



Youth Council Application

About Us:

The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina aims to support North Carolina communities in preventing adolescent pregnancy through advocacy, collaboration, and education. APPCNC is the only non-profit agency working to reduce teen pregnancy statewide. We help all North Carolinians by assisting individual counties, conducting workshops and conferences, implementing media campaigns, gathering and disseminating statistical information, and educating public officials.

Our project is funded in part through a national non-profit organization called Advocates for Youth. Advocates for Youth champions efforts that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. The organization works to shift the current societal paradigm of adolescent sexuality away from a negative emphasis on fear and ignorance and towards the acceptance of sexuality as healthy and normal and the belief that adolescents are a valuable resource. Advocates provides information, training, and strategic assistance to youth-serving organizations, policy makers, youth activists, and media in the U.S. and developing countries.

North Carolina has the 14th highest teen pregnancy rate in the country, with 15,000 teen pregnancies reported in 2008, and adolescents continue to disproportionately contract new sexually transmitted infections. North Carolina has the responsibility to educate and protect the public health of our youth. Advocates for Youth and the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina (APPCNC) are asking for help in ensuring that all North Carolina youth have access to complete sexual health information.

About Teen Health Now

Teen Health Now is the youth council of APPCNC and consists of 10 high school and college youth from across the state of North Carolina. In partnership with Advocates for Youth, the council is working to ensure that all youth in North Carolina have access to medically accurate sexuality education. We raise awareness about teen pregnancy, STDs, and other reproductive health issues among young people in North Carolina through training and events.

Teen Health Now will be composed of dynamic high school and college students from throughout the state who come together to promote a message of prevention and education. Working closely with the coordinator, Council Members will develop strategies to advocate for the elimination of abstinence-only funding and promote comprehensive sex education policies in North Carolina. Council members will further promote their strategies and messages about





adolescent reproductive health through events and trainings for other young people around the state.

Council Goals:

1. Raise awareness among youth about the need for STI, pregnancy prevention efforts and other issues affecting adolescent reproductive health.
2. Advocate for comprehensive sex education in North Carolina Public Schools and other policy priorities.
3. Empower other youth to get involved in their communities.

In order to accomplish their goals, youth will receive training on adolescent reproductive health, messaging, working with the media, event planning, and more through trainings and retreats throughout the year. Youth may also receive a stipend depending on the availability of funds.

What Does Teen Health Now Expect?

- That you care about preventing the transmission of STIs, teenage pregnancy, and comprehensive sex education.
- That you will attend **all** trainings and meetings.
- **That you will plan one event in your community related to adolescent reproductive health/justice.**
- That you will meet with the legislators in your district to advocate for the comprehensive sex education and other related issues.
- That you will meet with school leaders, school board members, or other education personnel in your district regarding comprehensive sex education.
- That you will work with local, state, and national media as needed.
- That you will share ideas and collaborate with other council members and the staff at APPCNC and Advocates.
- That you will recruit many other youth in your area involved in our work (i.e. starting a petition, forming Facebook groups, organizing a letter writing campaign, etc.).
- **Have access to e-mail and check your e-mail daily.** *If you do not have daily access to e-mail, please let us know, we are glad to work with you to help you get it. However, all council members must be responsible for checking e-mail every day.*
- Be communicative with the Teen Health Now Coordinator and other Teen Health Now council members at all times.





Teen Health Now Member Requirements

- Be a youth between the ages of 14 and 21.
- Live in North Carolina
- Be passionate about reproductive health
- Have leadership and public speaking experience
- Have access to transportation (if this is an issue, please let us know, we will do what we can to help).
- Be able to commit to the council from June 2011- June 2012
- Attend all events listed below
- Plan one event in your community related to adolescent reproductive health/justice.
- Other Tasks
 - Blog on Amplify (www.amplifyyourvoice.org)
 - Write on Facebook Group Wall
 - Table on campus
 - E-mail recruited students
 - Conference calls with coordinator and other activists
 - Recruit new activists
 - Work with the media

Conference and Training Dates:

Please check and make sure that you are able to attend ALL of the training dates listed below. If you are not able to attend ALL of the dates, please DO NOT submit your application because we will not be able to accept you to the council. Additional mandatory events will also be added throughout the year. Failure to attend one of these events can result in the termination of your position on the youth council.

June 25th: Teen Health Now Meet and Greet

August 16th – 19th: Fall Retreat, Asheville

January 14th and 15th: Teen Health Now Winter Retreat, Raleigh

February or March: Urban Retreat and Adolescent Health Advocacy Day, Raleigh

March: Sex Ed Film Festival, Durham

May: APPCNC Conference, Greensboro





** You will also have individual meetings with the Council Coordinator over the phone and in person, but those will be in your area and organized around both your schedule and the schedule of the Coordinator.

What can you expect?

- To meet, work with, and learn from amazing young leaders across the state.
- To gain information and skills that you will be able to capitalize on throughout your school and work careers.
- To collaborate and make connections with APPCNC and Advocates staff who care about these issues as much as you do.
- To share your experience and perspective.
- Hard work, excitement, and fun...all while making a difference.
- The opportunity to travel, and attend trainings across the state and the country

Interested? Please fill out the attached application and email, fax, or mail your application back by Mary Martin Vance by April 30th, 2011. All applications must be received by April 30th. Applicants submitting late applications will not be considered. The coordinator and a council of youth will rank applications based on a rubric system then conduct interviews with selected candidates. We will notify both those selected and not selected by e-mail.

Questions? Please e-mail Mary Martin Vance at mvance@appcnc.org . Please do not call as I am in and out of the office often and will be able to respond in a more timely manner via e-mail.





Teen Health Now Application

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email: _____

Current Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Current School: _____ Year/Grade: _____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Gender Identity (optional): _____

Race/Ethnicity (optional) _____





Please attach answers to the questions below:

Answers should be approximately 1 paragraph per question.

1. Why did you want to join Teen Health Now ?
2. Why do you think that you will be an exemplary member of the Council?
3. Please describe your previous leadership experience.
4. Please describe your public speaking experience.
5. What is one issue that you believe affects the ability of adolescents to access health education and services?
6. What education, experience, or knowledge do you have about sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS?
7. What ideas do you have for helping the Council achieve its goal of educating other youth about issues of reproductive health and justice?
8. If you were previously on the Teen Health Now council:
 - a. How did you contribute to the council goals and activities this year?
 - b. How do you feel you worked as part of our team?
 - c. What are some of your goals for the council next year?
 - d. What are some events or trainings you would like the council to host next year?

Please provide one person (not a family member) who can serve as a reference for you:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____





Phone Number: _____
Relationship to you: _____

