

Youth Organization Funding Application Announcement

PA CARE PARTNERSHIP and YOUTH MOVE PA

Release Date: February 14, 2025

The PA Care Partnership, a state-wide System of Care Grant initiative funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of Children’s Behavioral Health Services, is pleased to announce the Youth Organization Funding Opportunity for the 2025 fiscal year, through our partner, Youth MOVE PA. Youth MOVE PA will award up to four (4) counties, youth groups, or organizations. Opportunity is in the amount of \$5,000.00 each to explore innovative options, including respite, for providing activities that support youth or young adults with complex behavioral health challenges between birth through 21 years of age and their families. For this funding opportunity, applicants can also consider creating a group for youth/young adults who want to connect with their peers and learn leadership skills.

As part of the funding opportunity, we will have a learning community cohort of the funded sites to share ideas, challenges, and successes to enhance how *youth and young adult activity planning* is delivered. Those applying and receiving funding must agree to participate in monthly calls to discuss best practices to be shared for future use.

The Goals for the Youth Organization Funding opportunity are to:

- Create a welcoming, inclusive environment where youth and young adults can collaborate and network with peers outside their own cultural, ethnic, and socio-economic groups.
- Engage teens via ongoing outreach to schools, other youth-focused organizations, places of worship, government agencies, etc.
- Involve teens in every step of the planning process, including design, marketing, hosting, and evaluation.
- Use a flexible, participatory design model to allow teens to modify and adapt activities to meet their needs better.
 - Youth and young adults provide immediate and long-term feedback for the group or activity facilitator(s). Participation is not limited to formally organized groups or activities but includes informal digital interactions and face-to-face activities aimed at individuals or groups. An emphasis is placed on encouraging all youth and young adults, not regular visitors or participants, to develop, implement, and evaluate the program or activities.
- Facilitate activities rather than function as leaders and experts.
- Enable teens to engage in peer-to-peer learning activities.
- Create a welcoming, inclusive environment where teens can collaborate and network with peers outside their own cultural, ethnic, and socio-economic groups.
- Balance the needs and skills of all youth program participants.
- Develop interest-based, developmentally appropriate programs that support connected learning.

For this funding opportunity, youth and young adult and/or respite activity planning is defined as the following:

Youth and young adult activity planning refer to training or activities provided to children/youth and/or young adults, ages 0-21, diagnosed with serious emotional or behavioral challenges to receive new knowledge or participate in activities that provide an enriching, positive experience.

Training and activities may be an essential part of the overall support that youth and young adults may need to help encourage and maintain positive relationships while building self-confidence and self-awareness. Activities should be responsive to the needs of youth and young adults in the specific community.

Proposals for youth organization funding should focus on the following goals:

- Develop or expand youth and young adult activity planning, focusing on youth and young adults with complex behavioral health diagnoses.
- Or develop or expand respite services with a focus on youth with complex behavioral health and their families.
- Provide resources to youth and young adults in need of activities or a place to connect with peers or provide additional resources to families/youth in need of respite services.
- The option to provide or develop training to expand youth and young adults' knowledge and skills that enhance, grow, or evolve leadership skills or further understanding of a specific topic related to children and youth birth through 21 years of age with serious emotional disturbances and may have multiple system involvement including: Children and Youth, Juvenile Justice, Education, Drug and Alcohol, Early Intervention Services.

Youth and young adult activity planning and Respite do not include:

- Therapeutic interventions.
- Crisis interventions for the child/youth.
- Medical Assistance funded services.
- The exclusion of organizations based on cultural, ethnic, racial, or socio-economic background.
- Overnight trips, unsupervised activities, or covering the cost of a building or space.
- Payment for ongoing instructional lessons/classes, recreational fees, or supplies (i.e., YMCA memberships, karate lessons, admission tickets, horseback riding lessons, durable goods, etc.)
- Vacations
- Funding for siblings who do not meet the eligibility criteria

Youth Organization Funding Opportunity Overview

Eligibility:

Entities eligible for the organization funding opportunity are as follows:

- Youth Organizations currently working and contracted to work with the PA Care Partnership Counties (Blair, Delaware, and Greene Counties), in collaboration with the local System of Care County Leadership Team and System of Care Coordinator.

