

Youth Matter Grants Evaluation Report

June 2023

Prepared for:



Prepared by:



Esther Hammerschlag, Senior Consultant

www.goldstreamgroup.com

907.452.4365

Executive Summary

Youth Matter Grants is a program of the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC), housed at Center for Safe Alaskans. Youth Matter Grants are mini grants of up to \$5,000 that are given to youth-led projects to build safety, foster supportive youth-adult relationships, and make a difference in the community. The premise of the Youth Matter Grants program is based on Alaska-specific and national data: when youth know that they matter to people in their community, they are less likely to engage in risky, unsafe behaviors, and are more likely to display higher levels of connectedness and mental wellbeing.¹ Each youth-led project is required to focus on the theme of wellbeing. Recipients are required to have a Youth Representative (age 12-24) and an Organization Representative (age 25 or older) to lead a project team and are encouraged to involve all participating youth in leadership roles, in decision-making, and in project proposal development and implementation. Each project that is funded receives training and support from AYDC to help build a project that will address the stated goals and make a difference in the community.

There were four Youth Matter Grants projects completed during the 2022-2023 school year representing the following organizations: Anchorage Youth Vote, Alaska Youth Orchestras, Begich Middle School YANA Club, and See Stories. All participants in Youth Matter Grants projects were invited to complete a retrospective pre-post survey upon completion of their project. Survey results suggest that the Youth Matter Grants program had a positive impact for participants. The vast majority of the participants who completed a survey either agreed or strongly agreed with statements included in the survey related to their ability to make a difference in the community after participating in Youth Matter Grants, and there was an increase in the percentage of respondents who strongly agreed with each of these same statements after participating when compared to before. Nearly two-thirds of participants who completed a survey (63.6%) experienced a positive shift in their belief that people their age help to make their community a better place to live after participating in Youth Matter Grants. Corroborating this finding, 60% of respondents indicated that they feel like they matter more to people in their community after participating in Youth Matter Grants than they did before. Additionally, roughly one-third of respondents (36.0%) indicated that they have more adults they would feel comfortable seeking help from if they had an important question affecting their life than they did before they participated, and most respondents (70.0%) either agreed or strongly agreed that they feel more interested in learning, education, and school after participating in Youth Matter Grants.

The vast majority of the participants who completed a survey either agreed or strongly agreed with all statements included in the survey about their satisfaction with their organization representative, about their satisfaction with their team and teamwork, and

¹ <https://safealaskans.org/our-work/programs-initiatives/aydc/youth-matter-grants/>

about their satisfaction with their own learning and ability to make a difference. In open-ended questions, respondents described many aspects of their projects that they liked including getting to work with a team and with their peers, the opportunities to contribute and be heard, and that it was fun. They also described a number of positive and supportive ways that people worked together such as by encouraging questions and input, and by listening and treating everyone with equal respect. Participants who completed a survey appreciated the listening and encouragement provided by their organization representatives, as well as the help and support provided when needed.

It is worth noting that while all 26 participants in Youth Matter Grants completed a survey at the end of their project, nearly half of participants (46.2% of surveys) were from Begich Middle School YANA Club. Roughly one-quarter of participants were from Anchorage Youth Vote (23.1% of surveys) and Alaska Youth Orchestras (26.9% of surveys). Only one participant (3.8% of all surveys) was from See Stories. While the purpose of the survey was to assess the benefit of Youth Matter Grants and not the differences between Youth Matter Grants grantees, survey results are heavily weighted towards the experiences of participants from Begich Middle School YANA Club. Results may be less reflective of the experiences of youth in the other three projects, and in particular See Stories. This should be taken into account when considering these findings.

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Executive Summary | 1 |
| Introduction | 4 |
| Methods | 4 |
| Limitations | 6 |
| Findings: Demographics of Youth Matter Grants Participants | 7 |
| Findings: Youth Participation..... | 9 |
| Findings: Youth Matter Grants Program Impact..... | 11 |
| Findings: Youth Matter Grants Program Satisfaction..... | 16 |
| Discussion | 21 |
| Appendix A: All Survey Responses to Questions Measuring Impact of Youth Matter Grants (Figures 2-9)..... | 22 |

Introduction

Youth Matter Grants is a program of the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC), housed at Center for Safe Alaskans. Youth Matter Grants are mini grants of up to \$5,000 that are given to youth-led projects to build safety, foster supportive youth-adult relationships, and make a difference in the community. The premise of the Youth Matter Grants program is based on Alaska-specific and national data: when youth know that they matter to people in their community, they are less likely to engage in risky, unsafe behaviors, and are more likely to display higher levels of connectedness and mental wellbeing.² Each youth-led project is required to focus on the theme of wellbeing. Recipients are required to have a Youth Representative (age 12-24) and an Organization Representative (age 25 or older) to lead their project team and are encouraged to involve all participating youth in leadership roles, in decision-making, and in project proposal development and implementation. Each project that is funded receives training and support from AYDC to help build a project that will address the stated goals and make a difference in the community.

In 2019, Center for Safe Alaskans contracted with the Goldstream Group – a consulting firm located in Fairbanks, Alaska that is dedicated to helping non-profit community organizations improve the lives of Alaskans – to assist in assessment and evaluation activities related to its AYDC Wellness Initiative, including evaluation of the Youth Matter Grants program.

Methods

All Youth Matter Grants participants who finished a project were invited to complete a retrospective pre-post survey at the end of their project. To measure program participation, participants were asked a series of demographic questions in addition to questions about the number of hours they spent working on their project and ways they were involved in decision-making in their project. To measure program impact, the survey included matched questions asking youth to indicate how they felt about a series of statements related to their ability to make a difference in their community before participating in Youth Matter Grants, and after participating in Youth Matter Grants. Participants were also asked a series of questions about the program's impact on their feelings of mattering to people in their community, the number of adults they would feel comfortable seeking help from if they had an important question affecting their life, and their interest in learning, education, and school. To measure program satisfaction, participants were asked a variety of questions related to their experiences as part of a project team, how they felt about their

² <https://safealaskans.org/our-work/programs-initiatives/aydc/youth-matter-grants/>

organization representative, and their feelings about their project responsibilities and ability to make a difference.

The survey was administered using SurveyMonkey, an online survey tool (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/>) and survey results were downloaded into Excel for analysis. A total of 26 surveys were completed. Nearly half of these surveys (46.2%) were completed by participants in Begich Middle School YANA Club. Roughly one-quarter were completed by participants in Anchorage Youth Vote (23.1%) and Alaska Youth Orchestras (26.9%). Only one survey (3.8% of all surveys) was completed by a participant in See Stories.

