



Get to Know the *youthink* Incubator Program: An Informational Webinar

May 22, 2026

Welcome



POWERED BY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES

Hi, we're *youthink*. We're glad you're here!

youthink is an **innovation hub** powered by Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) that **supports changemakers** across the U.S. and its territories in cultivating new ideas and bold solutions to **advance adolescent and young adult health**.



Welcome

About *youthink*

About the
Incubator Program

About the
Application

Questions and
Answers

Takeaways

- An understanding of *youthink* and our Incubator Program, including how to apply
- A sense of who we are
- Answers to your questions



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About *youthink*

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Agenda

- Welcome
- About *youthink*
- About the Incubator Program
- About the Application
- Questions and Answers

Virtual Meeting Asks

- Put questions in the chat throughout the presentation
- Emojis and reactions encouraged 😊
- Please stay on mute until the Q&A and when not speaking

About *youthink*



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youthink Overview

- Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Children's Hospital Los Angeles
 - Serves young people ages 12-25
 - Provides direct services and programs across a range of adolescent health needs (e.g., sexual and reproductive health, substance use, mental health)
 - Champions positive youth development at a national level
- *youthink* (created in 2023)
 - In collaboration with the Innovation Studio at CHLA
 - **Goal:** Increase the number of innovators and innovations in adolescent health, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health
 - Part of a larger network of innovation hubs funded by the U.S. HHS' Office of Population Affairs



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youthink Overview

Our Guiding Principles

At *youthink* we,

- Believe young people should lead the design of innovations that affect them
- Create space for a wide range of identities and experiences
- Encourage multidimensional approaches to improve adolescent sexual and reproductive health
- See failure as an important part of learning and embrace the freedom to always re-examine our decisions and change our minds
- Communicate openly, work collaboratively, and value transparency with everyone we work
- Build spaces, processes, and innovations that are tailored to people's needs and experiences
- Consider the potential unintended consequences of our work
- Take creative risks and stay brave, curious, and open-minded



**Everyone
is an
innovator**



What does *innovation* mean at *youthink*?



Innovation is the process of creating or changing something to help meet needs and overcome challenges.

How do we innovate at *youthink*?

Our Process



Design thinking is an approach to problem solving that uses empathy and creativity to come up with meaningful solutions

How do we innovate at *youthink*?

Our Programs

Incubator Program

- Apply as a team of 3-4
- Innovating for a community-specific challenge
- 9 months
- **Cohort 3:** September 2026 to May 2027

Fellowship

- Apply as an individual (ages 18-25), assigned to teams
- Innovating for selected challenges
- 7 weeks
- **Cohort 1:** June to August 2026



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"*youthink* has been personally and professionally inspiring - I have gleaned a lot of knowledge and passion from our cohort and coaches. Design thinking helps broaden my thought process and tackle problems open-mindedly".

- *youthink* Incubator Program Participant



About the Incubator Program



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From challenge to change



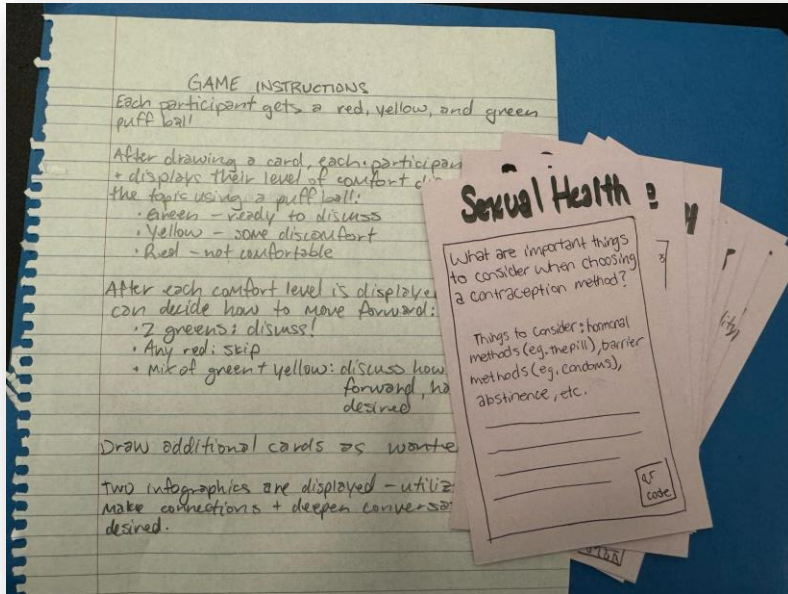
What does *challenge* mean at *youthink*?



