

Youth Matter Grants

Building Communities where Youth Know they Matter

Grant Guide

Application Deadline: Thursday, December 9, 2021, 5:00 pm

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Ciara Lowery at
ciara@safealaskans.org



www.safealaskans.org/youth-matter-grant

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Overview

Youth Matter Grants provide Alaskan youth ages 12-24 the opportunity to create and implement a project that makes a difference in their community. Youth Matter Grants also help build relationships between youth and adults where youth feel safe, supported, and respected. Center for Safe Alaskans and Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC) provide Youth Matter Grants with support from our funders.

We are currently offering grants to do projects in the following theme areas (Please see Appendix B for more information about themes):

- Wellbeing projects (5 grants total, available in Anchorage only)
- Safe driving messages for youth (4 grants total, available statewide)
- Underage drinking prevention messages (1 grant, available in Anchorage only)

What is Mattering?
Youth feel like they matter when they are respected, trusted, supported, valued by others, and able to make a difference.

Each grant will be up to a maximum of \$5,000. The Youth Matter Grants initiative is rooted in local data and national research, provides an evidence-based framework, and offers support from Safe Alaskans through the grant process.

Youth Matter!

The Youth Matter Grant initiative seeks to build a community where youth know they matter. We asked Anchorage youth to share what it means to “matter to people in their community.” They highlighted three main areas. **These three areas are our grant goals, and it is the intent of the Youth Matter Grants that each grantee experiences them through their project:**

- **Safety.** Youth described wanting to live in a safer community, not just for physical safety but also emotional safety to be themselves.
- **Support, Respect, and Fairness.** Youth expressed a desire for respect and fair treatment by adults. This can happen through friendly, supportive, and positive relationships with adults.
- **Make a Difference.** Youth want to make a difference in their communities and be involved in the decision-making process.

Eligibility

Eligible Organizations and Groups

Participants applying through non-profit (501(c)(3)) organizations and public sector organizations such as schools*, universities, and libraries, are eligible. Safe driving messages for youth projects are available to statewide applicants; and those promoting wellbeing and preventing underage drinking are only available for Anchorage applicants. Please see Appendix B for more information.

*Applicants who are school groups, teams, or classes within the Anchorage School District, please refer to Appendix C before applying.

Ineligible Organizations and Groups

Individuals, for-profit, 501(c)(4) or (c)(6) organizations are not eligible. Applications are also not eligible if they promote lobbying, fundraising, electioneering, or are political. Applications will not be eligible if they discriminate based on, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual preference, marital status, age, ability, or creed.

Grant Project Team

Projects must support youth-led ideas and grow youth-adult partnerships that include support and respect. Every project, requires a “Youth Representative” age 12-24 and an “Organization Representative” age 25+ to lead the project team. We encourage grantees to engage additional young people and organization staff or mentors in their project team. The entire team will carry out the project. The Youth Lead and Organization Representative will be the main points of contact between Safe Alaskans staff and their team.

- The **Youth Representative’s** role is to lead the team in designing and carrying out the project. They will communicate with the team and Safe Alaskans staff and review and submit project documents, such as the project work plan. They will help make sure the project team in moving things forward and reaching their goals.
- The **Organization Representative’s** role is to be the “guide on the side” rather than the “sage on the stage.” The Organization rep will assist the project team, guide problem-solving, support communication with Safe Alaskans staff, and support the project team in all aspects of the project.

These projects are meant to be a skill-building opportunities for both youth and organization representatives.

Priority Applicants

Safe Alaskans and AYDC are committed to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI). Youth Matter Grants aim to increase access to opportunities for community change for people who belong to systematically oppressed communities. Priority will be given to:

- Applications involving and supporting the development of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) youth in leadership and youth belonging to other systematically oppressed groups.
- Community impacts include moving toward JEDI for BIPOC and other systematically oppressed communities.

