



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

December 22, 2021

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 thoughts, opinions, and ideas about public health topics relevant to adolescents and young adults in the state. In addition, the Council gives advice and makes recommendations to Department of Health staff on adolescent and young adult public health programming. Starting in March 2022, members will meet online every other month by Zoom for about an hour and a half (90 minutes) and will be asked to participate for a period of one year. **Members will receive a \$50.00 Amazon e-gift card for each meeting or activity they participate in.**

We are looking for about twenty people aged 13-21 who live in Washington state and have access to the internet, social media, and email to apply. Our recruitment will center on the communities most affected by health care inequities. We especially encourage young people with these lived experiences to apply:

- Affected by disabilities
- Experiences with different systems, including juvenile justice, child protective services, or foster care
- Experiences with behavioral and mental health conditions and treatment
- Experiences with chronic disease conditions and treatment
- Feeling left out at school or experiencing challenges at school
- From marginalized and/or underserved communities
- Experiences with houselessness and/or unstable housing
- Struggles with access to or challenges with health care

Interested young people can submit an online application as soon as possible – we hope to begin meetings in March 2022. More information can be found on our WAPortal Page: <https://waportal.org/partners/home/adolescent-health/youth-advisors>, or please contact Alexis Bates Adolescent Health Consultant at alexis.bates@doh.wa.gov or by phone at (360)-688-3064.

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, MPH, MSN, RN

Title V Director

Director of Office of Family and Community Health