



Meeting Notes

**Proposition 64 Advisory Group
 April 18, 2024
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Hybrid Meeting**

Members Present	
Denise Galvez	Le Ondra Clark Harvey
Jessica Guerra	Pete Neilson
Stephanie List	Adrienne Shilton
Jim Keddy	Martin D Martinez II
Lynn Silver	Vince Leus
Karina Pangan	Cornelle Jenkins

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Denise Galvez, Prevention and Youth Branch Chief, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Galvez opened the meeting by thanking the Proposition 64 Advisory Group (Prop 64 AG) members for attending. Then, both in-person and virtual attendees introduced themselves.

Galvez announced Stephanie List as the new Prop 64 Program Unit Staff Services Manager I. Galvez highlighted the April 2024 DHCS [news release](#) announcing the [Elevate Youth California](#) (EYC) Round 5 cohort awards to 75 grantees, which was also recognized by the [Governor’s Office](#). Galvez shared the challenges with fund distribution and award amounts and requested feedback from the Prop 64 AG for planning and implementing the EYC program.

Proposition 64 Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention, and Treatment Account (YEPEITA) DHCS Contract Updates – Rounds 5 and 6

Jessica Guerra, Program and Policy Section Chief, DHCS

Guerra noted that the Standard Track Cohort 5 was the largest track in EYC history, with 75 grantees awarded in 2024.

Guerra shared contract amounts for the fiscal year (FY) 2023-2024. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) received \$12 million for prevention education campaigns and drug data surveillance. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) received \$246.3 million for childcare and child development programs. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) received \$16.4 million for youth access to natural and cultural resources. The Center at Sierra Health Foundation (The Center) received \$55.7 million for the EYC program.

Guerra shared the contract amounts for FY 2024-2025 based on projections. CDPH will receive \$12 million, CDSS will receive \$247 million, CNRA will receive \$16 million, and The Center will receive approximately \$65 million.

Guerra provided an overview of the YEPEITA budget. Guerra explained how Proposition 64 created two new taxes, the revenues of which are deposited into the California Cannabis Tax Fund. After other specified disbursements, current law allocates 60 percent of the remaining California Cannabis Tax Fund to be deposited into the YEPEITA. Funds are then disbursed to DHCS to be administered to CDPH, CDSS, CNRA, and The Center. This FY, there was a delay in administering funds due to the delayed YEPEITA deposits. Additionally, the YEPEITA budget amount is still settling. Throughout the year, DHCS is provided with tax projections for YEPEITA, but contracts cannot be executed until tax actuals are deposited. Due to delayed deposits, contractors and grantees experienced funding delays.

Galvez shared that since the YEPEITA account was short approximately \$30 million, DHCS could not fund programs to remain on schedule. To ensure the YEPEITA account is not overdrawn and programs can continue, DHCS will incorporate Prop 64 AG feedback and create measures to address the issue.

Palvinder Kaur shared that the EYC Request for Application will be released in December 2024, and awards will be announced in January 2025. The Center Foundation is creating a timeline that allows for potential budget and deposit delays.

Galvez shared that there was no EYC capacity building round due to funding delays, but the opportunity will be available in the future. Capacity Building cohorts may no longer continue because entities have developed the tools necessary to implement their programs. Significant decisions, like the continuance of Capacity Building cohort funding, will be made by DHCS, with recommendations from Prop 64 AG members. Additionally, funding will be more competitive next year as earlier rounds of EYC grantees will be eligible to reapply. DHCS expects organizations that did not receive funding in previous rounds will reapply.

EYC Cohort Updates

Palvinder Kaur, Senior Program Officer, The Center

Kaur shared that the EYC Standard Track distributed 75 awards totaling \$51.8 million in Round 5 across 46 California counties. Due to funding delays, the awards were

announced on April 2, 2024. However, all contracts were backdated to November 16, 2023, and will expire on December 31, 2026.

Kaur displayed a map of California indicating the locations of Cohort 5 and another map showing the locations of all active cohorts. Since the program began, the Center has awarded \$257.8 million to 365 community-based organizations across 55 counties in California.