A problem, gap, or opportunity to create positive change for young people in your community

What does *change* mean at youthink?

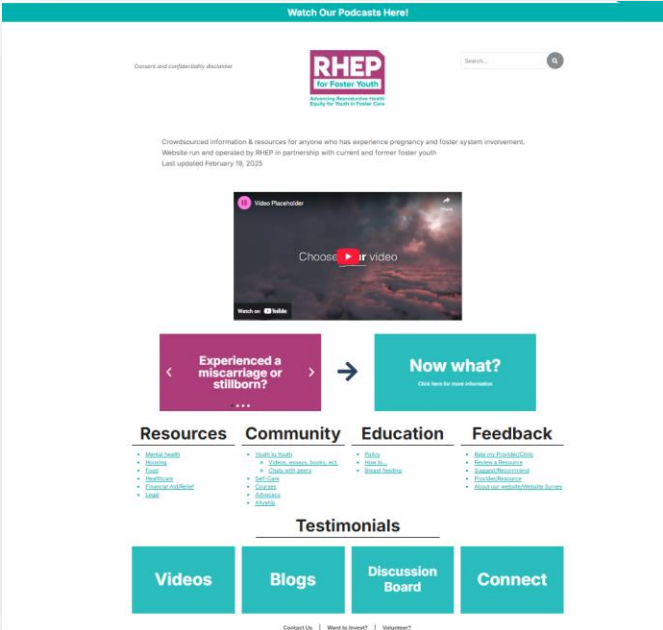
Prototype



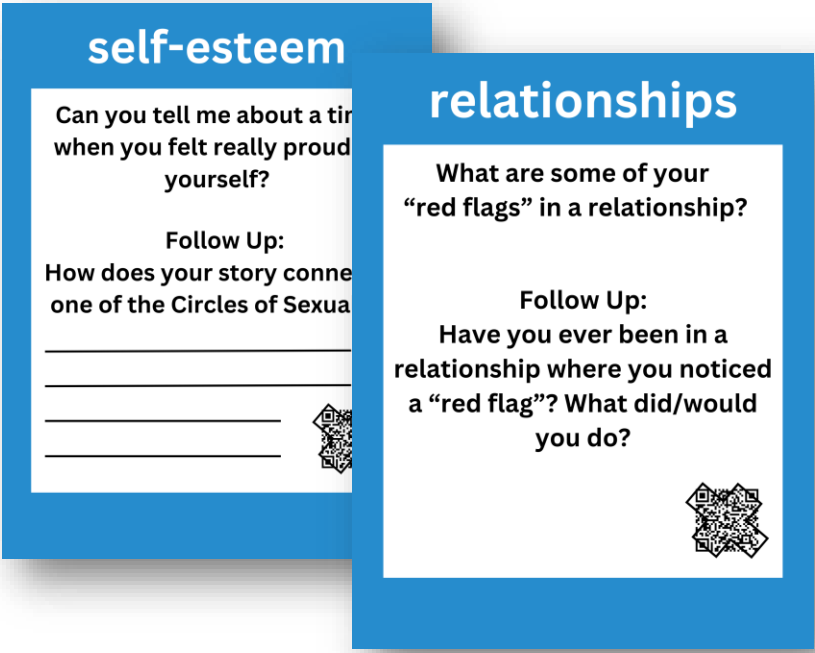
A prototype is a physical or experiential representation of an idea that has been designed and tested alongside community.

