

Hello Peers and Partners,

Do you have youth projects, campaigns or initiatives coming up this school year that could use youth voice or review by a group of professional and passionate young people? Please take a moment to review the below description of YAHA and consider working with us!



YOUTH ALLIANCE FOR A HEALTHIER ALASKA

What is YAHA? The **Youth Alliance for a Healthier Alaska** is a group of teens (14-18 years of age) from across the state that provides feedback and advice on youth-targeted campaigns and publications. We respond to important teen issues such as mental health, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, resiliency, and nutrition and fitness through community based interventions.



What does YAHA do? We work with and advise youth serving organizations in Alaska. We provided guidance on youth resources to the [Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium](#), we provided feedback on the [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#) and we also annually review the [Stand Up Speak Up Campaign mini-grants](#) which empower youth to create community interventions aimed to increase healthy relationships. This year we have already advised the Office of Substance Abuse, Misuse and Prevention. We also design and implement creative strategies to help

increase positive health outcomes in Alaska!

Those that have worked with this year say:

- “It’s almost hard to believe that YAHA exists. YAHA is “walking the talk” of prevention and health promotion. It is so affirming and satisfying that YAHA is within the public structure of the State of Alaska. It makes me proud of the AK State government and encourages me to become even more engaged civically.” Hope Finkelstein, Alaska Wellness Coalition
- “YAHA gave valuable insight on our video spots. The students pointed out a need to strengthen our call to action. YAHA also gave helpful feedback on how/where students are accessing media, shaping our ad placement choices for the campaign. We believe we’ll see great improvement in the effectiveness of these spots and we looking forward to working with these students again.” Regina McConkey, DHSS Public Information’s Team
- “I learned that we are on the right track with respect to content and delivery. I also received useful input regarding additional topics and examples to include.” -University of Alaska, Department of Health Sciences

When/where does YAHA meet? We meet in-person twice per year and then once monthly on the weekends via teleconference through the school year to engage with youth serving organizations and offer priceless feedback and youth voice.

How can you utilize this professional and fabulous resource? Please contact Jennifer Baker via email jennifer.baker@alaska.gov or via phone 907-269-4517 to learn how you can take part in this fabulous opportunity! We look forward to working with you. While you are at it, check us out: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/adolescent/yaha.aspx>!