Kaur highlighted data from The Center's upcoming 2023 annual report. From November 2022 through November 2023, 373,602 participants attended 40,235 program events hosted by EYC grantees. A total of 46,697 unique youth, ages 12 to 26, were engaged. The Center provided 5,800 hours of training and technical assistance (TTA) and helped EYC grantees convene 785 youth listening sessions. EYC grantee projects included peer mentoring, prevention education, health fairs, a youth podcast, mural development, youth roundtables, career exploration, prevention education, and youth leadership. Kaur shared an example of a youth leadership program in which youth voiced their discontent with smokers in local parks to their city council and organized a park clean-up.

Kaur shared that The Center launched a revised reporting tool to collect data from grantees. Of the total youth engaged, 4,100 were two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning, and additional identities used by community members (2S/LGBTQ+). The data gathered indicates the program continues to mainly reach people disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs, such as youth of color (92 percent), 2S/LGBTQ+ communities, and youth 12 to 26 years of age. The Center worked with 4,600 grantees from various sectors, with school districts and youth-serving organizations being the most prominent groups.

The Center provided 5,800 hours of TTA to help their grantees with capacity building and program implementation. Topics included youth leadership, community change, policy systems, communication, storytelling, evaluation, nonprofit management fundamentals, fundraising, and strategic planning. Additionally, The Center provided one-on-one support to grantees during dedicated TTA office hours.

EYC grantees were required to hold at least one youth listening session annually. The Center reported on the findings of the youth listening sessions. Youth expressed a disconnect between the support they received through their community programs and the schools they attended, specifically regarding the availability of safe spaces. Youth expressed challenges accessing behavioral health services. The listening sessions addressed continuing education surrounding the juvenile justice system. One EYC grantee had several youth initiate discussions around substance use disorder, particularly opioid use disorder.

Kaur highlighted EYC's successes, including participants reporting increased awareness of youth substance use disorder, positive coping skills, additional support systems, increased civic engagement, and greater confidence.

One partner trained youth to conduct a community needs assessment to identify gaps in services, resources, and programs for youth. Kaur reported that in the upcoming year, youth will organize town halls, brief funders, and advocate for increased funding to address the gaps identified in the community needs assessment. Kaur also reported that one youth group worked with the Alameda County juvenile justice system. Another partner hosted youth community health fellows who focused on local policy changes. In Humboldt County, youth community and school programs focused on youth behavioral health. Youth in Humboldt participated in civic engagement by representing the queer community in a monthly stakeholder feedback group.

The Center is working to finalize the EYC Youth Survey, which will be disseminated in summer 2024. The Center will host six regional convenings focused on TTA for EYC grantees, with 200 attendees expected at each convening.

Galvez added that The Center conducts TTA for EYC grantees, and DHCS plans to conduct site visits in the next fiscal year. Additionally, DHCS intends to evaluate and assess compliance and refer grantees to The Center if TTA is required.

Youth Listening Session Report

Dr. Virgil Moorehead, Executive Director, Two Feathers Native American Family Services (Two Feathers)

Moorehead shared Two Feathers is an EYC partner organization focused on Native American youth and their families in Humboldt County. He is a Native American and of the Indian Tribes Yurok and Tolowa. Like many of his staff, Moorehead is a trained behavioral health professional specializing in Native American youth and family services. Two Feathers provides youth substance abuse prevention and behavioral health services. Moorehead is a native of Humboldt County and has been with Two Feathers for three years. Two Feathers offers substance use disorder prevention programs that incorporate Native American traditions, such as the Stake Game or Flower Dance, a coming-of-age ceremony. The Center's funding has enabled the growth of programs like [A.C.O.R.N.](#) (Appreciation, Connecting, Opportunity, Relationships, and Nurturing), a cultural youth wellness program. Two Feathers learned that adding youth to their staff keeps them engaged and makes them more effective at reaching other youth.

Two Feathers conducted EYC listening sessions for 80-90 youth. The sessions involved listening to both youth and elders. The listening sessions served to inform Two Feathers about program planning and implementation. EYC funding helped increase their youth employment and leadership program.

The Two Feathers Ambassador Program started in 2022 and serves youth ages 12-24. The organization recruits behavioral health graduate students from nearby universities to work with program participants. Behavioral health clinicians train the graduate students. Graduate students train ambassadors in various peer support and coping skills; youth work 10-20 hours per week. Ambassadors develop leadership and advocacy skills while also expanding their connection to others in their community.

Two Feathers is also working with a consulting group to evaluate their programs to further their impact.