Table 1: Number of Surveys Completed by Participants in each Youth Matter Grants Project (n=26)

| Project Name | Number of Participants in Project | Surveys Completed | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| | | Count | Percent of All Surveys |
| Anchorage Youth Vote | 6 | 6 | 23.1% |
| Alaska Youth Orchestras | 7 | 7 | 26.9% |
| Begich Middle School YANA Club ³ | 12 | 12 | 46.2% |
| See Stories | 1 | 1 | 3.8% |
| Total | 26 | 26 | |

Analysis of Youth Participation

All Youth Matter Grants participants who completed a survey were asked a series of demographic questions in addition to several questions related to participation in their project. Closed-ended questions (e.g., multiple choice) were tabulated and are reported using descriptive statistics. Open-ended questions were analyzed for themes using emergent coding and are reported using descriptive statistics.

Analysis of Youth Matter Grants Program Impact

Participants were asked to rate how much they agreed or disagreed with a series of five matched statements related to their ability to make a difference in their community before

³ Begich Middle School YANA Club did not finish their project in its entirety prior to completing the survey due to circumstances that were beyond the control of participants. However, participants completed the bulk of their work on the project prior to taking the survey, so any changes in how they would respond to the survey questions would likely be minimal. The overall findings of this report would therefore not be expected to change in any significant way. Participants from Begich Middle School YANA Club are expected to complete their project during the 2023-2024 school year.

participating in Youth Matter Grants, and after participating in Youth Matter Grants. Responses options were “strongly agree,” “agree,” “disagree,” “strongly disagree,” and “not sure.” Results were tabulated and the percentage of participants who either agreed or strongly agreed with each statement before participating in Youth Matter Grants, and after participating in Youth Matter Grants was calculated for comparison from pre to post. In addition, only the percentage of participants who strongly agreed with each statement before and after participating was calculated for comparison of results. These results are reported using descriptive statistics. To provide further analysis of program impact, the responses of individual participants to each of the five statements before Youth Matter Grants were compared to their responses after Youth Grants to identify the percentage of participants who experienced a positive shift in their response from pre to post. For each statement, if an individual provided a response of “not sure” for either before or after participating in Youth Matter Grants, their responses to that statement were removed from the analysis. The percentages of participants who experienced a positive shift, no shift, and negative shift from pre to post were tabulated for each statement and are reported using descriptive statistics.

Participants were also asked a series of questions about the program’s impact on their feelings of mattering to people in their community, the number of adults they would feel comfortable seeking help from if they had an important question affecting their life, and their interest in learning, education, and school. These responses were tabulated and are reported using descriptive statistics.

Analysis of Youth Matter Grants Program Satisfaction

To measure program satisfaction, participants were asked a series of questions related to their experience on their project team, their experience with their organizational representative, and their ability to make a difference. Results to closed-ended questions (e.g., multiple choice, Likert scales) were tabulated and are reported using descriptive statistics. Results to open-ended questions were analyzed for themes using emergent coding and are reported using descriptive statistics.

Limitations

All 26 participants in Youth Matter Grants completed a survey at the end of their project. However, nearly half of participants (46.2% of surveys) were from Begich Middle School YANA Club. Roughly one-quarter were from Anchorage Youth Vote (23.1% of surveys) and Alaska Youth Orchestras (26.9% of surveys). Only one participant (3.8% of all surveys) was from See Stories. While the purpose of the survey was to assess the benefit of Youth Matter Grants and not the differences between Youth Matter Grants grantees, survey results are heavily weighted towards the experiences of participants from Begich Middle School YANA Club. Results may be less reflective of the experiences of youth in the other three projects, and in particular See Stories.

Findings: Demographics of Youth Matter Grants Participants

All participants who completed a survey were asked a series of questions at the end of the survey about their gender identity, age, race, and ethnicity. More than three-quarters of participants who responded (77.8%) identified as female. The age of respondents ranged from 12 years to 20 years. One-quarter of respondents (25.0%) were 15 years old, and 20.0% were sixteen years old. Nearly one-third of respondents identified as Asian (30.0%) and 20.0% identified as White. One-quarter (25.0%) said they were more than one race. The majority of respondents (80.0%) indicated they were not Hispanic or Latino. The demographics of all survey respondents are summarized in Tables 2 - 5.

Table 2: “Which gender identity best describes you?” (n=18) (asked as an open-ended question)

| Gender | Count | Percent |
|----------------|-----------|---------|
| Male | 3 | 16.7% |
| Female | 14 | 77.8% |
| Other Response | 1 | 5.6% |
| Total | 18 | |

Table 3: “How old are you? (n=20) (asked as an open-ended question)

| Age in Years | Count | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|---------|
| 12 | 3 | 15.0% |
| 13 | 1 | 5.0% |
| 14 | 3 | 15.0% |
| 15 | 5 | 25.0% |
| 16 | 4 | 20.0% |
| 17 | 2 | 10.0% |
| 18 | 1 | 5.0% |
| 19 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 20 | 1 | 5.0% |
| Total | 20 | |

Table 4: “What is your race?” (n=20)

| Race | Count | Percent |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 0 | 0.0% |
| Asian | 6 | 30.0% |
| Black or African American | 2 | 10.0% |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 0 | 0.0% |
| White | 4 | 20.0% |
| Some other race | 2 | 10.0% |
| More than one race | 5 | 25.0% |
| Prefer not to say | 1 | 5.0% |
| Total | 20 | |

Table 5: Are you of Hispanic or Latino Origin? (n=20)

| Ethnicity | Count | Percent |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Hispanic or Latino | 2 | 10.0% |
| Not Hispanic or Latino | 16 | 80.0% |
| Prefer not to say | 2 | 10.0% |
| Total | | |

Findings: Youth Participation

More than half of participants who completed the survey (55.0%) indicated they spent ten or fewer hours on their project. An additional 20.0% indicated they spent 11-15 hours, and one respondent each (5.0% of all responses) indicated spending either 16-20 hours or more than 20 hours. A total of 15.0% indicated they were not sure. This is shown in Figure 1.

