Frequently Asked Questions

What is *youthink*?

- We are an **incubator hub** – we lead teams across the US through a 6 to 8 month-long process that provides hands-on training, coaching, funding, and other offerings, so that they can design, test, and "incubate" new ideas for complex challenges.
- We use **design thinking** – a process to help you dive deep with your community to better understand their needs and develop meaningful solutions (or 'innovations') to address them.
- We specialize in **adolescent and young adult health** – meaning we are focused on topics that affect the health of young people ages 12 to 25.
- We ground this work in our **guiding principles** – and we partner best with people who are driven by their own mission, vision, and values too.

Who can join *youthink*?

- We are looking for applications from teams composed of 3-5 members. Teams can come from anywhere across the U.S. and U.S. territories; all members must be at least 18 years of age. Teams need:
  - One "team lead" (see more below)
  - One lead agency that can act as a fiscal sponsor to receive funds from *youthink*
- *Note! – Team members do not need to be part of the same organization and individuals (i.e., those not associated with an organization) are also welcome to apply as part of a team.*

What is *youthink* looking for in applications?

- Teams that include passionate, open-minded, and excited individuals who know of a problem or gap for young people in their community and want to be part of developing the solution.
- Teams can include individuals at any level of the organization.
- We prioritize teams who represent the communities and/or lived experiences of the people they aim to serve as well as those who have a member aged 18 to 25 years.
- *Note! – No prior experience with innovation or design thinking needed.*

What will I gain from participating in *youthink*?

- **Innovation expertise** (and a potential innovation to support your community's needs!): Teams will walk away knowing how to use design thinking to gather and analyze community insights, develop creative ideas, pick and test solutions, and repeat this process in their future endeavors.
- New **adolescent health perspectives**: In addition to training in innovation and design thinking, teams will receive foundational trainings in social determinants of health, youth engagement, and other timely adolescent health topics, led by *youthink's* diverse network of health professionals and subject-matter experts.
- A dedicated **support network**: Teams will share the incubator experience with a group of likeminded changemakers and a wide range of personal coaches, trainers, and subject matter experts to support you along your journey in *youthink* and beyond.
- **Funding**: Teams will receive up to $50,000 as determined with the *youthink* team, to use towards supporting personnel costs, incentives, and other needs associated with the design process.

What is the application process?

- **Step 1:** Complete the written application no later than **June 30** – applications will be reviewed as received and those received after June 30 will be considered for future cohorts.
- **Step 2:** *youthink* staff will conduct interviews with selected teams (June – July)
- **Step 3:** *youthink* staff will request references from top teams (June – July)
- **Step 4:** *youthink* staff will select final teams for cohort and teams will complete required paperwork (August)
- *Note! Our application is hosted through a platform called Ideawake – which requires you to quickly create an account. But rest assured, you will not be contacted for anything other than your engagement with youthink.*

What is the time commitment for *youthink*?

- *youthink* cohorts last for 6-8 months and each team member can expect to contribute between 5 to 20 hours per month depending on their role.
  - All team members will be expected to attend:
    - 90-minute virtual onboarding meeting
    - 2 in-person events fully funded by youthink
    - 12 hours of live virtual trainings
  - Certain team members will also be expected to join weekly coaching calls, participate in as needed consulting sessions, and complete independent work/deliverables associated with the *youthink* process.

What are the key dates for *youthink*?

- August 2024: Onboarding
- September 2024: Cohort launch
- September 25-26, 2024: In-person orientation event in Los Angeles, CA
- October 2024 – April 2025: Main *youthink* curriculum with regular trainings, coaching, consulting, etc. (schedule TBD with cohort)
- Early February 2025: In-person training event in TBD location
- Additional details will be provided during the application process.
- *Note! If the timing doesn't work for you this time around, our application is always open and will review your application for our next cohort (start date anticipated Fall 2025). Make sure to also opt into our* **email list** *to stay in the loop on future opportunities and other special events.*

What does it mean to be the "team lead"?

- The team lead is the person on your team who handles the majority of the communication with *youthink*. They also assist with any reporting that is needed and managing finances for the team. The team lead will participate in all coaching calls and cohort activities and ensure the rest of the team stays engaged in the process.

Does all funding need to be spent within the cohort period?

- Yes. The *youthink* team will work with you to set up a budget based on your needs for your time with us to ensure all funds are spent during the 6 to 8 months.

Who is leading this hub?

- *youthink* is led by the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) in partnership with the CHLA Innovation Studio.

How is *youthink* funded?

- *youthink* is funded through the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) funding to support multiple teams to reduce unintended teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), or associated risk and protective factors, and promote positive youth development and adolescent health.

Do I need to be affiliated with the OPA to apply?

- No. You do not need to have any current or past Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) grants or funding through any source including the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) to apply.

Additional Resources

- Application: **youthink.Ideawake.com**
- Website: **youthink.health**
- Email: **youthink@chla.usc.edu**
- Office Hours:
    - June 6, 1pm-2:30pm PT (**Zoom Link**)
    - June 12, 9:30am-11am PT (**Zoom Link**)
    - June 20, 12pm-1:30pm PT (**Zoom Link**)
    - June 27, 12pm-1:30pm PT (**Zoom Link**)