



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH

9500 GILMAN DRIVE
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-
0927
TEL: (619) 955.1041
FAX: (619) 681-0666

January 11, 2017

Dear Youth Group Leader,

On behalf of the UC San Diego's Center for Community Health and our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) we are requesting your help in engaging and integrating a strong youth voice at the **9th Biennial Childhood Obesity Conference**, scheduled for May 31-June 2, 2017 here in San Diego. The conference's theme: *Good Health for All: Addressing Equity where We Live, Learn Work, and Play*, provides a unique opportunity to incorporate messages, ideas, strategies, and lessons learned from the many youth-led projects happening across our State.

Our YAC has been hard at work since returning to the school year. They recently completed a full day orientation and training on advocating for nutrition using the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). They are working on *PhotoVoice* project that we hope to share with the group soon. We have also submitted a video to First Lady Michelle Obama to invite her to be a keynote speaker at the conference. We are excited about this possibility.

Your dedication to young people and their families, and childhood obesity issues in particular, would add great value to the 2017 conference. To achieve our goals, we are requesting that you **help us identify 2-3 youth** from your community that could participate in monthly group web chats/meetings with our YAC. We are setting up three work groups to help organize our planning efforts: Communication and Social Media; Advocacy; and, Conference Logistics.

Some of the items we hope to cover and get direction and input on for the Conference are:

- Brainstorm, compile and present ideas for the conference around suggested content (delivered by youth or others) and ways for youth to participate at the conference;
- Help establish the key issues for youth pertaining to obesity;
- Support and develop content for the conference social media channels;
- Research the possibility of a larger youth panel/forum for discussing childhood obesity; and,
- Consider and suggest ways in which the conference space can support youth participation and opportunities for networking.

We are currently figuring out the logistics of hosting these state-wide calls/meetings and hope to have the first one in early February 2017. We are reaching out to youth groups across the State and are looking forward to the ongoing discussions of health equity and obesity prevention. If you could please forward the contact information for the youth, or if you would like to discuss further with us, please let us know.

We are humbled by this responsibility and excited about the outcomes of bringing together the many viewpoints and voices of our diverse youth. Thank you for helping us and being a partner in this work and we look forward to regular communication over the next few months.

Sincerely,

UC San Diego Center for Community Health
<https://ucsdcommunityhealth.org/>