



YOUTH BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

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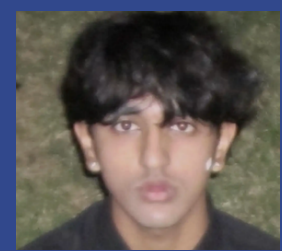
ORGANIZATIONS FEATURED:

HOPE 4 HEALTH - FREMONT YOUTH VOTE - UNITY AID - TRI-VALLY TECH -
VITALITY BIOSCIENCES - FUTURE PHYSICIANS

JULY 30, 2026



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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Youth-led organizations across Alameda County are addressing important community needs through health education, scientific research, technology literacy, civic engagement, and access to essential supplies. To better understand their experiences, a Youth Organization Roundtable was held with representatives from Tri-Valley Tech, Vitality Biosciences, Hope4Health, Fremont Youth Vote, Unity Aid Project, and Future Physicians. Participants discussed why they started their organizations, the impact they have created, the challenges they face, and the resources that could help them continue growing.

Although the organizations work in different areas, many reported similar barriers. Common challenges included limited access to funding, difficulty establishing credibility, challenges connecting with schools and community partners, limited knowledge of available resources, and complicated administrative processes. Participants also emphasized that youth organizations often face additional barriers because adults and institutions may be unfamiliar with their work or may not view young leaders as credible.

The roundtable identified several opportunities for Alameda County to better support youth-led organizations. The most common recommendation was the creation of a centralized youth organization resource hub that could connect young leaders with grants, mentors, volunteers, community partners, event spaces, and information about starting and operating an organization. Participants also recommended more youth-focused funding opportunities, improved communication with local government, and additional opportunities for youth organizations to collaborate and provide feedback.

II. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Youth-led organizations provide young people with opportunities to address community needs while developing leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills. Across Alameda County, students are creating initiatives that teach children about health and technology, conduct scientific research, increase civic participation, and provide essential resources to underserved communities. However, many youth organizations operate with limited funding, small networks, and little access to formal support.

This report combines background research with direct feedback from youth leaders who participated in the Alameda County Youth Organization Roundtable. The purpose of the report is to identify the challenges youth-led organizations face, examine the strategies they use to create impact, and develop recommendations for how Alameda County can better support youth leadership and economic activity. The roundtable included representatives from Tri-Valley Tech, Vitality Biosciences, Hope4Health, Fremont Youth Vote, Unity Aid Project, and Future Physicians. Although each organization has a different mission, their experiences reveal common gaps in funding, outreach, credibility, mentorship, and access to resources.





III. YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Tri-Valley Tech was created to address gaps in technology literacy, internet safety, digital footprints, and media literacy. The organization has taught more than 500 students overall, including more than 150 students through its Fremont chapter. Its programs help younger students understand how their online decisions may affect them in the future.

Vitality Biosciences was founded to provide students with opportunities to complete hands-on research and gain experience using laboratory equipment. The organization has hosted programs teaching children about topics such as DNA testing and water treatment and has served approximately 50 students. Its members have also earned recognition through scientific competitions, including placing first at the state Envirothon championships.

Hope4Health began as a student club focused on increasing awareness of health conditions that are often misunderstood. Since its founding, the organization has raised approximately \$9,000, received grants, supported health research organizations, and hosted educational programs on topics such as hygiene, nutrition, and sun safety.

Fremont Youth Vote focuses on youth civic engagement and advocacy. The organization works to make government and public policy more accessible to students while encouraging young people to participate in local government. Its members have attended city council and school board meetings, built relationships with local officials, and advocated for lowering the school board voting age to 16.

Unity Aid Project was created to address limited access to health and hygiene supplies. The organization has donated more than 800 first-aid and hygiene kits, raised more than \$2,000, and expanded through student-led chapters. Its work has reached communities in Fremont, San Diego, and India.

Future Physicians creates interactive anatomy workshops that help children better understand their bodies and become more comfortable with medical settings. The organization has worked with approximately 1,200 students and hosted 15 events. Through hands-on education, Future Physicians encourages children to become more informed and confident participants in their healthcare experiences.

IV. KEY CHALLENGES

Despite their accomplishments, participants identified several barriers that make it difficult to start, operate, and expand youth-led organizations.

A. Funding and Financial Barriers

Funding was one of the most common challenges. Organizations reported difficulty raising money for supplies, programs, research equipment, facilities, and community events. Vitality Biosciences explained that laboratory equipment and facility costs can be expensive, while larger grants are often designed for professional researchers rather than student-led organizations. Hope4Health and Unity Aid Project also described challenges with fundraising and the need to organize multiple events to support their programs.