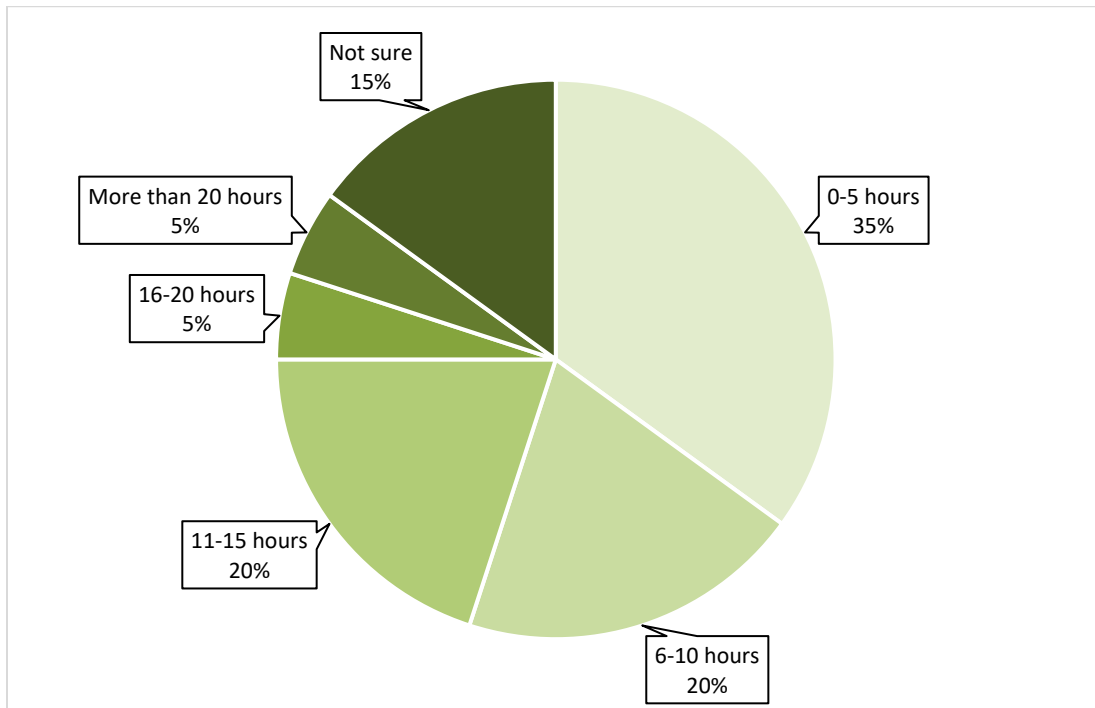


Figure 1: "How many hours did you spend on this project?" (n=20)

When asked in an open-ended question to describe how youth were involved in decision making in their project, more than one-third of participants who completed a survey (36.4%) described specific activities for which they provided input or made decisions. Just under one-third (31.8%) described that youth had the final say in or made most of the decisions for their project. Four respondents (18.2%) provided non-specific responses such as "I gave my opinion on what we should have" or "giving ideas", and two (9.1%) specifically described meeting regularly about their project. This is shown in Table 6.

Table 6: “How were youth involved in decision making in this project? Please give an example.” (n=22 responses from 17 participants)

| Theme | Count | Percent of Participants |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Described providing input or making decisions about specific activities (e.g., deciding the topic, speaking directly with the project’s graphic organizer, planning scripts for the PSA, recording interviews, choosing the form of media) | 8 | 36.4% |
| Described that youth had the final say in or made most of the decisions for their project | 7 | 31.8% |
| Described other non-specific ways such as provided ideas or suggestions, helped plan, etc. | 4 | 18.2% |
| Youth met regularly to discuss the project | 2 | 9.1% |
| Not sure | 1 | 4.5% |

Findings: Youth Matter Grants Program Impact

The percentage of survey respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with four of the five statements about their ability to make a difference in their community increased after participating in Youth Matter Grants compared to before they participated. Notably, for all five statements the vast majority of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with these statements after participating in Youth Matter Grants. A full 100% of participants who completed a survey either agreed or strongly agreed that after participating in Youth Matter Grants they believe that things they do can make a positive difference in their community. This is shown in Figure 2.

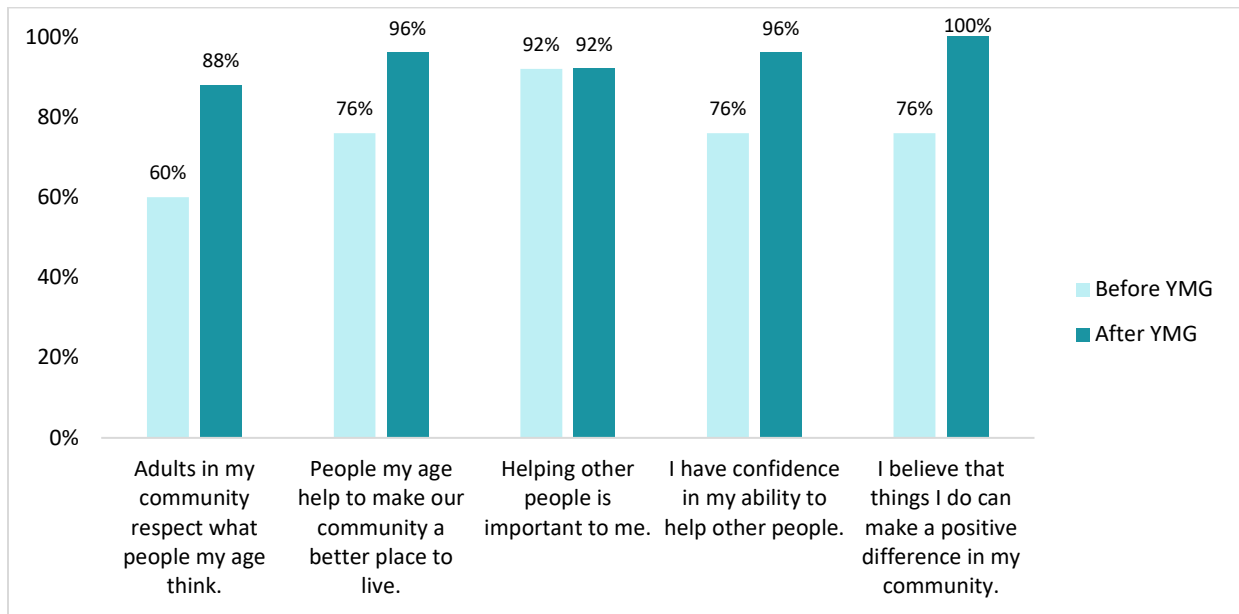


Figure 2: Percent of participants who agreed or strongly agreed with statements about their ability to make a difference in their community before participating Youth Matter Grants, and after participating in Youth Matter Grants (n=25)

Only the percentage of respondents who strongly agreed with each of the five statements was also examined. For all five statements, there was an increase in the percentage of respondents who strongly agreed with the statement after participating in Youth Matter Grants compared to before they participated. The largest increase was seen in response to the statement, “people my age help to make our community a better place to live.” This is shown in Figure 3.

