


Hanna Center receives grant to aid youth

sonomanews.com/article/news/hanna-center-grant-youth-substance

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June 24, 2024

Hanna Center given grant to aid youth at risk for substance use disorder

Hanna Center in Sonoma has been awarded a \$550,000 grant to address prevention, outreach and education of vulnerable youth who have a substance use disorder. 





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Cameron Safarloo, CEO of Hanna Center in Sonoma (Courtesy of Hanna Center)

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INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

June 24, 2024, 9:05AM

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The Elevate Youth California grant, announced this month, was awarded to Hanna Center by the California Department of Health Care Services through its contract with the Center at Sierra Health Foundation.

Elevate Youth California is a statewide program of community leaders, partners and youth who are investing in a more equitable California. Hanna Center's grant is part of the more than \$51.7 million that was awarded to community based and tribal organizations.

The program is addressing substance use disorder by investing in youth leadership and civic engagement for youth of color and youth ages 12 to 26 who are 2SLGBTQ+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and additional sexual

orientation or identities) and living in communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs.

Hanna Institute, the training and research component of Hanna Center, will use the grant funds to support and expand Sonoma Valley 4 Healing Justice, a youth program of On the Margins, an organization that collaborates with others to design and implement anti-racist, equitable and affirming programs, practices, initiatives and policies.

Hanna Institute has been a partner and co-facilitator of On the Margins since its inception.

The Elevate Youth California grant will enable the institute to add a Seeking Safety curriculum for developing healthy coping skills as well as fund an annual youth-led mental wellness event, the first of which was hosted on Hanna's campus on May 23, 2024.

“We are so grateful to be able to expand this powerful and community-building program with our valued partner, On the Margins,” said Cameron Safarloo, CEO of Hanna Center, in a news release. “SV4HJ is at the heart of Hanna’s mission to provide community-based initiatives designed to instill a sense of purpose and belonging among young people in Sonoma County.”

Elevate Youth California is funded through the Youth Education Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment Account provided by Proposition 64.

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