern California Indian Development Council received \$1 million in EYC funding to implement youth social justice and mentoring programs. “The Northern California Indian Development Council and the Da’luk Youth Program are excited and honored to receive this funding to assist in our continued efforts and expansion to support our Tribal communities, focusing on health and wellness,” said Vincent Feliz, coordinator of the Da’luk Youth Program.

Grantees receiving EYC funding will:

- Prioritize harm reduction and public health solutions that focus on positive messaging to prevent substance use disorder.

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- Utilize an intersectional approach to health equity through policy, systems, and environmental change.
- Possess cultural humility and responsiveness with staff and organizational leadership who reflect the racial, ethnic, and cultural community they intend to serve.
- Implement culturally and linguistically appropriate social justice youth development, peer-to-peer support, and mentoring programs that are healing-centered and trauma informed.
- Support youth engagement that focuses on youth activism.

DHCS plans to release another EYC program Request for Application in early 2023 to continue building the statewide capacity of emerging grassroots community-based and Tribal organizations implementing substance use disorder prevention services throughout California.

The EYC: Youth Substance Use Disorder Prevention Program aligns with [California's Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health](#), a comprehensive approach to ensure all California kids, parents, and communities have increased access to mental health and substance use services.

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