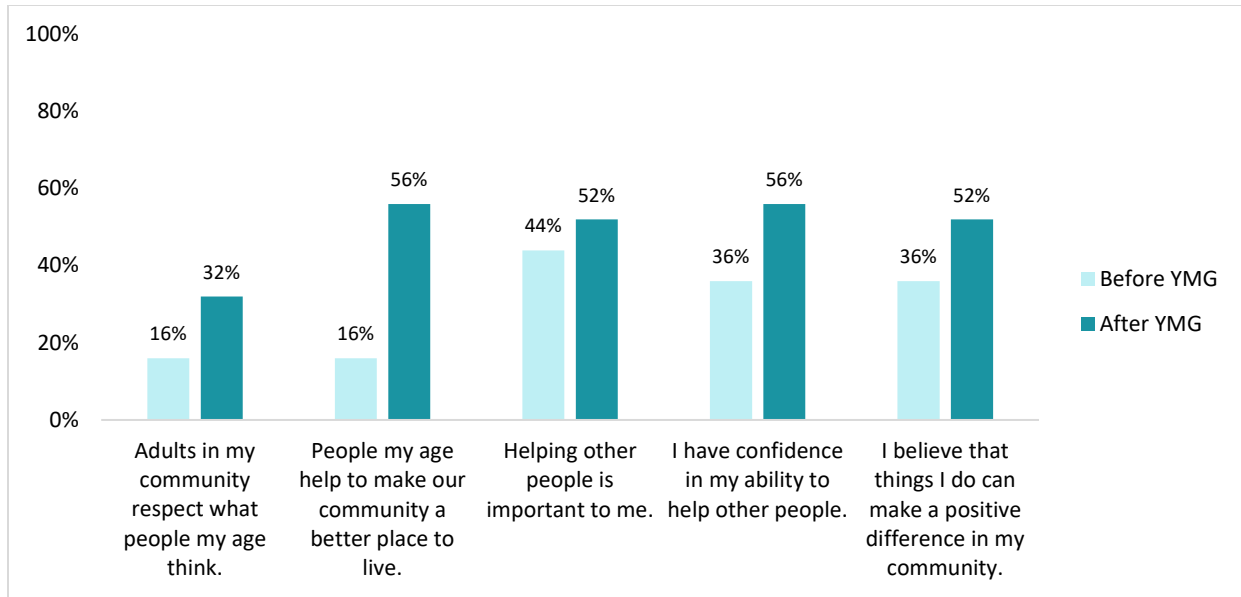


Figure 3: Percent of participants who strongly agreed with statements about their ability to make a difference in their community before participating Youth Matter Grants, and after participating in Youth Matter Grants (n=25)

When examining the responses of individual participants, close to two-thirds of participants (63.6%) experienced a positive shift in their response to the statement “people my age help to make our community a better place to live” following their participation in Youth Matter Grants, and well over one-third indicated a positive shift in their feelings about the statements “adults in my community respect what people my age think” (44.4%) and “I have confidence in my ability to help other people” (37.5%). This is shown in Figure 4.

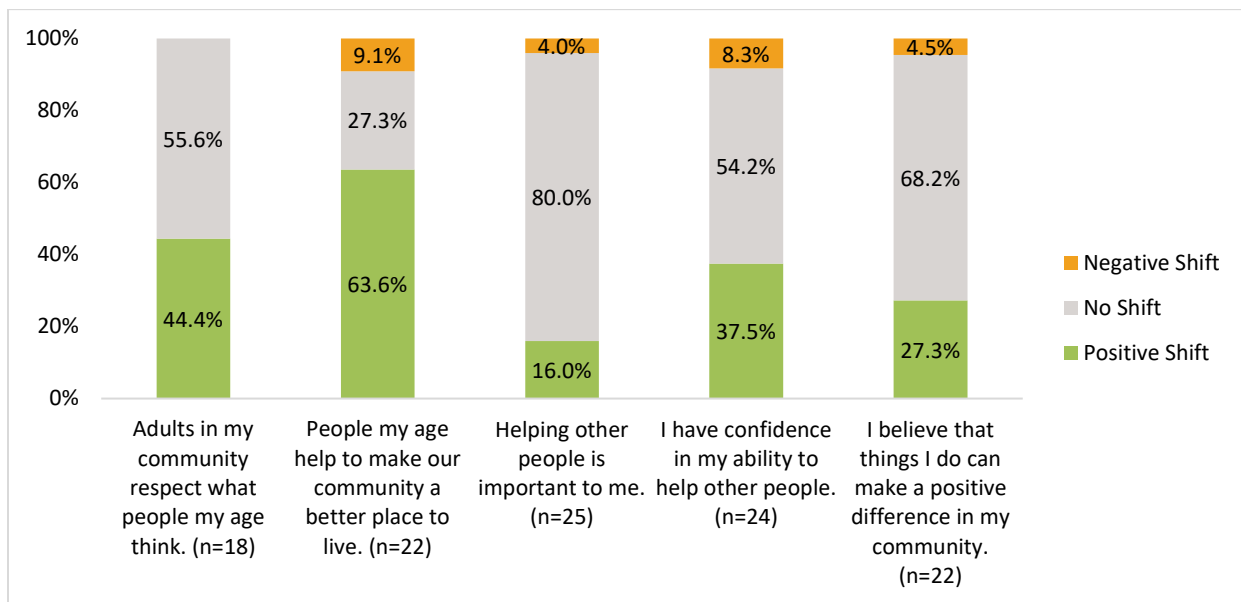


Figure 4: Percent of participants who indicated a positive shift, no shift, and negative shift in their feelings about statements related to their ability to make a difference in their community (for each statement, individuals with response(s) of “not sure” were removed from the analysis)

Impact on Feelings of Youth Mattering

Most participants who completed a survey (88.0%) either agreed or strongly agreed that in their community they feel like they matter to people after completing their Youth Matter Grants Project. When asked how participating in Youth Matter Grants impacted their feelings about mattering in their community, more than half (60.0%) said they feel like they matter more to people than they did before participating, while 40.0% said they feel like they matter about the same amount. There were no respondents who reported feeling like they matter less after participating than they did before. This is shown in Figures 5 and 6.

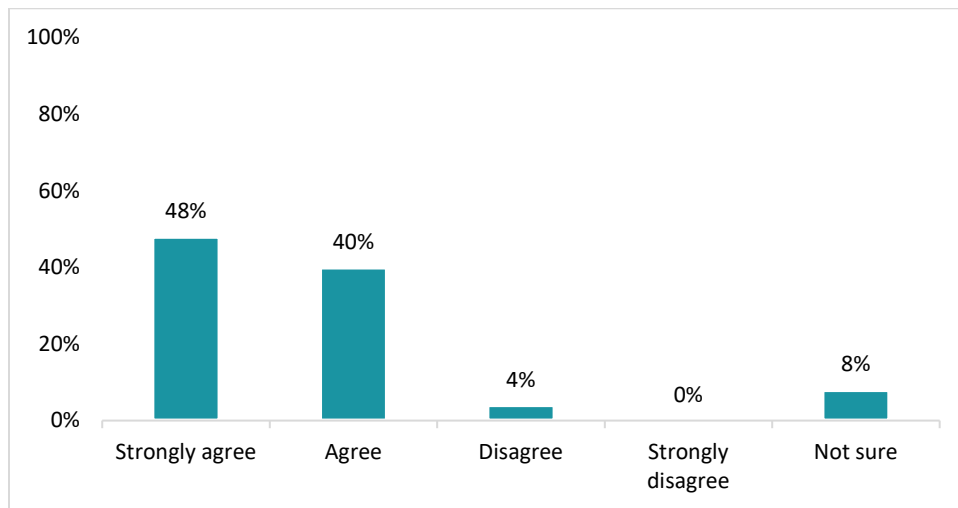


Figure 5: “Do you agree or disagree that in your community you feel like you matter to people?” (n=25)