B. Credibility and Partnership Challenges

Many participants reported difficulty establishing credibility because they are young. Tri-Valley Tech, Unity Aid Project, Future Physicians, and Hope4Health explained that schools, larger organizations, and potential partners may be unfamiliar with youth-led organizations or hesitant to work with them. Some participants found that adults became supportive after learning more about their mission, but gaining the initial opportunity to explain their work was often difficult. Youth leaders also described challenges in identifying the correct people to contact and receiving responses from larger organizations. Several participants noted that local institutions can have complicated administrative processes or strict requirements that make partnerships difficult to establish.



C. Outreach and Communication Barriers

Outreach was another major challenge. Participants reported difficulty finding community partners, recruiting volunteers, promoting programs, and connecting with schools or event locations. Some youth leaders explained that information about available grants, partnerships, and county resources is not always easy to find or understand. Fremont Youth Vote also emphasized that government information and processes can be difficult for students to navigate. Participants suggested that government offices make contact information, forms, and public resources easier to access and understand.

D. Administrative and Institutional Barriers

Several organizations described challenges related to nonprofit requirements, school policies, and restrictions on youth-led programming. Hope4Health and Future Physicians noted that nonprofit paperwork can be difficult to understand and that some schools or organizations have strict requirements regarding who may teach or host programs. Participants also explained that youth leaders may have limited access to public institutions because government offices and organizations often operate during school hours. This can make it difficult for students to attend meetings, contact officials, or participate in community decision-making.

E. Balancing Leadership and Academic Responsibilities

Youth leaders must balance organizational responsibilities with school, extracurricular activities, and personal commitments. Tri-Valley Tech explained that student leaders and volunteers may have limited availability because of academic responsibilities. Fremont Youth Vote also identified consistency as a challenge, particularly when advocacy requires attending meetings and remaining involved over long periods of time.

V. STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORT

Despite these barriers, participants identified several strategies that have helped their organizations grow. Many organizations began by focusing on a specific community need. Tri-Valley Tech addressed technology literacy and internet safety, Unity Aid Project focused on access to health and hygiene supplies, and Future Physicians created hands-on anatomy education for children. Participants emphasized that starting with a clear problem helped them develop focused and meaningful programs.

Partnerships and community connections were also important. Several organizations built relationships by attending community events, speaking directly with families, participating in farmers markets, and connecting with local government officials. Fremont Youth Vote emphasized that developing relationships and staying connected can strengthen advocacy efforts, while Future Physicians found that outreach to parents and community facilities helped expand participation.

Participants also highlighted the importance of persistence. Many organizations experienced unanswered emails, limited funding, or initial skepticism. However, youth leaders encouraged others not to be discouraged by rejection and to continue reaching out to potential partners. They also emphasized that young people should begin with a manageable project, focus on genuine community impact, and allow their organizations to grow over time.



VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the feedback collected during the roundtable, the following recommendations may help Alameda County better support youth-led organizations:

Create a Youth Organization Resource Hub

The most common recommendation was the creation of a centralized, county-supported resource hub. The hub could provide information about starting a nonprofit, applying for grants, finding volunteers, connecting with mentors, locating event spaces, and partnering with schools, libraries, and community centers. A searchable directory could also allow youth organizations to share their missions and connect with community members.

Expand Youth-Focused Grants and Funding Opportunities

Alameda County could explore funding opportunities designed specifically for youth-led organizations. Smaller grants could help students purchase supplies, host events, conduct outreach, or begin new projects. Clear eligibility requirements and application guidance would make these opportunities more accessible to young leaders.

Increase Opportunities for Collaboration and Networking

The county could host regular youth organization roundtables, networking events, or community showcases. These events could connect youth leaders with one another, local businesses, mentors, nonprofit organizations, and government representatives. Participants emphasized that collaboration can reduce isolation and help organizations share resources and successful strategies.

Improve Access to County Staff and Community Partners

The county could make contact information and partnership opportunities easier for students to find. Youth-friendly communication, clearer instructions, and opportunities to meet with county representatives outside of school hours could reduce barriers to civic participation and community partnerships.

Include Youth Leaders in Community Discussions

Youth organizations should have regular opportunities to provide feedback on programs and policies that affect young people. Creating youth advisory opportunities or including youth representatives in relevant community discussions could help local government better understand the needs and experiences of young leaders.

VII. CLOSING

The Youth Organization Roundtable demonstrated that young people across Alameda County are already creating meaningful solutions to community challenges. From teaching technology and health education to supporting scientific research, providing essential supplies, and increasing civic engagement, youth-led organizations are making measurable contributions to their communities.

However, many organizations face similar barriers involving funding, credibility, outreach, partnerships, and access to information. The recommendations identified in this report, particularly a centralized youth organization resource hub, youth-focused funding, stronger networking opportunities, and improved access to local government could help reduce these barriers.

By investing in youth leadership and creating clearer pathways to resources and partnerships, Alameda County can help young people expand their impact while encouraging the next generation of community leaders.



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