California Youth Leadership Corps (CYLC)
Uplifting and empowering communities, one student at a time.

Our Mission

California Youth Leadership Corps (CYLC) is a statewide initiative of the Community Learning Partnership (CLP). CYLC was launched as a response to the challenges that young people confronted during the COVID-19 pandemic. **CYLC’s primary goal is to introduce young people to community change careers that will prepare them to be the next generation of community organizers, change agents, and civic leaders in local communities across the state of California.** Since its inception, CYLC has provided community college students with educational pathways and paid work-based learning opportunities while they are enrolled in school. Through its holistic programming, **CYLC is transforming the lives of young people, strengthening the nonprofit workforce, contributing to the field of youth organizing, and fostering inclusive civic engagement and a healthy democracy.**

CYLC’s Impact

- CYLC has served over **350 community college students.**
- CYLC has partnered with and provided support to over **100 community-based organizations.**
Who is the CYLC program designed to serve? CYLC aims to serve community college students, primarily between the ages of 18-24, who want to make a difference in their communities. This includes historically marginalized youth, low-income students, Opportunity Youth, students who have experienced poverty and homelessness, students of color, formerly incarcerated individuals, immigrants, LGBTQ+ youth, first-generation college students, and other students who have faced unique challenges in their lives.

**CYLC Community Change Learn-and-Earn Career Pathway Fellowship.** CYLC equips young people with academic credentials and community organizing skills to become nonprofit and civic leaders in their local communities. CYLC partners with selected community colleges to develop community change learn-and-earn career pathways. While CYLC student fellows are pursuing their academic course of study, they participate in a nine-to-ten month fellowship at a local nonprofit organization. CYLC student fellows complement their academic course of study with paid work-based learning, where they receive up to $10,000 as a stipend award and a $5,000 scholarship. Participants also receive robust academic and social-emotional supports, mentoring, leadership development and enrichment activities through a cohort-based model, which provides students with a community of support. CYLC currently offers community change career pathways in the following areas:

- Leadership and Social Change
- Public and Community Health
- Environmental Justice
- Language Justice and Interpretation
- Community Leadership
- Community Planning and Economic Development
- Community-based Immigration Legal Services

**CYLC Community-Based Immigration Legal Services and Language Justice Career Pathways.** The community change career pathways focused on immigration help to expand the number of well-trained paralegals, legal assistants, language interpreters, and nonprofit leaders in underserved immigrant communities in California.

**Community College Partnerships.** CYLC has developed strategic partnerships with selected community colleges across California to offer community change learn-and-earn career pathways to
historically marginalized students. CYLC is currently collaborating with community colleges in the cities of Los Angeles, San Jose/Cupertino, Riverside, Fresno, San Bernardino, Eureka, and Long Beach. CYLC is working to expand to community colleges in San Diego, Salinas, Sacramento, Fullerton, the Bay Area, and other areas.

**Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations.**

- Since its inception, CYLC has partnered with and provided support to over 100 community-based nonprofit organizations and grassroots organizations across California.
- **CYLC student fellows are becoming more civically engaged and deepening their knowledge of community issues:** some of the issues include public and community health, immigrant rights and community-based immigration legal services, labor rights, community planning and economic development, restorative justice, affordable housing, environmental justice, racial equality and civil rights, gender equality/justice, LGBTQ+ rights, food access justice and more.
- CYLC's partnerships with nonprofit host organizations have allowed **CYLC student fellows to engage in paid work-based learning opportunities that help them thrive in the workforce and advance their community change career goals.**
- CYLC student fellows receive training and mentoring at local nonprofits, where they acquire community organizing and leadership skills while they engage in work-based learning activities that benefit their communities.

**For More Information**

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