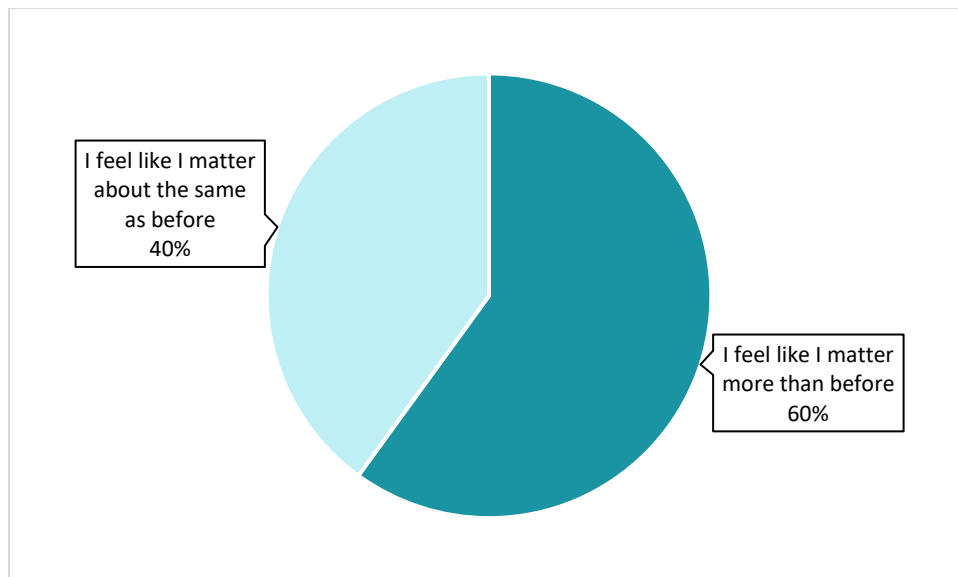


Figure 6: “Which statement best describes how participating in Youth Matter Grants impacted your feelings about mattering in your community?” (n=25)

Impact on Number of Adults Youth Feel Comfortable Asking for Help

When asked how many adults besides their parents they would feel comfortable seeking help from if they had an important question affecting their life, more than one-quarter of participants who completed a survey (28.0%) said they would be comfortable asking for help from five or more adults. One-fifth (20%) indicated they would feel comfortable seeking help from four adults and another 20% indicated three adults. Fewer than one in ten (8.0%) responded with either one adult or no adults. Close to two-thirds of participants who completed a survey (64.0%) said the number of adults they would feel comfortable seeking help from was about the same as before they participated in Youth Matter Grants. The remainder (36.0%) said they now had more adults they would feel comfortable seeking help from if they had an important question affecting their life. There were no respondents who said they had fewer adults they would feel comfortable seeking help from after participating. This is shown in Figures 7 and 8.

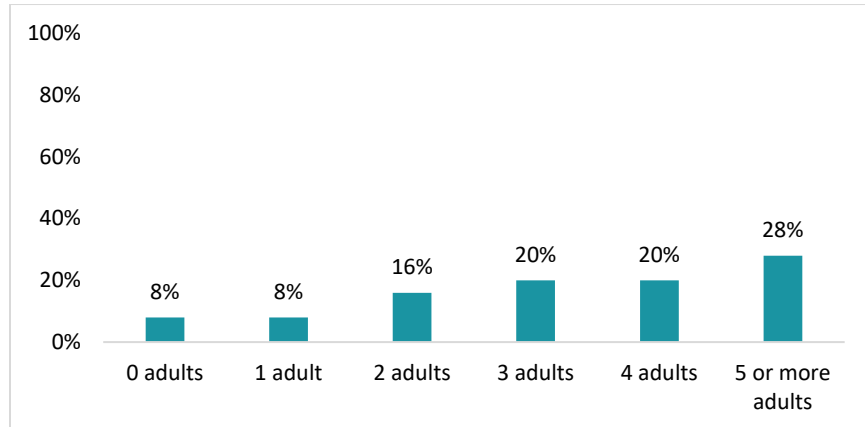


Figure 7: “Besides your parents, how many adults would you feel comfortable seeking help from if you had an important question affecting your life?” (n=25)

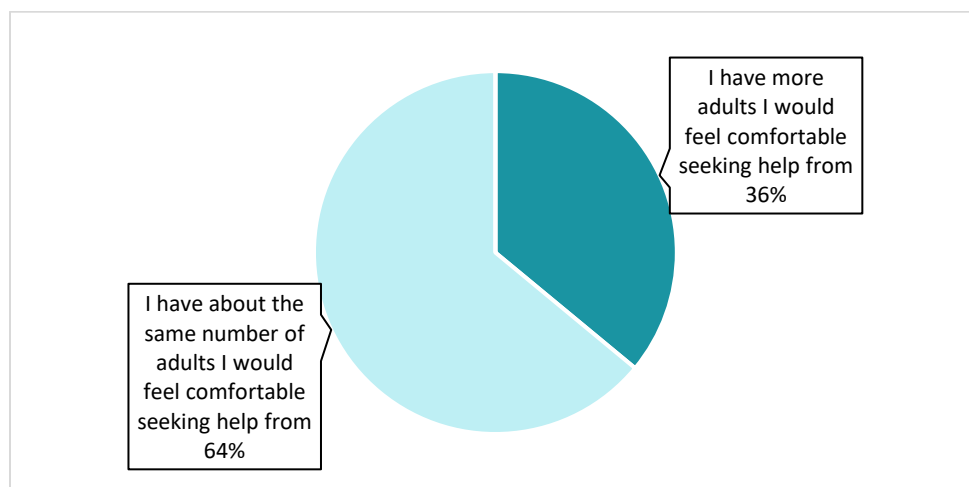


Figure 8: “Which statement best describes how participating in Youth Matter Grants impacted the number of adults you would feel comfortable seeking help from if you had an important question affecting your life?” (n=25)

Impact on Youth Interest in Learning, Education, and School

To assess Youth Matter Grants program impact on interest in learning, education, and school, all participants who completed a survey were asked to rate how much they agreed or disagreed with the statement “Compared to before I started working on this project, I feel more interested in learning, education, and school.” While 20.0% said they weren’t sure, the majority of participants either agreed (40.0%) or strongly agreed (30.0%) with this statement. These data are shown in Figure 9.