Timeline

Please hold these important dates on your calendar. All events are virtual. Youth representative and organization representative must attend both sessions of the two-part orientation, mid-point check-in, and celebration. All project team members are encouraged to attend these events as well.

November 1, 2021	Grant application opens
LIVE ZOOM EVENT November 15, 2021 3:00-4:00	Info Session (optional) for youth interested in applying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZOOM LINK: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86943442663 • To RSVP and to send us questions, visit this form: https://forms.gle/dy42WcFDJaXabSVq8
December 9, 2021, 5pm	Applications due: Applications may either be emailed to ciara@safealaskans.org or submitted through the online form at www.safealaskans.org/youth-matter-grant
December 15, 2021	Participants selected: Participants will be announced by this date
LIVE ZOOM EVENTS January 13, 3:00- 5:30 AND January 20, 3:00- 5:30	Orientation: This will orient participants to the grant process, support project planning, and measuring progress on your intended community impact. and in incorporating youth development best practices.
February 3, 2022	Project Work Plan: Proposed projects must have a work plan, including a draft plan for measuring community impact of your project and proposed budget due to Safe Alaskans staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grantees will meet with Safe Alaskans staff as needed to finalize work plan and evaluation plan before final approval. • Grant awards will be finalized, and agreements signed by all parties. An invoice for 60% of grant award due to Safe Alaskans once budget is approved. If upfront expenses will exceed this first grant payment, exceptions may be made with documentation. Participant Pre-Surveys Due

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A link to complete the youth participant pre-survey will be provided prior to this due date to allow time to complete it.
LIVE ZOOM EVENT February 24, 2022, 3:00-4:30	Midpoint check in: All-grantee Zoom call to connect with Safe Alaskans and one another about project progress. One-on-one supports provided as needed. Grantees will be encouraged to share drafts of their created work at this time as applicable, or to work with Safe Alaskans staff to set up other check-ins to gather peer feedback to ensure projects are impactful.
March 24, 2022	<p>Complete Project and Final report due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project work must be completed by this date. Participants will complete an online report form, including sharing data from their impact evaluation <p>Participant post-surveys due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-surveys will be completed by youth participants near the end of the project. <p>Final invoice for 40% of grant award due; Safe Alaskans will administer final payment upon completion of project, delivery of invoice, and approval of all final paperwork.</p>
LIVE ZOOM EVENT March 31, 2022, 3:00-4:30	Celebration: Reflect together on the experience and share celebrations and successes.

Additional Grant Information

COVID-19

Projects must adhere to CDC guidelines about physical distance. Therefore, Youth Matter Grant projects must creatively build connections and reach others while respecting physical distance.

Evaluation

As part of the Youth Matter Grant, all grantees will administer a survey (provided by Safe Alaskans) to project participants at the start and conclusion of the grant. Safe Alaskans will use this data to understand and report on the impact this experience has on grantees. Reports will be shared with funders and partners, including grantees.

With training support from Safe Alaskans staff, grantees will also design and use an evaluation tool to measure the impact of their own project and share results with Safe Alaskans.

Share Stories

Grantees are required to document their work in final report and share stories, photos, or other media with Safe Alaskans. Safe Alaskans will collectively share the stories of all the YMG projects. Project participants are asked to sign Safe Alaskans media release forms. Youth participants 18 and under must get parental consent for their media releases.

Liability

Grantees must provide their own forms of insurance as needed. Individuals and organizations awarded grants release Safe Alaskans from all liability issues with the execution of your project.

Origin of Funds

This section describes the funding that enables Safe Alaskans and AYDC to offer the Youth Matter Grants. These funds require that only effective and proven prevention strategies be funded.

AYDC was awarded funds for Youth Matter Grants through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Behavioral Health grant program for Comprehensive Behavioral Health Prevention and Early Intervention Services and the U.S. Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration Sober Truth to Prevent Underage Drinking Act grant.

