

Youth Sounding Board Application

Your Way of Expressing

How to Apply

All completed applications must be received by **Friday, February 5, 2010**. To be considered as a candidate for your regional Youth Sounding Board (YSB), your application may be sent by e-mail or mail to Lisa Cohen (contact information below). Parental permission (if you are under age 18) must be submitted with the application for it to be considered complete.

Youth selected to participate in their regional YSB will be notified by **late-February 2010**. Those selected will have met the requirements and demonstrated creativity in their responses to the application questions.

Criteria for Selection

To qualify and apply, you must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Be between ages 16 and 24.
2. Submit an application to the Regional Resource Coordinator, Lisa Cohen at lcohen@icfi.com or to DHHS, 1961 Stout St, Rm 498, Denver, CO 80294 by February 5, 2010.
3. Submit parental permission form to participate (if under age 18) along with your application.
4. Agree to commit time for 12 months (2 to 3 hours per month).

Youth Sounding Board

Parental Permission Form

Dear Parent/Caregiver (if have youth under the age of 18):

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) HIV/AIDS Regional Resource Network Program, your (son/daughter) has been invited to participate in a regional Youth Sounding Board (YSB) on HIV prevention. If selected for this leadership role, your adolescent would participate from March 2010 through February 2011 for only 2-3 hours per month. Please read below for more information and sign/date if you agree and grant permission for your adolescent to participate.

The Regional Resource Network Program taps the inherent power of youth to contribute to positive social norms and change. The project, designed to engage youth ages 16 to 24, is a national outreach effort to provide accurate and significant HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevention education and information to youth, who commit to pass it forward to their peers. The youth sounding board members will help the Regional Resource Coordinators develop health messages by using technology and participating in community activities.

No single approach will reduce HIV/AIDS and STDs among young people. However, peer-led interventions are a promising and increasingly popular strategy for youth sexual health and HIV prevention programs globally. In an evaluation study by a teen prevention education program, peer leaders were more likely than other youth to communicate about sexual health issues, wait longer to have sex, reduce the number of sex partners, and access sexual health-related services more often.

We hope that you, as a parent, will support our efforts to have a youth-driven approach to discussing healthy sexuality and HIV/AIDS prevention. If you have any questions about the YSB, please contact Lisa Cohen (contact information below).

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Cohen, Regional Resource Coordinator
HIV/AIDS Regional Resource Network Program
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, OPHS Region VIII
1961 Stout St., Room 498
Denver, CO 80294
(303) 844-7853, lcohen@icfi.com

I, _____ (name of parent/guardian), give permission for my son/daughter _____ (name of youth) to participate in the Regional Youth Sounding Board from March 2010 – February 2011.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____