

WISCONSIN PATCH YOUTH ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP

Job Description for Paid Position!



What is PATCH?

PATCH stands for Providers and Teens Communicating for Health. At PATCH we want all youth to be healthy, connected, and thriving. That's why we work to improve adolescent health and wellbeing alongside and in true partnership with youth, like you!

What is the PATCH Youth Advocacy Fellowship?

As a PATCH Youth Advocate, you will be **employed** (you will be hired, trained, and **PAID** for this work), **educated** (you will attend weekly meetings to learn about adolescent health and build advocacy skills) and **empowered** (you will use new knowledge and skills to create change throughout Wisconsin).

Qualifications:

- Live in Wisconsin.
- Be 13 - 19 years old.
- Be willing to learn and be open-minded.

Expectations:

- You should enjoy being an active part of a team and working with peers from across the state.
- You should demonstrate responsibility and reliability, including:
 - Keeping up good communication via e-mail, phone, and other online spaces.
 - Attending meetings and events and showing up on time.
 - Demonstrating dedication to the mission and vision of PATCH.
- You should be excited to share your experiences and expertise as a young person to influence programs, policy, and practices at the state, local, and community levels.

Requirements:

As a Youth Advocate, you must commit to the entire 10-month Fellowship (August 2023- May 2024). There are five required parts of the Fellowship:

1. **Pre-Training Virtual Meetings:** Youth Advocates will attend two pre-training meetings on Zoom to get to know each other and the program. These meetings will be held **Tuesday August 1st and Tuesday August 15th from 6pm – 8pm.**
2. **In-Person Training:** Youth Advocates will attend a 3-day, in-person introduction to the Fellowship to build community, learn about adolescent health, and begin to explore advocacy. All expenses are covered by PATCH. Our training this year will be **Friday, August 18th - Sunday, August 20th in Madison, WI.**

(Continues on the next page!)

If you have any questions, please contact us at fellowship@patchprogram.org.

3. **Enrichment Meetings:** After Training, Youth Advocates will meet weekly via Zoom from September 2023 – May 2024. In these meetings, youth will continue to grow their understanding of adolescent health advocacy as they hear from guest speakers about a variety of topics (such as racism in medicine, sexual health, mental health, LGBTQ+ health, and much more), and will practice advocacy skills through completion of the Advocacy Learning Series (see below). Our enrichment meetings this year will be **Tuesdays from 6-7pm or 6-8pm depending on the week.**
4. **Advocacy Learning Series:** During Enrichment Meetings, youth will also complete a 7-step curriculum where they learn about their community and practice advocacy work (such as researching the history of the land they live on, exploring what healthcare access looks like in their community, identifying local decision-makers, etc.). Youth will choose an issue of interest to focus on and will develop a plan to create change (such as advocating for an LGBTQ+ inclusive sexual health curriculum or creating a list of community mental health resources). **All work will be completed during Tuesday evening Enrichment Meetings.**
5. **Consulting Sessions:** Youth will share their opinions and perspectives in virtual, focus-group style meetings where organizations and people working on projects that impact youth share their work and gather feedback and input from Youth Advocates. 1-2 sessions are scheduled per month and Youth Advocates are required to attend 5 throughout the program year. **Consulting Sessions are scheduled on various days and times.**

What will I gain?

Youth Advocates will gain valuable leadership experience, improved communication and presentation skills, access to interesting and up-to-date health information, professional mentorship, an opportunity to use your voice to create statewide change, and statewide connections to expand your network.

Pay: All Youth Advocates will be paid **\$100** for completing pre-training and in-person training, and **\$12/hour** for enrichment meetings, consulting opportunities, and work on the advocacy learning series. Most Youth Advocates work between 6-8 hours per month.

HOW TO APPLY:

Visit www.wipatch.org to complete the application. Application questions can be answered in written format or via video or audio responses. ****Applications are due by June 11th!****

If you have any questions, please contact us at fellowship@patchprogram.org.