



Youthpraise is committed to harnessing the collective ideas, resources and capacity of the Minnesota community to promote more systematic approaches to delivering and supporting high quality opportunities for learning beyond the classroom. We work in partnership with youth, youth-serving organizations, policy makers, funders and others stakeholders to ensure all Minnesota's youth thrive. A key goal for Youthpraise is to *mobilize the power of youth*. To pursue this goal, Youthpraise is partnering with the Minnesota Alliance With Youth and youthrive to elevate youth voice in policy decisions and build more effective youth-adult partnerships.

Minnesota Alliance With Youth

The mission of the Minnesota Alliance With Youth (the Alliance) is to ignite the spark in all young people in Minnesota to become actively engaged, develop strong voices, and acquire the skills needed for success in school, work, and life. Since its inception in 2007, the Alliance has served as a convener, collaborator and capacity builder for youth development.

Youthpraise's partnership with the Alliance will create a formal operating structure and training model for youth to advise the Minnesota Legislature and the Minnesota Department of Education on policy issues that impact youth by expanding the charter and capacity of the Minnesota Youth Council (MYC). The MYC was formed in 1997 and includes four youth representatives from each of Minnesota's eight congressional districts and four at-large members. Each youth is paired with an adult mentor. MYC represents an effort to be more intentional and systematic in mobilizing youth voice statewide.

Youthpraise has made an initial investment of \$190,000 for the Alliance to develop a specialized curriculum and provide training for MYC members on how to influence public policy; provide ongoing support to 36 MYC members, including facilitating 12 monthly council meetings and 2 multi-day retreats; facilitate MYC meetings with state legislators, local elected officials and the commissioner of education; provide training and technical assistance to up to 3 local youth councils affiliated with citywide systems building efforts; and establish and convene a youth council coordinators network.

youthrive

youthrive is the lead organization for the International PeaceJam Foundation's Upper Midwest region and trains students and adult allies on a standards-based curriculum rooted in the lives of thirteen Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. In recent years, youthrive developed the Circle of Youth Engagement (CYE), an interactive training program that promotes youth/adult partnerships. Since 2008, youthrive youth-trainers have conducted 22 CYE trainings, reaching over 50 community agencies in Minnesota. Increased recognition of the CYE has led to the scheduling of additional trainings in Illinois and Louisiana and other requests throughout the country.

Youthpraise's partnership with youthrive will increase the availability of CYE trainings to elevate skill levels of individuals, programs and organizations targeting under-served and under-engaged youth. To increase the availability and interactivity of the CYE, youthrive will complete technology and business plans focused on developing a series of iPad applications of CYE training curriculum elements. The partnership will also launch the initial phase of an innovation lab within youthrive headquarters.

Youthpraise has made an initial investment of \$160,000 for youthrive to test and refine the CYE training tool; provide CYE training and technical assistance to Youthpraise, Youthpraise grantees, and Minnesota Alliance for Youth; develop comprehensive technology and business plans associated with youthrive organizational goals; build internal capacity to collect data, document program outputs and measure training outcomes through the hiring of a Director of Training and Innovation; and launch a new website and startup funding for an innovation lab.