

Quality and Productivity Commission
34th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
"Leading with Excellence"

2021 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12-point font):

NAME OF PROJECT: DPH Youth Advisory Council

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION/ADOPTION: FEBRUARY 1, 2019

(Must have been fully implemented for a minimum of at least one year - on or before July 1, 2020)

CHECK HERE IF THIS PROJECT IS BEING SUBMITTED FOR THE **COVID-19 IMPACT AWARD ONLY**. (Projects must be implemented on or before December 31, 2020. **Note:** Projects implemented less than one year ago will not be eligible for any other PQA awards. In addition, once a project is submitted, you cannot submit the same project for awards consideration in subsequent years).

PROJECT STATUS: Ongoing One-time only

HAS YOUR DEPARTMENT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED THIS PROJECT? Yes No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Describe the project in 15 lines or less using Arial 12 point font. State clearly and concisely what difference the project has made.

1 The Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Public Health (DPH) Youth Advisory
 2 Council (YAC) is a service-learning approach to Positive Youth Development that
 3 benefits Public Health and the County by utilizing the learned experience of adolescents
 4 to inform our youth-oriented programming and interventions and improve reach and
 5 impact of our public health initiatives to improve adolescent health. This project has
 6 improved health communications and targeted messaging from the county to
 7 adolescent audiences across the county. Additionally, it has:
 8 1) Enhanced positive youth development among youth aged 16 to 22 in LAC by
 9 focusing on strength of youth rather than weaknesses.
 10 2) Improved health equity by engaging youth to serve their own communities – over
 11 3,000 hours collectively – and advocate for better health outcomes through
 12 improved access to quality information, and intervention.
 13 3) Forged an ongoing partnership between youth and adults at DPH to engage on
 14 collaborative decision-making aimed at improving adolescent health outcomes.
 15

BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY

(1) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST AVOIDANCE	(2) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST SAVINGS	(3) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE	(1) + (2) + (3) = TOTAL ANNUAL ACTUAL/ESTIMATED BENEFIT	SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
\$	\$	\$	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ANNUAL = 12 MONTHS ONLY

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH, 313 N. FIGUEROA ST., 8TH FLOOR, LA, CA 90012		TELEPHONE NUMBER 213-288-8117
PROGRAM MANAGER'S NAME Robert Gilchick, MD, MPH rgilchick@ph.lacounty.gov		TELEPHONE NUMBER 213-639-6400 EMAIL
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE (PLEASE CALL (213) 893-0322 YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NUMBER) Catherine Mak, MBA 		TELEPHONE NUMBER 213-288-7240 DATE 6/23/21
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE Dr. Barbara Ferrer, MPH, MED, PhD 		TELEPHONE NUMBER 213-288-7240 DATE 6/25/21

****ELECTRONIC, WET, OR SCANNED SIGNATURES ARE ACCEPTABLE****

Quality and Productivity Commission
34th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
“Leading with Excellence”

2021 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12-point font):

NAME OF PROJECT: DPH Youth Advisory Council

1st FACT SHEET – LIMITED UP TO 3 PAGES ONLY: Describe the **challenge(s), solution(s), and benefit(s)** of the project to the County. What quality and/or productivity-related outcome(s) has the project achieved? Provide measures of success and specify assessment time frame. Use Arial 12 point font.

CHALLENGE: Traditionally, many public health programs targeting adolescents focus on solving single issues like drug abuse or teen pregnancy. However, research shows that approaches to enhance the youth experience overall have a better impact on most adolescent health outcomes, depending on the target population and health issue at hand. This research underlies the framework of Positive Youth Development (PYD). PYD focuses on the enhancing strengths of youth participants instead of addressing weaknesses. **By engaging youth in this manner one can improve their competence, confidence, connection, character, and compassion (the 5 C’s of PYD). This in turn ends up improving their overall health and well-being.**

SOLUTION: Our PYD project began simply to improve youth programs within the DPH by bringing youth to the table in the form of a Youth Advisory Council (YAC) and giving them a voice in designing interventions to improve their and their peers’ well-being. What the program has evolved into is much greater – an enduring adult-youth partnership where youth and adults work alongside one another in a professional setting as equals. The youth gain valuable advice, wisdom, and practical work experience from the adults. The adults gain valuable youth perspectives on adolescent health concerns and priority areas, novel modes of communicating information, and more effective means of reaching adolescent LAC residents to address social issues. The Youth Advisory Council has addressed nearly every adolescent health topic and geographic location in the county. The youth advisors range in age from 16 to 22 and represent the demographic, geographic, cultural, socio-economic diversity of the LAC population and are recruited to represent every Service Planning Area and all five supervisorial districts. Since the program’s inception, the youth advisors have provided over 3,000 hours of service to DPH and the residents of LA County.

BENEFITS: The passion, dedication, vision, and tireless efforts of the more than twenty-five youth advisors have led to the creation of numerous long-lasting projects each of which is worthy of recognition on its own. Some highlights of their work include advocating to the Board of Supervisors for the ban of flavored tobacco, an ongoing documentary on persons experiencing homelessness, a photo-voice video testimonial showcasing health disparities across the county, wellness center lectures on food swamps and diabetes, community forums on racism and violence, awareness-building campaigns on vaping and substance abuse, online support groups on mental health for LGBTQ+ youth, panel participation on mental health coping strategies during COVID quarantine, social media posts on getting vaccinated, and workgroup collaboration to improve Black infant and maternal health.