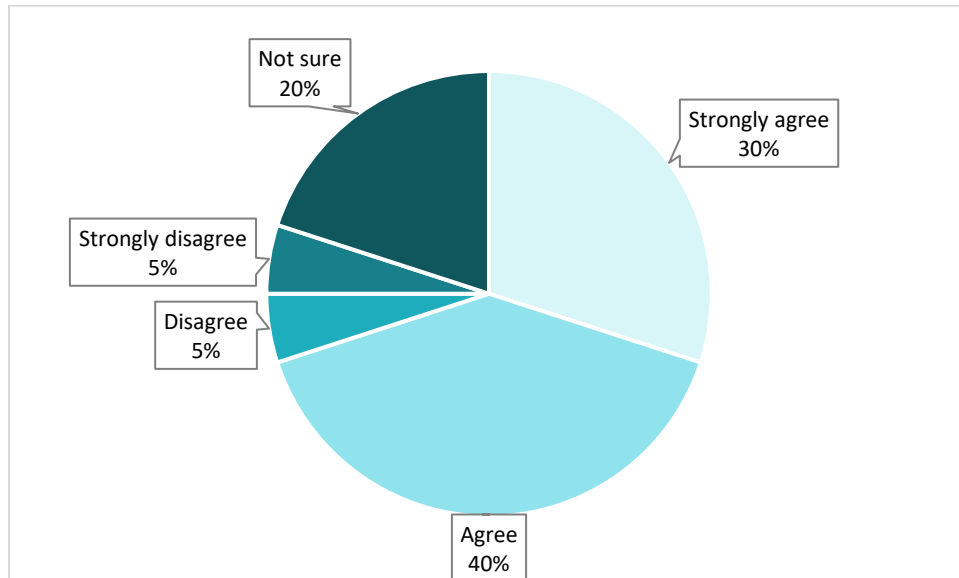


Figure 9: “Compared to before I started working on this project, I feel more interested in learning, education, and school.” (n=25)

Findings: Youth Matter Grants Program Satisfaction

Participants who completed a survey described liking many aspects of their projects, including getting to work as a team or with their peers (25.0%); that everyone had opportunities to contribute, be heard, and hear the perspectives of others (20.0%); and that it was fun, not a large time commitment or stressful, and “a nice way to cool off” (20.0%). Participants also expressed that they enjoyed educating others, seeing their projects come to life, and learning about new things. Data for this survey question are shown in Table 7.

Table 7: “What I liked about the project...” (n=25 responses from 20 participants)

| Theme | Count | Percent of Participants |
|---|-------|-------------------------|
| Working with other young people or peers, getting to work as a team | 5 | 25.0% |
| Everyone had an opportunity to contribute and be heard, hearing other perspectives | 4 | 20.0% |
| It was fun, was not a big time commitment or stressful, was a “nice way to cool off” | 4 | 20.0% |
| Educating others, creating a project that benefits other youth | 3 | 15.0% |
| Bringing ideas or project to life, “creating something wonderful” | 3 | 15.0% |
| Learning new things (including exploring civil discourse, learning about mental health) | 2 | 10.0% |
| The mental health expo | 2 | 10.0% |
| Other (working with a graphic artist, helped me realize I’m not alone) | 2 | 10.0% |

Participants were also asked to describe what helped them feel safe and/or welcomed during their project. More than half of participants who completed a survey (55.6%) described positive and supportive ways in which people worked together, and more than one-quarter (27.8%) described the people involved with their project in more general terms, including knowing each other or being surrounded by like-minded peers. Participants also described different ways they shared ideas, and that everyone was able to be involved or to help. These data are shown in Table 8.

Table 8: “What helped you feel safe and/or welcomed during this project?” (n=19 responses from 18 participants)

| Theme | Count | Percent of Participants |
|---|-------|-------------------------|
| People worked together in supportive and positive ways (encouraged questions, valued input of others, accepted new people into the project, no judgement, everyone listened, everyone was nice, adults treated everyone with equal respect) | 10 | 55.6% |
| The people (people in their group knew each other, being surrounded by like-minded peers, having friends there) | 4 | 27.8% |
| Ways of sharing of ideas (informal discussion, not just verbal, bouncing around ideas) | 3 | 16.7% |
| Everyone was involved or was able to help | 2 | 11.1% |

Satisfaction with Organization Representative

Participant satisfaction with their organization representative was high overall. All participants who completed a survey either agreed or strongly agreed that they felt respected by their organization representative throughout the project. Except for one participant who strongly disagreed that their organization representative really listened to what team members had to say, and those who indicated they were not sure, all respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the other three statements. This is shown in Figure 10.

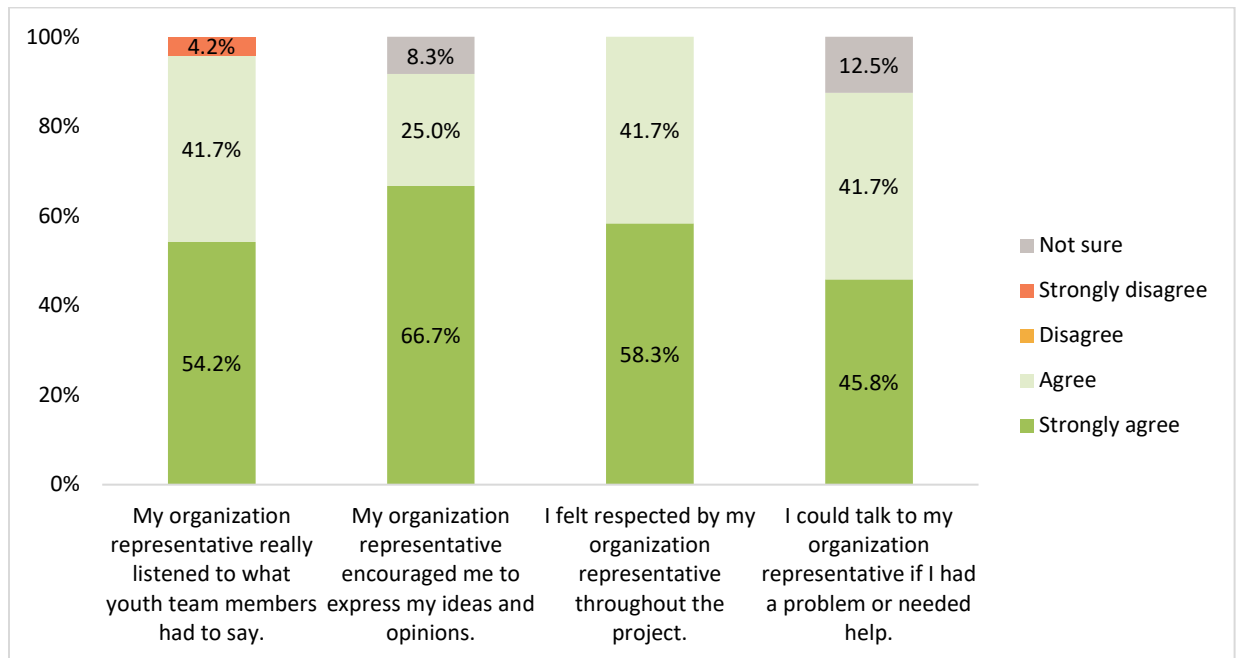


Figure 10: Participant satisfaction with organization representative (n=24)

When asked to describe ways that their organization representative helped them feel supported, more than half of participants who completed a survey (57.9%) described that their organization representative listened and encouraged them to share their ideas or opinions. Respondents also described that their organization representative offered help when needed (21.1%) and was supportive of other circumstances outside of the project such as during finals or “rough patches in life” (15.8%). This is shown in Table 9.