Safe Alaskans receives funding for Youth Matter Grants through the Department of Transportation, Alaska Highway Safety Office to support safety for teen drivers. Safe Alaskans also receives charitable contributions from United Way of Anchorage and State Farm Companies Foundation to support these projects.

About Us: Safe Alaskans and AYDC

AYDC is housed at Safe Alaskans. Center for Safe Alaskans' core purposes are to promote wellbeing, improve safety, and prevent injuries in Alaska. AYDC promotes and integrates strength-based strategies through providing training, resources, networking, and advocacy to ensure that all Anchorage youth thrive. For more information, visit:

- Center for Safe Alaskans, www.safealaskans.org
- Anchorage Youth Development Coalition, www.safealaskans.org/aydc

Safe Alaskans' Role as Sponsoring Organization

Anchorage Youth Development Coalition is housed at Center for Safe Alaskans. Our staff will monitor and report on these grants. In addition, staff will provide support and technical help for the project, including orientation for grantees. Additional staff support and training will be given as needed, such as help with goals, project planning, and evaluation planning. We will also provide support for designing projects that include proven strategies to make an impact.

Background of Youth Matter Grants

Safe Alaskans and the Anchorage School District developed a youth grant program called Raise Your Voice in 2010. In 2017, AYDC launched the Youth Matter Grants. The Youth Matter Grant initiative was created to promote mattering and mental well-being and decrease risk factors like bullying, substance misuse, or suicidal ideation. The two youth grant initiatives merged into the current Youth Matter Grants.

Application

Your application will describe the community you would like to impact and what theme you will focus on. There is no need to design your whole project yet; this will come later with support from Safe Alaskans staff and peers during the grant orientation. Grant awards will be made after project plans are

finalized together with Safe Alaskans. The questions below help us identify participants to engage in work that supports youth to know they matter. Youth matter when they feel safe, build supportive relationships and make a difference in their community. See the application below and the scoring rubric in Appendix A.

To apply, complete the online form at <https://safealaskans.org/our-work/programs-initiatives/aydc/youth-matter-grants/youth-matter-grant-application/> OR email the answers to the application questions to ciara@safealaskans.org.

Application Questions:

Applying Organization: _____

Contact Information – Youth Representative

Name: _____
Title: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Contact Information – Organization Representative

Name: _____
Title: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

1. **Organization Description.** Please share a brief description of your organization or group (limit to 50 words):

2. **Community Description:** What community do you hope to impact with your grant? This can be a school community, specific neighborhood, group of individuals with similar defining characteristics, etc. It must be a community that you yourself are a part of. (limit to 50 words)

3. **Community Impact:** Describe a couple issues that face your community (defined above) and brainstorm a few ways your group could impact these challenges. (limit to 250 words)

4. **Grant theme:** Grantees will choose to focus on one of three themes that can help them to achieve their desired community impact (above). These are: wellbeing projects, safe driving messages for youth, and underage drinking prevention messages. Tell us which theme you will be focusing on to accomplish your community impact, and why. Please refer to Appendix B for more information and example projects. (limit 150 words)

5. **Goals:** Support the youth working on your project to know that they matter! Please list how you will focus on these goals for youth involved in your project, particularly within the context of adhering to physical distancing guidelines: (limit to 400 words)

- **Safety.** Youth want to live in a safer community, not just for physical safety but also to be emotionally safe to be themselves.
- **Support, Respect, and Fairness.** Youth want to be treated fairly and with respect by adults. Having friendly, supportive, and positive relationships with adults provides the right role models to empower youth.
- **Make a Difference.** Youth want to be engaged and make a difference. This may be through providing meaningful opportunities and service-based activities. Meaningful involvement also includes youth involved in decision-making, leadership, and implementing a project.

