

BY YOUTH FOR YOUTH

Background

By Youth For Youth is a volunteer committee of 20 Dane County high school students that makes investment decisions in youth-led programming in Dane County. BYFY provides youth the opportunity to identify needs and issues that are important to them and direct funding to address those needs through projects developed and implemented by youth to serve youth.

This year marks the 25th cycle of BYFY funding.

Four sponsors make \$34,900 in funding available:

- City of Madison, Office of Community Services (\$5,500)
- Oscar Mayer/Kraft Foods (\$12,900)
- United Way of Dane County Community Engagement CBT (\$6,500)
- Dane County Youth Commission (\$10,000)

\$2,400 is held to support youth on the By Youth For Youth Committee by providing food and transportation.

The BYFY students decided on the priorities (see below) for funding in this year's round of investments, developed a grant application form, spread the word among youth groups about the availability of funds, evaluated funding requests and recommended funding.

Twenty-three projects applied for financial support; with the requests totaling \$58,318. Most of the applicants were from within Madison, but groups in other communities also submitted requests, notably Mount Horeb, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, and DeForest. Schools, community centers, non-profit organizations and groups of individuals were among the applicants.

Priorities

This year's BYFY committee was especially interested in funding projects that addressed:

- **Racial Equality:** Projects that promote racial equality as well as educate and advocate social justice themes and create a sense of community.
- **Achievement Gap:** Projects that work with the school to prison pipeline, dealing with overrepresentation in Individualized Education Plans, low graduation rate, suspensions/expulsions, and underrepresentation in advanced classes.
- **LGBTQ+ Support and Awareness:** Projects that educate, support, and bring awareness of the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Opportunities for Economically Disadvantaged Youth:** Projects that work to alleviate economic disparities, and create youth employment opportunities.
- **Raise Cultural Awareness:** Projects that encourage increased cultural immersion and understanding/knowledge of various cultures.
- **Healthy Lifestyle:** Projects that educate, support, and bring an awareness of mental, sexual and physical health.

The attached list of 16 recommended projects align within these priorities and will impact over 167 youth and are projected to reach over 3,361 youth and their families in our community.

Action

Approve \$32,500 to projects as recommended by the By Youth For Youth Committee.