Prototype Examples

Website



Card Game

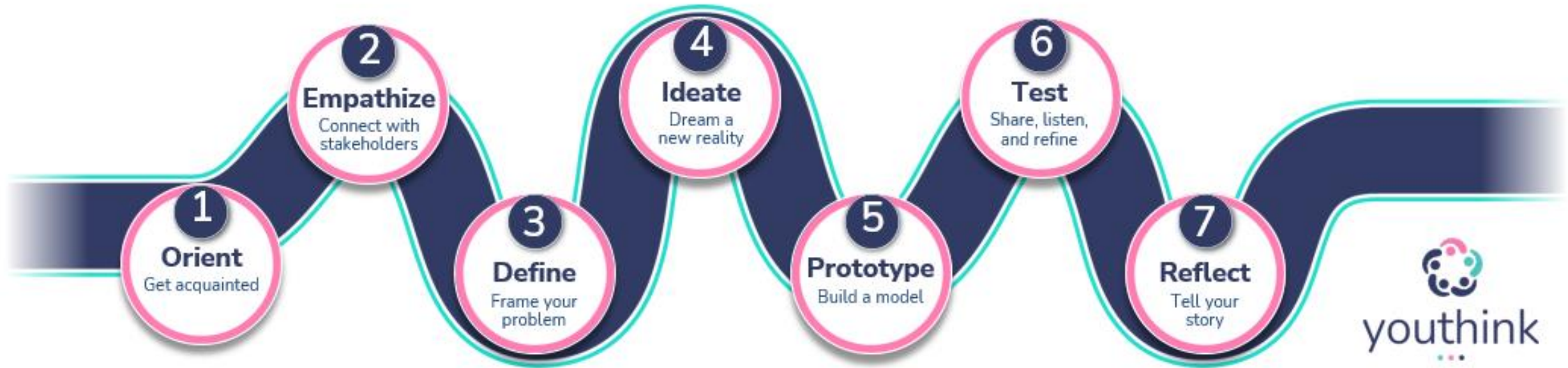


Podcast



How do we move from challenge to change?

Journey Map



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Our Offerings



**Innovation
Frameworks**



Funding



Community



**Subject Matter
Experts**



Trainings & Tools



Coaching

Our Offerings

Funding

- Up to \$60,000 in funding for:
 - Staff compensation
 - Participant incentives
 - Prototype development
- We'll work with you to create a budget.



Our Offerings

Trainings and Tools

- 15+ trainings
 - Design thinking
 - Other adolescent health innovation concepts
- 2 fully funded in-person gatherings
 - Los Angeles, CA
 - 3 days each
- Individualized resources



Our Offerings

Coaching

- Weekly meetings with a designated coach
- Project management and innovation thought partnership
- Highly tailored to team's needs



Cohort 1



Metro United Way (KY)



National Center for Youth Law (CA)



Think College (MA)



University of Guam (GU)



Answer (NJ)

Cohort 2



Lurie (IL)



YOOT (TN)



Girls Empowerment Network (TX)



MOASH (MI)

The most rewarding part of *youthink* has been...




“Meeting new people and learning about the work folks are designing across the country and its territories to support youth and young adults.”

“The boost of confidence it has given me.”

“The support to get through the design thinking process. Theory then practice.”

- *youthink* Incubator Program Participants

I ♥
innovating
for
adolescent
health

 youthink.health

About the Application



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Application

- Launched today!
- Open until 6/5, or until we receive 40 complete applications
- Hosted on Ideawake
 - youthink.ideawake.com
 - Create an account before applying
 - Automatically saves draft as you complete the application
- 21 questions
 - 14 quick questions
 - 5 main questions (1 of which is a video)



2026 youthink Incubator Program Application Portal

Applications for the next Incubator Program cohort will open on May 22, 2026. Join our email list for updates (link below).

• Status - Closed Audience - All Members Private Submissions Following +7 SP BC AS EC SF

OVERVIEW BROWSE APPLICATIONS PIPELINE ANALYTICS

Hello! Thanks for stopping by our application portal. We appreciate your interest in joining youthink's community of innovators.