6. **Youth Focus:** Safe Alaskans and AYDC are aiming to support youth as leaders through this grant. Please describe how youth were involved in completing this application, and how youth and adults will work together in decision-making and implementing the project. If youth are not yet engaged as leaders, describe your commitment to growing this skill and how we can support you in building youth-adult partnerships (limit to 250 words)

7. **Potential Challenges:** Do you see any challenges in meeting grant requirements, including collecting youth participant surveys, attending the mandatory grantee orientation, or anything outlined in this guide?

Yes / No

If yes, please explain (100-word limit)

8. **Past Partnership:** Have you previously partnered with Center for Safe Alaskans or Anchorage Youth Development Coalition? If yes, in what way? (limit 100 words)

Yes / No

9. **Priority Applicants:** Safe Alaskans and AYDC are committed to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI). Youth Matter Grants intend to increase access to opportunities for community change for people who belong to systematically oppressed communities. Priority will be given to:

- Applications involving and supporting the development of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) youth in leadership and youth belonging to other systematically oppressed groups.
- Community impacts include moving toward JEDI for BIPOC and other systematically oppressed communities.

Application questions (limit to 250 words):

- a. Does your intended impact include advancing JEDI for BIPOC in your community? If so, please describe some ideas of how you might impact this (unless already stated above).
- b. Will the project team include youth leaders who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)? (Yes/No)
- c. Does your project seek to advance JEDI for other systematically oppressed groups (e.g., LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, immigrants and their first-generation descendants, people affected by persistent poverty or inequality, etc.) in your community? If so, please describe some ideas for how you might impact this (unless already stated above).
- d. Will the project team include youth leaders who self-identify with systematically oppressed groups, including, but not limited to, LGBTQ+, immigrants and their first-generation

descendants, people with disabilities, or people otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality? (Yes/No)

Appendix A: Scoring Rubric

This rubric will guide the Scoring Committee- a group made up of youth serving organization staff and youth and adult volunteers who have experience with this grant process- on reviewing Youth Matter Grant applications. Higher scores will be based on the information provided in this guide. If there are more applicants than available funding, priority may be given to applicants with less experience with engaging youth as leaders. Past grantees are still highly encouraged to apply!

Criteria	Points Available	Notes
Clear understanding of what “Youth Mattering” means, and why it’s important (overall)	15	
Focus community is clearly stated (Question (Q)2)	10	
Achievable community impact ideas proposed and align with selected grant theme (Q3 and Q4)	15	
Understanding of and commitment to stated goals to support project team: 1. Physical and emotional safety 2. Building supportive relationships 3. Making a difference (Q5)	20	
Youth involvement (or intention to create youth involvement) in this application, decision-making, and future implementation (Q6)	20	
Clear understanding and commitment to meet grant requirements, including orientation, project work plan, and participant project surveys as well as design and implementation of impact evaluation, with staff support	10	
Application includes some or all of the following (Q9): a. Intended impact includes advancing JEDI for BIPOC in applicant’s community, and achievable ideas for doing so	10	

<p>b. Project team include youth leaders who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)?</p> <p>c. Intended impact includes advancing JEDI for other systematically oppressed groups (e.g. LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, immigrants and their first-generation descendants, people affected by persistent poverty or inequality etc.) and achievable ideas for doing so.</p> <p>d. The project team include youth leaders who self-identify with systematically oppressed groups, including but not limited to LGBTQ+, immigrants and their first-generation descendants, people with disabilities, people otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality?</p>		
TOTAL	100	

Appendix B: Grant themes definitions and example projects

To help grantees develop projects with measurable community impact, we ask that each application focus on a specific grant theme and then build their project within that theme. These themes are (1) transportation safety, (2) wellbeing, and (3) underage drinking prevention and. **Note: Due to funding sources, projects in themes 2 and 3 can only be supported for Anchorage grantees.** Below are definitions for each theme and example projects that would fall within the theme.