Table 9: “My organization representative helped me feel supported in this project when they...” (n=24 responses from 19 participants)

| Theme | Count | Percent of Participants |
|--|-------|-------------------------|
| Listened, encouraged me to share opinions, created safe environment for sharing ideas, made sure everyone had a chance to talk | 11 | 57.9% |
| Provided help when needed including help brainstorming and sorting ideas, and help recording interviews | 4 | 21.1% |
| Supportive of outside circumstances (flexible with time around finals, understood when couldn't participate, helped through rough patches in life) | 3 | 15.8% |
| Let us lead the project, encouraged rather than “forced” | 2 | 10.5% |
| Did fun things with everyone | 2 | 10.5% |
| Other (meetings that helped shape project, no judgement) | 2 | 10.5% |

Satisfaction with Team and Teamwork

Participant satisfaction with their team and teamwork was also very high. The vast majority of participants who completed a survey either agreed or strongly agreed with each of the six statements presented about their experiences with their team. In fact, more than half of respondents strongly agreed with each of these statements. This is shown in Figure 11.

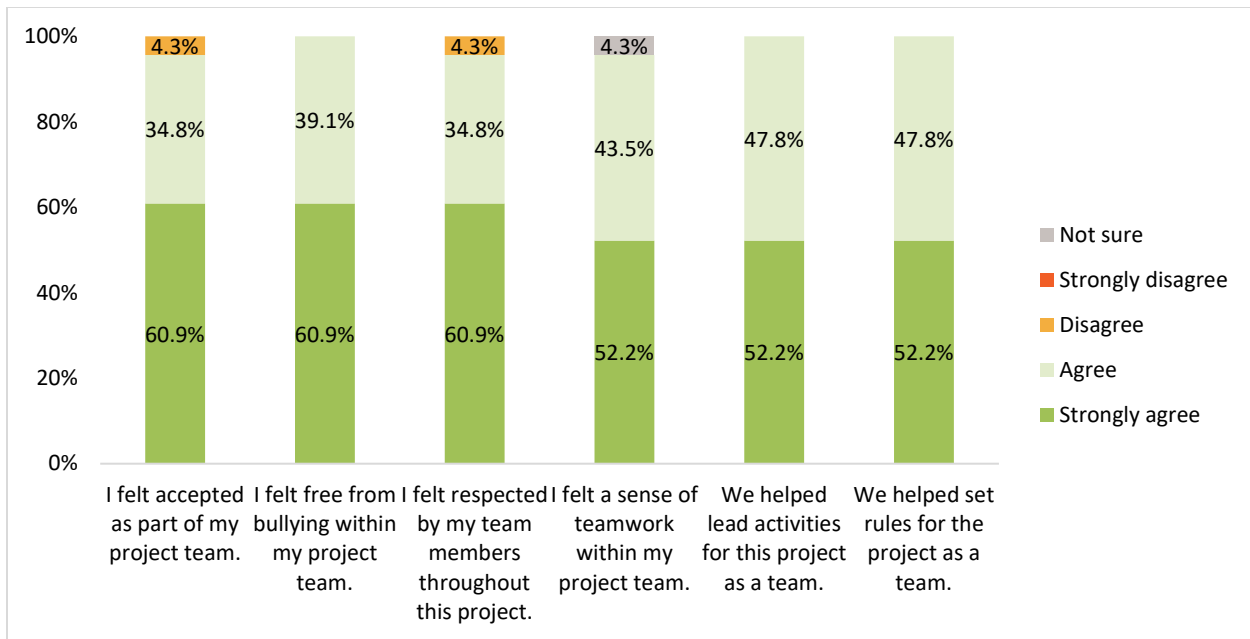


Figure 11: Participant Satisfaction with Team and Teamwork (n=23)

Satisfaction with Learning and Ability to Make a Difference

Participant satisfaction with their learning and ability to make a difference was also high. While there were a few respondents who were not sure whether they felt their project made a positive difference in the community, there was only one respondent who disagreed with the statement that they felt like they had power to influence decisions about the project. These data are shown in Figure 12.

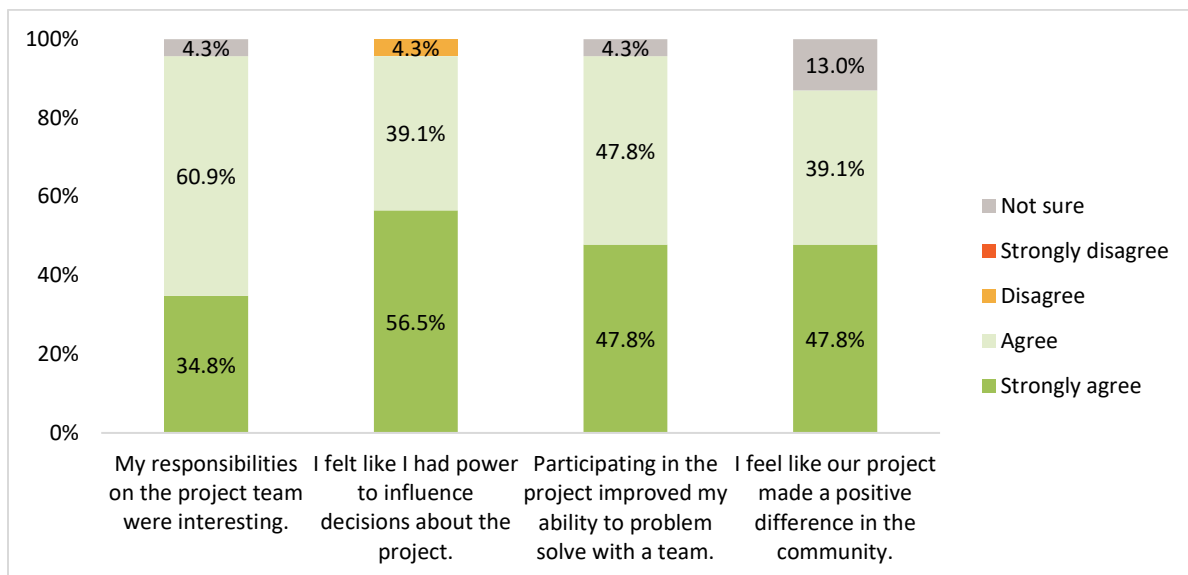


Figure 12: Participant Satisfaction with Learning and Ability to Make a Difference (n=23)

Participants who completed the survey shared a number of ways they were able to make a difference in their community with their project. These examples included that they were able to educate their peers and the community on specific topics, that they were able to improve peer connection or build a sense of community, that they created a space for people to have constructive conversations, and that they helped people feel more comfortable and confident in themselves. A complete summary is shown in Table 10 below.