Open Discussion: Round 6 Planning

Denise Galvez, Prevention and Youth Branch Chief, DHCS

Galvez described planning and implementation challenges: timing of deposits, timing of grants, and grant award amounts. DHCS begins to work on contracts for the following fiscal year in January based on the Governor's projected budget. DHCS contracts operate on a state fiscal year, with a start date of July 1. Most recently, the actual deposited YEPEITA amount was lower than the projected amount. DHCS requested the Prop 64 AG to provide recommendations for funding distribution for FY 2024-2025. DHCS can release funds as soon as they are deposited into the YEPEITA account or delay the release until all funds have been deposited.

Galvez reminded the Prop 64 AG that the group chose to fund grants of up to \$1 million. The Prop 64 AG also chose to fund a Standard Track and a Capacity Building Track for the EYC program. Galvez asked the group to consider whether capacity building grants were still needed and whether the fiscal size of grants was still appropriate and realistic. Input from Prop 64 AG members will help determine the best course of action to address the current challenges with administering funding.

Guerra shared that EYC will receive \$64.5 million in FY 2024-2025. Historically, applicants could apply for \$1 million for a three-year grant period. If the grantee cannot spend down the \$1 million within their contract period, The Center can use it to competitively redistribute those funds among current cohort grantees.

Martin D Martinez II asked how the EYC funds are distributed.

Kaur explained that grantees receive annual payments; only 10 percent of the final payment is held until the project is complete.

Le Ondra Clark Harvey asked about the FY timeline for deposits.

Guerra shared that the final payment is sometimes not received until May or June. Waiting a whole year until funds are received would impact services for returning grantees. If a deposit comes late in the fiscal year, the funds could also be rolled over into the next round of awards.

Clark Harvey is in favor of granting organizations sooner rather than later.

Jim Keddy expressed concern that smaller grant awards could have much less of an impact on their community. Keddy favors larger rather than smaller grants and longer rather than shorter time periods.

Galvez shared that the current timeline for dispersing funds is November for the Standard Track and May for the Capacity Building Track. Some EYC partners have leveraged their funding from DHCS to gain other funding.

Vince Leus shared that reimbursement grants hinder smaller organizations from participating in a state grant program. For equity purposes, he supports providing funds to organizations sooner rather than later in the award process.

Martinez shared that organizations in small rural communities may struggle to spend \$1 million. He supports smaller grants, when appropriate, based on community needs.

Kaur shared that The Center considers organizational capacity before recommending funding. Not all applicants apply for a million dollars in funding.

Pangan supports large dollar grants on a case-by-case basis and releasing those funds as soon as they are available.

Clark Harvey is in favor of capacity building grants, releasing funds as soon as they are available and keeping the opportunity of up to \$1 million available to organizations.

Galvez shared that DHCS will continue to seek member feedback in the coming weeks.

Guerra shared that based on budget projections, Round 6 includes \$48 million for the Standard Track and \$12 million for the Capacity Building Track. Amounts are subject to change based on actual deposit amounts. DHCS expects to know the final amounts in spring 2025. The allocations are usually 80 percent Standard Track and 20 percent Capacity Building Track.

Keddy shared that communities in California are now seeing high concentrations of THC Delta 8 and 9 synthetics in hemp products sold in corner stores (gas stations, vape shops, and dispensary shops). A farm bill two years ago made this change possible. These hemp products are potent, unregulated, and accessible to youth. Keddy wants the Prop 64 AG to be aware of the hemp trend.

Public Comment

All participants

Janette Torres-Soliz, Data Analyst from Eden Youth, a nonprofit from EYC Cohort 3, is looking forward to reapplying in Round 6. As a grantee, she urges the Prop 64 AG to release funds as soon as they are available. Eden Youth can use the funds to hire youth educators and young adults looking for experience working with other youth. If funds are delayed, so are program deliverables.

Ellen Komp shared via chat that communities that do not license legal cannabis outlets continue to see non-licensed cannabis outlets thrive. She noted that not all enforcement or childcare funds have been spent.

Closing and Next Steps

Denise Galvez, Prevention and Youth Branch Chief, DHCS

Galvez shared the timeline and next steps. DHCS will review the Governor's May Revision in May 2024. In June 2024, DHCS plans to close out Round 3 with CDSS and CDPH. In July 2024, DHCS will begin Round 6 with The Center. In August 2024, DHCS will host another Prop 64 AG meeting. Specific details of The Center's timeline will be determined in late summer or early fall. Galvez thanked all for attending and participating.