(1) Wellbeing projects (Anchorage Only): Wellbeing is a broad theme that can encompass many things, from mental health promotion, healthy relationships, and substance misuse prevention. Click here for [a definition](#). These factors are all deeply interconnected. By focusing on wellbeing, projects can support wellbeing and thriving in youth while decreasing risk behaviors like substance misuse that can be barriers to youth success. For perspective, only 47.8% of Anchorage youth felt like they matter in the community in 2019, a decrease of almost 5% from the previous survey year. Only half of students reported that they do not feel alone in their lives. (2019 YRBS) More than 1 in 3 students (38.1%) report feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for at least two weeks during the past year. (2019 YRBS)

Possible wellbeing projects could include: a social media peer to peer campaign about mental health and ways to support your own mental wellbeing, a project that focuses on building supportive relationships virtually, or a podcast designed to support youth to focus on gratitude and mindfulness through the winter months.

(2) Safe Driving Messages for Youth (Any Alaska Community): Safe Alaskans has been working with youth in Alaskan high schools for over a decade to encourage their peers to drive safely. You can find some

examples of safe driving videos that were developed with Safe Alaskans' support [here!](#) In Alaska, even though teens are only 5% of the population, they make up 20% of crash fatalities and serious injuries. ([DOT Alaska](#)) 29.8% of teens report using their cell phones while driving. (YRBS 2019) Finally, nearly 15% of Alaska teens report riding with a driver who'd been drinking alcohol, and 12% reported driving themselves after consuming cannabis. (YRBS 2019)

Projects in this theme focus on creating messaging that promotes positive behavior change for both drivers and passengers and have a plan to reach the intended audience.

An example project for transportation safety could be a social media campaign that uses a series of videos to help passengers ask drivers not to text while they are driving. Another idea might be creation of a PSA that models positive driving behaviors instead of unsafe ones.

(3) Underage Drinking Prevention Messages (Anchorage Only): **NOTE:** Due to the source of these grant funds, projects in this theme must use a social marketing approach (social marketing is described in more detail above under Theme 1 Transportation Safety).

2017 Anchorage Youth Risk Behavior Survey data shows high school students who think there is moderate risk or great risk in harming themselves physically or in other ways if they have five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week were less likely to engage in alcohol use. It also shows that friend perception of alcohol use is significantly correlated with whether a young person reports current alcohol use, binge drinking, and several other risk behaviors. 69.7% of all ASD high school students in 2017 felt that there is a moderate or great risk of harming themselves if they binge drink once or twice a week. 59.5% of ASD high school students in 2017 reported that their friends feel it would be wrong or very wrong for them to drink alcohol nearly every day. There are a number of other risk and protective factors correlated with youth alcohol use. For example, youth who agree or strongly agree that they feel alone in their life were more likely to use alcohol. And those who agree that in their community they feel like they matter to people were less likely to use alcohol. (Assessment of Youth Risk and Protective Factors and Behaviors for Anchorage Youth: An Update to "Growing Up Anchorage" June 4, 2020)

An underage drinking prevention social marketing project could be creating a social media campaign on TikTok or Instagram that will reach your focus community.

Appendix C: Special considerations for Anchorage School District (ASD) groups, classes, or teams

If you are applying as a school group or team through ASD*, you will need to complete a few simple extra steps outlined here:

1. You must notify your school principal of your intent to apply. Once your principal has approved you to move forward,
2. You will then need to inform the grants department by emailing grant_dl@asdk12.org or calling (907)742-4468 to share your intent to apply.
3. Once your application is accepted and after your workplan and budget request is approved by Safe Alaskans, the organization lead on your project (your teacher or coach) will need to deposit your check(s) with the accounting office. Your school's administrative assistant will help you to access your project funds.

Please note, if you do not follow these steps to inform your principal and the Grants Department about your application and project approval, you may not be able to access your grant funds in a timely matter. Please reach out to Ciara at ciara@safealaskans.org for clarification.

*If you are applying from a school group outside Anchorage School District, you may also want to consult with your principal or grants department to determine your best course of action.