



## *PODER en SALUD: La Juventud Como Soluciones Power in Health: Youth as Solutions*

### **SERVICE-LEARNING GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

*“As of September 2021, COVID-19 was the #2 leading cause of death in the U. S. 77% of the U.S. has received at least one dose of the vaccine while only 39% of Latinx individuals have been fully vaccinated. Latinx groups continue to have disproportionately higher hospitalization rates due to COVID-19. Latinx patients were >2.5 times more likely to test positive for COVID-19 and require a higher level of care at time of positivity. When compared to White patients, the infection rate for Latinx patients was >3 times higher, hospitalizations were >4 times higher, and death rates were twice as high. **Disparities continue to exist among Latinx communities even when sociodemographic characteristics and underlying health conditions are controlled for.**”*

*Source: “Global Pandemic- Local Implications.” PODER en SALUD National Core Partner Orientation Presentation. October 28, 2021.*

The goal of PODER en SALUD, a CDC-funded national program, is to increase the capacity of Latino/Latinx communities at high risk for COVID-19 to effectively respond, through the engagement of trusted community-based organizations, tailored communications, and the mobilization of Promotores/as trained to deliver COVID-19 prevention messages and community mitigation strategies. As the National Core Partner focusing on middle and high school youth as health promoters, NYLC seeks youth teams join a cohort of Latinx youth taking action to save lives in their communities.

NYLC’s **PODER en SALUD: Youth as Solutions** program works to increase access to accurate and timely COVID-19 prevention and vaccine information that is culturally appropriate, situation-specific, and available in Spanish and English. This program uses *service-learning* as a strategy to engage teens as leaders in identifying local challenges and barriers to the adoption of COVID-19 testing, vaccine, and prevention recommendations—including mental health impacts—and developing solutions. Projects may include developing and delivering messaging campaigns to change behavior by peers and among the broader community, including products such as posters, brochures, or fotonovelas; Tik Toks or other social media messaging; holding health fairs or school events; creating websites and videos; or any number of ideas created by youth teams. No experience in service-learning is required; NYLC will provide training and support through the program.

#### *What is Service-Learning?*

*Service-learning is an approach to teaching and learning in which students use academic and civic knowledge and skills to address genuine community needs.*

We invite teams hosted by a school or nonprofit organization to apply—two youth and one adult leader are required for the application; additional youth may be recruited after selection. **Thirty teams** hosted by schools and nonprofits in **New Jersey, Georgia, Texas**, and Latinx communities **around the country** will be selected to participate.

The **deadline for applications is Nov. 28, 2021**. Notifications will be sent by Dec. 6. Kickoff training will occur in December, with projects to be completed by the end of the 2021-22 school year.

### Requirements:

- A Leadership Team of 1 adult mentor and 2 Latinx youth, ages 13-18, committed to work in partnership to change health behaviors in their school and community. *(A Leadership Team is needed to apply; additional youth may be recruited as part of the program activities.)*
- School/organizations must serve Latinx communities in New Jersey, Georgia, Texas, or other U.S. locations
- Hosted by a school or organization to receive and distribute grant funds
- Dedicated, inspired, and responsive team of youth leaders ready to make a difference
- A commitment to work WITH your community and national experts to bring positive change
- Essential program materials will be provided in English and Spanish. Project communications and reporting will be in English. Student-developed communications should be linguistically appropriate for their home communities.

### Activities:

- Leadership Team members attend virtual kickoff training, December 15, 2021
- Conduct community investigation, January 2022
- Submit project plan by the end of January 2022
- Campaign projects created and submitted for approval by April 1, 2022
- Complete a service-learning project focused on COVID-19 messaging to impact health outcomes in your Latinx community (in English and/or Spanish- depending on your community) by the end of the 2020-2021 school year
- Submit monthly progress reports; final report due June 2022
- Participate in one-hour professional development trainings (monthly)
- Participate in asynchronous online discussions to share ideas and provide peer support to other teams and get coaching from NYLC
- Create a virtual Service-Learning Showcase (3-minute video) and participate in the National Service-Learning Conference Virtual Day on April 27, 2022

### Benefits:

- Receive a \$1,000 grant to fund your project
- Opportunity to share your service-learning project with an international audience virtually
- Opportunity to receive national recognition and share your service-learning project at the 2022 National Service-Learning Conference, April 20-22, 2022 in Minneapolis, Minnesota including three full conference registrations (leader team) and all travel expenses
- Opportunity to be recognized through NYLC's weekly radio show, The Power of Young People to Change the World
- Be part of [PODER en SALUD](#), a national CDC health equity initiative building Hispanic/Latino community capacity to respond to COVID-19
- Participate in a cohort of like-minded youth to share your experiences and learn from each other
- Receive training in service-learning, youth leadership, public health promotion, and more
- Gain experience in taking action on a critical issue in your community

Learn more at [nylc.org/PODER](https://nylc.org/PODER) | [Apply now! ¡Aplica ya!](#)

Questions? Contact [psiebert@nylc.org](mailto:psiebert@nylc.org).

*For nearly 40 years, the National Youth Leadership Council has transformed classrooms, empowered teachers, and captivated students by providing high-quality, dynamic service-learning content and professional development for school districts, classrooms, after-school programs, and everything in between. NYLC accelerates student achievement by strengthening academic, civic, and character outcomes through service-learning. We are leading the way to address real world issues with all young people, inspiring them to **Serve. Learn. Change the world.**® Check us out at [nylc.org](https://nylc.org).*