

# Youth Voice Grants

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The Our Tomorrow Youth Voice Grant supports projects that allow young people to activate their voices and turn their ideas into action. We know that young people have ideas to make their schools and communities better. We also understand that there are rare opportunities that support their voice and vision. Since the Spring of 2018, Our Tomorrow has been working with young people and community partners to grow

youth voice in policy and decision making and increase intergenerational leadership.

We created this opportunity for San Antonio high school youth and their adult champions to apply for grants that range from \$500-\$3000 to design projects for young people that are led by young people. **Grant applications will be accepted from Oct. 11 to Dec. 3, 2021.**

Youth with ideas to affect change for themselves and their peers, exercise and build their leadership capacity, develop their skills, and explore opportunities for a brighter future are encouraged to apply.

## Youth Grant Committee

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To further demonstrate our support of youth voice, Our Tomorrow has formed a Youth Grant Committee. The Youth Grant Committee is composed of 11 San Antonio high school students who have demonstrated an interest in growing youth voice and serving their community while improving their philanthropic and leadership skills.

It is the responsibility of the Youth Grant Committee to solicit and review grant applications from their peers for youth-led, youth-serving projects; visit the high schools of grantees to learn more about the state of youth voice and the philanthropic landscape of San Antonio, and participate in ongoing training and professional development activities.

## Grant Eligibility Requirements

- High school students in the SAISD, ECISD, and SWISD school districts are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be a registered school-based student-led organization or intend to use the funds to do so. Community-based organizations that have youth voice as part of their decision making structure at the community or school level and co-creation programming are also eligible to apply.
- Project groups must have at least three young people. Grants will not be awarded to individuals.
- All applicants must have a school or community-based organization supporter to help manage the awarded grant.
- Students must provide a one-page letter of support from a school representative, preferably a member of the school administration.
- Groups must receive funds through their school.

# Project Types

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Below is a list of the possible project types that the awarded grants can be used to support. This is not an exhaustive list of fundable projects. Some ideas may fall within more than one category. If you have an idea that is not on this list, contact us for further support.

Type	Description
Civic Engagement	Activities surrounding organizing around a cause, a protest, or creating connections with others across young people and sectors like advocating within local and/or national government, advocating for policies to benefit a community or cause (ie. creating a campaign of positive messaging about San Antonio youth)
Technology	Projects that involve learning about data and research or giving young people the tools and training to develop data collection systems for tracking and reporting youth civic engagement (e.g., data clubs, cybersecurity clubs, computer sci/software development, app development)
Environmental Rights	Projects that involve creating opportunities for young people to get involved in environmental or agricultural advocacy like advocating within local and/or national government, advocating policies to benefit a community or cause (ie. training with local farmers to learn sustainable)
Education	Projects involving learning about college options, how to apply for college and scholarship opportunities, or projects about learning more about an academic subject
Skill Building	Activities designed to increase your skills in a given area (e.g. increasing job skills, financial literacy, community service opportunities, internships, community organizing, advocacy skills or skills related to other project types such as cross-cultural training, mental health, or gender inclusivity)
Equity	Activities designed to increase opportunities for marginalized groups (e.g. promote access to leadership training for young men of color and Dreamers, supporting college attendance for homeless youth, promoting exposure and voice for transgendered individuals)
Healthy Relationships and Bonding	Projects may include a mentoring program by or for youth, creating an online support program for youth, or an anti-bullying program, establishing an internet café.
Establishing Clubs or Organizations	Projects may include creating a club or organization around a specific activity or interest such as a book club, travel, or learning about history.

Type	Description
Community Service	Projects designed around performing some community service such as reading to kids online or serving on a phone bank
Prevention Relations Projects	Projects designed around preventing or reducing substance abuse, crime prevention, or reducing recidivism among juvenile and ex-offenders or projects linking youth to relevant social service organizations
Parent Involvement	Projects involving educating parents, getting support from parents, or improving parent-child bonding
Arts & Culture	Projects involving art creation or educational activities, learning about a culture, designing and collaborating on an artistic project or projects
Health and Fitness	Activities surrounding improving health & fitness such as an online exercise support group, yoga practice, or a nutrition club

For further information and inquiries, please contact Leroy Adams, Senior Youth Voice Manager of Our Tomorrow via email at [leroy@uppartnership.org](mailto:leroy@uppartnership.org), (210) 787-4655.



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