*Table 10: “In what ways were you able to make a difference in your community with your project?”
(n=19 responses from 16 participants)*

| Theme | Count | Percent of Participants |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Educated peers and community | 5 | 31.3% |
| Helped people feel more connected, build peer connection or sense of community | 3 | 18.8% |
| Created space for people to have constructive conversations | 3 | 18.8% |
| Helped people feel more comfortable with themselves or good about themselves | 3 | 18.8% |
| Other (Helped encourage young musicians to keep playing their instruments, “helped AYS become more connected with SSE”, mental health expo, people won prizes which made them happy, showed where you can get help if you need it) | 5 | 31.3% |

Discussion

Survey results suggest that the Youth Matter Grants program had a positive impact for participants. The vast majority of participants who completed a survey either agreed or strongly agreed with statements related to their ability to make a difference in the community after participating in Youth Matter Grants, and in all cases, there was an increase in the percentage of respondents who strongly agreed with each statement after participating when compared to before they participated. Nearly two-thirds of participants who completed a survey (63.6%) indicated a positive shift in their belief that people their age help to make their community a better place to live after participating in Youth Matter Grants. Corroborating this finding, 60% of respondents indicated that they feel like they matter more to people in their community after participating in Youth Matter Grants than they did before. Additionally, roughly one-third of respondents (36.0%) indicated they have more adults they would feel comfortable seeking help from if they had an important question affecting their life than before they participated, and most respondents (70.0%) either agreed or strongly agreed that they feel more interested in learning, education, and school after participating in Youth Matter Grants.

Participant satisfaction also appeared to be very high. The vast majority of participants who completed a survey agreed or strongly agreed with all statements included in the survey about their satisfaction with their organization representative, about their satisfaction with their team and teamwork, and about their satisfaction with their own learning and ability to make a difference. In open-ended questions, respondents described many aspects of their projects that they liked including getting to work with a team and with their peers, the opportunities to contribute and be heard, and that it was fun. They also described a number of positive and supportive ways that people worked together such as by encouraging questions and input and by listening and treating everyone with equal respect. Participants who completed a survey appreciated the listening and encouragement provided by their organization representatives, as well as the help and support provided when needed.

It is worth noting that of the 26 surveys completed, nearly half (46.2%) were completed by participants in Begich Middle School YANA Club. Roughly one-quarter were completed by participants in Anchorage Youth Vote (23.1%) and Alaska Youth Orchestras (26.9%). Only one survey (3.8% of all surveys) was completed by a participant in See Stories. While the purpose of the survey was to assess the benefit of Youth Matter Grants and not the differences between Youth Matter Grants grantees, survey results are heavily weighted towards the experiences of participants from Begich Middle School YANA Club. The findings may therefore be less reflective of the experiences of youth in the other three projects, and in particular See Stories. This should be taken into account when considering these findings.

Appendix A: All Survey Responses to Questions Measuring Impact of Youth Matter Grants (Figures 2-9)

| How much would you have agreed or disagreed with each of the following statements before you participated in Youth Matter Grants? | n | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Not Sure |
|---|----|----------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Adults in my community respect what people my age think. | 25 | 4 (16.0%) | 11 (44.0%) | 4 (16.0%) | 1 (4.0%) | 5 (20.0%) |
| People my age help to make our community a better place to live. | 25 | 4 (16.0%) | 15 (60.0%) | 3 (12.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 3 (12.0%) |
| Helping other people is important to me | 25 | 11 (44.0%) | 12 (48.0%) | 2 (8.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| I have confidence in my ability to help other people. | 25 | 9 (36.0%) | 10 (40.0%) | 6 (24.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| I believe that things I do can make a positive difference in my community. | 25 | 9 (36.0%) | 10 (40.0%) | 3 (12.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 3 (12.0%) |

| How much would you agree or disagree with each of the following statements now, after participating in Youth Matter Grants? | n | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Not Sure |
|---|----|----------------|------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Adults in my community respect what people my age think. | 25 | 8 (32.0) | 14 (56.0%) | 1 (4.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 2 (8.0%) |
| People my age help to make our community a better place to live. | 25 | 14 (56.0%) | 10 (40.0%) | 1 (4.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| Helping other people is important to me | 25 | 13 (52.0%) | 10 (40.0%) | 2 (8.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| I have confidence in my ability to help other people. | 25 | 14 (56.0%) | 10 (40.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 1 (4.0%) |
| I believe that things I do can make a positive difference in my community. | 25 | 13 (52.0%) | 12 (48.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) |

| | n | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Not Sure |
|---|----|----------------|------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Do you agree or disagree that in your community you feel like you matter to people? | 25 | 12 (48.0%) | 10 (40.0%) | 1 (4.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 2 (8.0%) |

| Which statement best describes how participating in Youth Matter Grants impacted your feelings about mattering in your community? (n=25) | |
|---|------------|
| After participating in Youth Matter Grants I feel like I matter more to people in my community than I felt like I did before. | 15 (60.0%) |
| After participating in Youth Matter Grants I feel like I matter about the same amount to people in my community as I felt like I did before. | 10 (40.0%) |
| After participating in Youth Matter Grants I feel like I matter less to people in my community than I felt like I did before. | 0 (0.0%) |

| | n | 0 adults | 1 adult | 2 adults | 3 adults | 4 adults | 5 or more adults |
|--|----|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| Besides your parents, how many adults would you feel comfortable seeking help from if you had an important question affecting your life? | 25 | 2 (8.0%) | 2 (8.0%) | 4 (16.0%) | 5 (20.0%) | 5 (20.0%) | 7 (28.0%) |

| Which statement best describes how participating in Youth Matter Grants impacted the number of adults you would feel comfortable seeking help from if you had an important question affecting your life? (n=25) | |
|--|------------|
| After participating in Youth Matter Grants, I have more adults I would feel comfortable seeking help from if I had an important question affecting my life than I did before. | 9 (36.0%) |
| After participating in Youth Matter Grants, I have about the same number of adults I would feel comfortable seeking help from if I had an important question affecting my life as I did before. | 16 (64.0%) |
| After participating in Youth Matter Grants, I have fewer adults I would feel comfortable seeking help from if I had an important question affecting my life than I did before. | 0 (0.0%) |

| | n | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Not Sure |
|--|----------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Compared to before I started working on this project, I feel more interested in learning, education, and school. | 20 | 6 (30.0%) | 8 (40.0%) | 1 (5.0%) | 1 (5.0%) | 4 (20.0%) |