- Programs and organizations that currently provide youth and young adult activities within a county or joinder (The applicant must have a letter of support that the County agrees with the approach and requirements of the funding opportunity funding announcement)
- Youth Organizations, programs, and organizations that currently provide respite services may apply if not currently receiving funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) through a current System of Care Grant.

Ineligibility:

- Youth Organizations, programs, and organizations that currently provide respite services that are being directly funded by a System of Care Grant from the following System of Care Grants (Allegheny County, Luzerne/Wyoming Counties, and Philadelphia County). SAMHSA funding guidelines prohibit counties within Pennsylvania currently involved in a System of Care Grant from applying for and receiving funding.

Proposal Requirements:

- Proposals that meet the following requirements will be considered for funding:
 - Active input in creating the proposal by at least one system partner (County Agency or Provider, Community Partner), one youth, and one family member, with all entities signing off on the submission.
 - Provided a detailed summary of how the proposal was developed, including how the youth, family, systems, and providers were involved in creating the proposal.
 - Describe the population to be served and what will be provided to each community, i.e., direct services, training, etc.
 - Description of the youth organization/group.
 - Budget Completion
 - Location of the youth organization/group.
 - Timeline to implement the youth organization/group.
 - Funding to be encumbered by August 30, 2025
 - How the organization/group will implement the determined approaches.
 - Youth organizations/groups will participate in the monthly calls.
 - Contact person who will answer questions regarding the application and be notified regarding the funding approval if accepted.

Proposals should not be longer than six (6) pages and should include a budget on how the funding will be utilized.

Expectations at the End of Funding (August 30, 2025)

1. Project Summary:
 - a. Submit a two-page document that includes the key points mentioned in the initial query, such as project overview, challenges faced, successes achieved, outcomes, and impact.
2. Final Report: Prepare a comprehensive final report that details the project's progress, including:
 - a. A detailed description of the project's activities and outcomes
 - b. A summary of the challenges faced and how they were addressed

- c. A list of achievements and milestones
 - d. An analysis of the project's impact on the target population and community
 - e. A discussion of the project's sustainability
3. Financial Report:
 - a. Provide a financial report that details the project's expenses and how the funding was used.
 4. Evaluation:
 - a. Share the results of your evaluation process, including the methods used and the findings.
 5. Lessons Learned:
 - a. Reflect on the project's successes and challenges, and share the lessons learned that can be applied to future projects.

Application Considerations:

- Innovation around youth and young adults having the ability to commune and develop new skills or enter respite.
- Development of a memorandum of understanding between agencies and/or community organizations to provide in-kind or matching funding/support.
- Utilization of funding for existing or newly funded youth organizations/groups or respite programs to support improved trauma awareness.
- Advertise the youth organization/group or respite opportunity to the identified population.
- A county or provider may consider the seamless transition from youth to young adults utilizing a youth organization/group or respite services.

Funding Utilization:

- Funding can be used for training, development, and provision of youth organization/group
- Funding **cannot** be used for renovation or building/office improvements
- Funding requests should not exceed \$5,000 per county
- Funding must be utilized and encumbered by August 30, 2025.

Application Submission:

- February 14, 2025 - Release of Youth Organization Funding Opportunity
- All proposals should be submitted in the template provided in Appendix A, and Appendix B. A Microsoft Office Word version of the template can also be downloaded directly from this link: <https://www.pacarepartnership.org/youth-partner/youth-organization-funding-proposal-opportunity>
- **Applications are due no later than 4:00 pm Friday, February 28, 2025**
- Please submit applications to:
 - Noemi Torres, PA Care Partnership at torresn2@upmc.edu

Award Notifications:

- Notice of award will be sent on or before **March 7, 2025**. Counties/providers will be notified by email by Youth MOVE PA

Questions about the funding opportunity can be directed to:

- Jamal Ford at fordj3@upmc.edu

Resources:

Youth and young adult activity planning resources

- [Starting a Program](#)
- [Diverse Activities for Youth and Young Adults](#)
- [Board Games for Youth and Young Adults](#)

For information on the PA Care Partnership, visit www.pacarepartnership.org

For information on Youth MOVE PA, visit www.youthmovepa.wildapricot.org

ATTACHMENTS:

- [APPENDIX A – YOUTH ORGANIZATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITY APPLICATION](#)