

## **IDEA 53 Indianapolis Youth (Empowerment) Council**

Indianapolis Marion County agencies can fund, organize, emulate, and adapt the ethos and essence of San Francisco's Youth Empowerment Fund (YEF) model.

Through the YEF, the [Department of Children, Youth and their Families \(DCYF\)](#) brings youth leadership and voice in community change to the core of its funding strategies. By funding youth empowerment programs that give youth authentic power, the YEF challenges traditional youth development agencies and programs that see youth purely as receivers of services with little voice, input, and power in the decision-making process. The YEF sees youth as central players in decision making, offering youth respect, leadership development opportunities, and real information about the way the world works. Through the YEF, youth from all over San Francisco have the opportunity to apply for funding toward their youth-led projects, as well as participate in grant making, program support, and evaluation. The strategies of YEF are:

- **Strategy #1: Youth Philanthropy** Through youth-led philanthropy, the YEF provides youth with opportunities to practice leadership through peer-to-peer grant-making. Both through our YEF Advisory Board and our grantee, Youth Funding Youth Ideas, youth fund and support youth-led projects all over the city. Youth have received funding for their ideas such as youth-run gardens, self-defense classes, and youth-run conferences on important community issues.
- **Strategy #2: Youth Organizing** The YEF funds youth-led efforts to build collective power and affect concrete change in the conditions that youth face in their communities. Through this strategy, youth have the opportunity to identify issues of social injustice and build their collective capacity to win real improvements in their communities and in their lives. Our grantees cover a spectrum of San Francisco's neighborhoods and address issues such as immigrant rights, environmental justice, ethnic studies, financial/economic justice, and juvenile justice.
- **Strategy #3: Mini-grants** YEF Mini-Grants began in 2010 as a unique chance to support the innovative, small-scale and short-term projects led by San Francisco's youth leaders. Given out twice a year, these projects help to empower youth to build their leadership skills and to make positive contributions to communities throughout San Francisco. Examples of such projects include educational workshops, service projects, community outreach, teach-ins, and media projects.

Youth Empowerment Fund website

<http://www.yefsf.org/>

Youth Empowerment Fund overview

<http://www.dcyf.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=587>

Youth Empowerment Fund Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/YouthEmpowermentFund/>

How Kids Learn Conference 1 - Youth Empowerment, Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJTqNRoGuWk>

How Kids Learn Conference 1 - Youth Empowerment, Part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UXP2dSRsy0>