📌 Application Status

Applications for the next youthink Incubator Program cohort will open from **May 22, 2026**, to June 5, 2026, or until we receive 40 applications, whichever comes first. [Join our email list](#) for updates.

Important Information

- Website: [Incubator Program](#) and [FAQs](#)
- Informational webinar: [May 22, 2026, 11 a.m. PT](#)
- Office hours
 - [May 26, 2026, 11 a.m. PT](#)
 - [May 29, 2026, 9 a.m. PT](#)
 - [June 2, 2026, 1 p.m. PT](#)
- How to Apply Guide: Coming soon
- Program dates: September 2026 - May 2027



Application

What You Need to Apply

- **A Challenge:** Identify a problem, gap, or opportunity in adolescent and young adult sexual and reproductive health that you want to address
- **Team Composition:** 3 to 4 members, all ages 18+, with at least 1 youth leader ages 18-25
- **Fiscal Sponsor:** Have an organization who can receive funds for your team
- **Location:** Be based in the U.S. and its territories
- **Time Commitment:** Be prepared for the hours and travel required by the program



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What We're Looking for in Teams

- **Community Connection:** Team members reflect the communities or experiences they serve
- **Youth First:** Teams center the voice of young people
- **Know Their Why:** Team members are passionate, open-minded, and eager to solve challenges
- **Ready to Innovate:** Teams are excited to learn and develop new solutions using *youthink's* process
- **Long-Term Vision:** Teams are thinking about impact beyond the program



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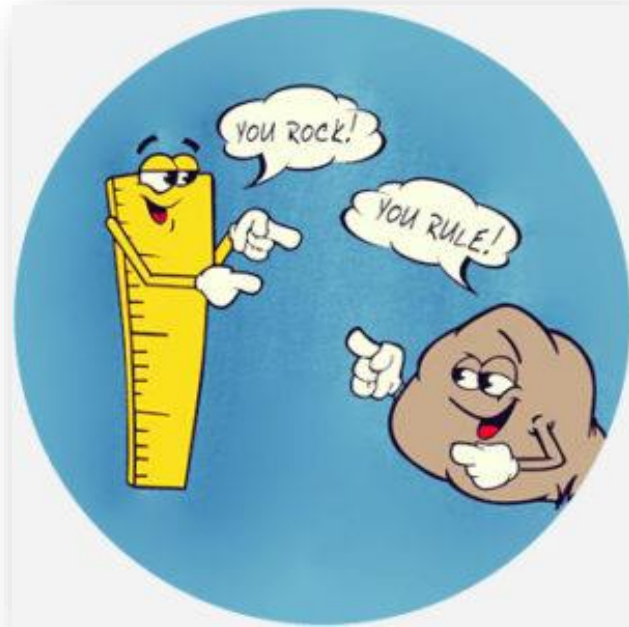
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How to Make Your Application Shine



- Engage all team members in your decision to apply and your application.
- Be very clear about the problem you want to solve – the *youthink* process work best when you have a well-defined challenge.
- Submit early!

Application

Timeline and Process

- **May 2026:** Applications
- **June 2026:** Interviews
- **July 2026:** Offers
- **Mid-July 2026 to August 2026:** Onboarding
 - About 10-15 hours (meetings, paperwork, and light pre-work – We'll support you!)
- **September 2026 to May 2027:** Program dates
 - 1st In-Person Gathering: September 28-30, 2026
 - 2nd In-Person Gathering: Anticipated late March/early April 2026



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Helpful Resources

- **Website:** youthink.health/incubator-program/
 - [How to Apply Guide](#)
 - FAQs: youthink.health/FAQs/
- **Office Hours**
 - Optional, informal space to ask questions – Requires registration! Not recorded.
 - [May 26, 2026, 11 a.m. PT](#)
 - [May 29, 2026, 9 a.m. PT](#)
 - [June 2, 2026, 1 p.m. PT](#)
- **Email:** youthink@chla.usc.edu



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Questions and Answers



Empathy is a
superpower



We hope to hear from you!



Email: youthink@chla.usc.edu



Website: youthink.health



Application: youthink.ideawake.com





youththink

Thank you!