



Frequently Asked Questions



What is *youthink*?

- *youthink* was created for people to get support developing innovative solutions to complex challenges.
 - We refer to ourselves as an **incubator hub**, a term often used in the innovation field – we lead cohorts of 4 to 6 teams through a 6 to 8 month-long process that includes hands-on training, coaching, tools, and funding, so that they can design, test, and “incubate” new ideas.
 - 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. **To view our guiding principles, scroll to the last question on this page.*

Who can join *youthink*?

- We accept applications from teams with 3 to 5 members, which must include:
 - One “team lead” (the key point person for the application and other core communications)
 - 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?

- Passionate, open-minded, and excited teams who know of a problem or gap for young people in their community and want to be part of developing the solution.
- We prioritize teams who represent the communities or lived experiences of the people they aim to serve and/or 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, structural change, 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 like-minded changemakers and a slew of personal coaches, expert consultants, and partners to support you along your journey in the incubator hub 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: Submit an [interest form](#) to stay in the loop! (Apr. 8 – Apr. 30)
- Step 2: Complete the written application (May 1 – Jun. 30)
 - Applications received after June 30 will be considered for future cohorts.
- Step 3: *youthink* staff will conduct interviews with selected teams (Jun. 1 – Jul. 30)
- Step 4: *youthink* staff will request references from top teams (Jun. 1 – Jul. 30)
- Step 5: *youthink* staff will select final teams for cohort and teams will complete required paperwork (Aug. 1 – Aug. 31)
- *Note! Our interest form and application are 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 an average of 5-15 hours per month.
- Throughout this time, all team members are expected to attend:
 - 90-minute virtual onboarding meeting
 - 2 in-person events fully funded by *youthink*
 - 10-hours of live virtual trainings
- Certain team members will also be expected to complete independent work/deliverables, coaching calls, and /or additional meetings with consultants to develop their innovative solution as needed.

What are the key dates for youthink?

- September 2024: Cohort 1 launch and onboarding
- September 2024: In-person orientation event in Los Angeles, CA
- October 2024 – April 2025: Monthly trainings, coaching, consulting, etc. (schedule TBD with cohort)
- May 2025: In-person celebration 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 ongoing, and we will review your application before 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.

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* – Our direct service providers and other committed team members are excited to support your work.

Who should I contact if I have more questions?

- Feel free to reach out to youthink@chla.usc.edu - we can't wait to connect.

What are youthink's Guiding Principles?

- At youthink,
 - We center new, non-traditional, diverse, and marginalized voices, identities, and experiences.
 - We embrace multidimensional approaches to adolescent sexual and reproductive health, including those that champion family planning, sex positivity, and reproductive justice.
 - We value creative risk-taking, ambiguity, failure, and the freedom to always re-examine our decisions and change our minds.
 - We maintain open communication and transparency with internal and external stakeholders.
 - We build processes, environments, and innovations that are age-appropriate, medically accurate, culturally and linguistically responsive, and trauma-informed.
 - We strive to facilitate with humility, foster collaboration, and honor lived experience as expertise.
 - We embed equitable and participatory design into every stage of the innovation lifecycle.
 - We recognize previous and existing harms that exist in the adolescent sexual and reproductive health fields.
 - We assess the potential unintended consequences of our efforts.
 - We commit to being brave, curious, and open-minded.

Additional Resources

- Website: youthink.health
- Email: youthink@chla.usc.edu
- Interest form: youthink.idealwake.com

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