

How to Apply Guide



Here's a preview of the youthink Incubator Program application

for our September 2026 cohort, along with tips and notes to guide you.

**If you're new to Ideawake, create an account before starting your application.*

We recommend using Google Chrome as your web browser.

1. Team Name *



Share your team name.

2. Team Website

3. Team City *

4. Team State or U.S. Territory *

5. Team Sector *

Select all that apply.

6a. Team Lead/Team Member #1 Name *

6b. Team Lead/Team Member #1 Job Title *

6c. Team Lead/Team Member #1 Organization *

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6d. Team Lead/Team Member #1 Email *

6e. Team Lead/Team Member #1 Role - Describe this person's proposed role on the project, and why they are an important voice. Please include any unique talents, skills, experiences, identities, or perspectives this person brings to the project. *



Provide information about your team lead. They will be the point of contact for your team's application.

6f. Team Lead/Team Member #1 Availability - Describe this person's availability and capacity to participate in the project, including any constraints (e.g. scheduling around classes). *

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6g. Team Lead/Team Member #1 Race or Ethnicity *

Select all that apply.

6h. Team Lead/Team Member #1 Youth Leader - Will this team member be ages 18-25 years old in September 2026? *

6i. Team Lead/Team Member #1 Innovation Experience - Has this team member participated in innovation programs (e.g., incubators, accelerators), and design thinking work? *

7a. Team Member #2 Name *

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7b. Team Member #2 Job Title *

7c. Team Lead/Team Member #2 Organization *

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7d. Team Member #2 Email *

7e. Team Member #2 Role - Describe this person's proposed role on the project, and why they are an important voice. Please include any unique talents, skills, experiences, identities, or perspectives this person brings to the project. *

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7f. Team Member #2 Availability - Describe this person's availability and capacity to participate in the project, including any constraints (e.g. scheduling around classes). *



Then tell us about your other team members. All teams should include 3-4 people.



Tell us about your other team members (continued).

7g. Team Member #2 Race or Ethnicity *

Select an option for this field

7h. Team Member #2 Youth Leader - Will this team member be ages 18-25 years old in September 2026? *

Select an option for this field

7i - Team Member #2 Innovation Experience - Has this team member participated in innovation programs (e.g., incubators, accelerators), and design thinking work? *

Select an option for this field

8a. Team Member #3 Name *

8b. Team Member #3 Job Title *

8c. Team Lead/Team Member #3 Organization *

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8d. Team Member #3 Email *

8e. Team Member #3 Role - Describe this person's proposed role on the project, and why they are an important voice. Please include any unique talents, skills, experiences, identities, or perspectives this person brings to the project. *

8f. Team Member #3 Availability - Describe this person's availability and capacity to participate in the project, including any constraints (e.g. scheduling around classes). *

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8g. Team Member #3 Race or Ethnicity *

Select an option for this field

8h. Team Member #3 Youth Leader - Will this team member be ages 18-25 years old in September 2026? *

Select an option for this field

8i. Team Member #3 Innovation Experience - Has this team member participated in innovation programs (e.g., incubators, accelerators), and design thinking work? *

Select an option for this field

9a. Team Member #4 Name

9b. Team Member #4 Job Title

9c. Team Lead/Team Member #4 Organization

9d. Team Member #4 Email

9e. Team Member #4 Role - Describe this person's proposed role on the project, and why they are an important voice. Please include any unique talents, skills, experiences, identities, or perspectives this person brings to the project.

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9f. Team Member #4 Availability - Describe this person's availability and capacity to participate in the project, including any constraints (e.g., scheduling around classes).

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9g. Team Member #4 Race or Ethnicity

9h. Team Member #14 Youth Leader - Will this team member be ages 18-25 years old in September 2026?

9i. Team Member #4 Innovation Experience - Has this team member participated in innovation programs (e.g., incubators, accelerators), and design thinking work?

10. Time Commitment: youthink requires an average of 20–30 hours per person per month, with higher time commitments during key months. September and April typically require 40–50 hours, as they include in-person gatherings (approximately 24 hours of program time each), plus travel. What, if any, concerns do you have about this time commitment? (Visit youthink.health/FAQs/ and read the "What is the time commitment?" question) *



Tell us about your other team members (continued).



Review the time commitment for the *youthink* Incubator program.

11. Statement of Interest: Please upload a 3-minute video introducing your team and explaining why you want to participate in the youthink Incubator Program. Consider sharing what excites you, and any expectations, hopes, and long-term goals. *

We'd love to hear all team members' voices as part of this recording. If you are not in the same location, you can record a video call with various members.



Click Here to Upload

12. Focus Area: During our 9-month program, you'll use design thinking to address an adolescent and young adult sexual and reproductive health challenge. What is the problem or gap you hope to address through innovation? Who is impacted by this challenge, and how are you connected to them? What work, if any, have you done to address this challenge already? *

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12a. Summarize your previous answer into a one-sentence description of your focus area. *

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13. Vision: What would success look like during your time with youthink? Do you have a long-term vision for this work? *

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14. Team Experience: Why is your team well-suited to address this challenge? Describe your history of working together and how you decided to apply. *

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14a. Summarize your team's superpower or greatest strength in one sentence. *

◆ Upload your video. Here are some tips:

- Speak naturally—be yourself
- Focus on your teams interests and motivations
- Don't worry about perfect production quality
- Stay within the 3-minute limit

◆ Tell us about your proposal.

◆ Tell us about your team's vision of success.

15. Values Alignment: Please review the youthink Guiding Principles (youthink.health/about-youthink/). How do they align with your team's values? *

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16. Have you or any of your team members received funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Population Affairs? (No wrong answers!) *

17. Do you have approval and support from your leadership, if applicable, to participate in youthink? *

18. Can the team lead's organization receive funds from youthink on behalf of your team, or do you have a fiscal sponsor? *

19. Do you anticipate that your work in youthink will require Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval? (Don't worry if you're not sure what this is!) *

20. Would you like to sign up for youthink's email list for updates? *

21. How did you hear about youthink? *

◆ Read our *youthink* Guiding Principles and tell us how you align.

◆ Share some administrative details about your team and answer a few wrap-up questions.

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For additional support, join us for our:

- **Informational Webinar:** View the recording on youthink.health/incubator-program/
- **Office Hours:**
 - May 26, 2026, 11 a.m. PT ([Zoom Registration Link](#))
 - May 29, 2026, 9 a.m. PT ([Zoom Registration Link](#))
 - June 2, 2026, 11 a.m. PT ([Zoom Registration Link](#))

Questions? Email us: youthink@chla.usc.edu