Quality and Productivity Commission
34th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
“Leading with Excellence”

2021 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12-point font):

NAME OF PROJECT: DPH Youth Advisory Council

Use Arial 12-point font.

Collaboration

Aside from the youth advisors, the PYD project collaborates and partners with numerous youth-serving agencies, including nonprofits, faith-based organizations, school districts, and other county programs. The project is innovative and resourceful: youth volunteers provide valuable insight on youth programming in exchange for a stipend and practical work experience. Instead of becoming less effective or impactful during the pandemic, the Youth Advisory Council grew into a larger program with greater reach and scope. PYD utilized all types of web-based meeting software and collaborative tools to create projects that were aimed at improving health outcomes within several communities across LA County.

Youth Engagement

The active engagement of youth in developing solutions to the problems that they encounter is the very foundation of youth empowerment. Eventually, the intention is that the Youth Advisory Council will become completely youth-lead. Currently, a team of senior (second year) youth advisers serve as mentors to the incoming youth advisors. The youth advisors also have a hand in developing their own project plans. Their mission statement was developed by them and the leadership structure within the council was developed by them (it's a collaborative leadership structure). The youth advisors are committed and passionate about public health and serve as community ambassadors. They take prevention messages to their peers, families, neighborhoods, schools, social networks and beyond. This sustainable approach will have an ever-lasting impact and improve the health of Los Angeles county residents through prevention, education, awareness, advocacy, policy development, health communication, behavior change, empowerment, youth leadership, and lifelong commitment to public health.

Impact

Below are selected testimonials from some youth advisors that expresses some of the unique impact and benefits they have received in terms of their individual personal and professional development:

Quality and Productivity Commission
34th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
“Leading with Excellence”

2021 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12-point font):

NAME OF PROJECT: DPH Youth Advisory Council

Use Arial 12-point font

“I believe what has been the most helpful for me is the hands-on public health work that I have taken part of in my community. All the outreaches, meetings, conferences, projects, and speeches I have recited have truly exposed me to what public health is. My supervisors, youth advisors, and the ones in charge of the program have been a great foundation of support as well”.

“One project that I participated in that I will always remember is when I spoke in front of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. I spoke on an ordinance that I was in favor of. That day sparked a political interest in me. Then at a YAC meeting, I met [the DPH Board liaison], she has a JD and MPH. It turns out that she wrote the ordinance. Meeting her taught me that I can merge my interests together which are medicine, public health, and politics. I will always remember this task I did because it was the first time I was booed upon my advocacy work by people who were against the favor.”

“What I like best about the program is that it is a well-organized program that helps youth learn skills that they can apply in the future. This program also helps youth work hands-on in public health clinics to get a real-life experience of public health works. I like that it helps creates great networking connections and exposes youth to so much of public health. I truly love the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health Youth Advisory Council because it has helped me assure my passion for public health. I have enjoyed everything about the program.”

“The most memorable activity was doing outreach and helping teach people hands only CPR. This was one of the most memorable events because I got to meet community members one-on-one.”

Quality and Productivity Commission
34th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
“Leading with Excellence”

2021 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12-point font):

NAME OF PROJECT: DPH Youth Advisory Council

Linkage to the County Strategic Plan – 1 page only. Which County Strategic Plan goal(s) does this project address? Explain how. Use Arial 12-point font.

This project addresses all three County Strategic Plan goals: 1) Make investments that transform lives; 2) Foster vibrant and resilient communities; and 3) Realize tomorrow's government today. This project is an investment that is transforming lives as we speak. Many of our youth advisers have reported a significantly positive impact that the program has had on their academic trajectory, their community connectedness, and their own ability to communicate health priorities to others. The core of positive youth development is resilience through youth leadership due to improved self-confidence. Not only are these youth advisers able to withstand many storms that come their way, but they also share their knowledge and experience with others. For example, they taught other high schoolers about coping skills during Covid quarantine, a very difficult time for everyone. Finally, the youth advisers are tomorrow's government. Many of them want to dedicate their lives to public service. This experience allows them a direct entry way into the County system and an awareness of opportunities available to them in the future.

Quality and Productivity Commission
34th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
“Leading with Excellence”

2021 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12-point font):

NAME OF PROJECT: DPH Youth Advisory Council

COST AVOIDANCE, COST SAVINGS, AND REVENUE GENERATED (ESTIMATED BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY): If you are claiming cost benefits, include a calculation on this page. Please indicate whether these benefits apply in total or on a per unit basis, e.g., per capita, per transaction, per case, etc. You must include an explanation of the County cost savings, cost avoidance or new revenue that matches the numbers in the box. Remember to keep your supporting documentation. Use Arial 12-point font

Cost Avoidance: Costs that are eliminated or not incurred as a result of program outcomes. Please indicate whether these are costs to the County or to other entities.

Cost Savings: A reduction or lessening of expenditures as a result of program outcomes. Please indicate whether these were expenditures by the County or by other entities.

Revenue: Increases in existing revenue streams or new revenue sources to the County as a result of program outcomes.

(1) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST AVOIDANCE	(2) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST SAVINGS	(3) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE	(1) + (2) + (3) TOTAL ANNUAL ACTUAL/ESTIMATED BENEFIT	SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
\$	\$	\$	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ANNUAL= 12 MONTHS ONLY