

# Vermont Tobacco Control Youth Leadership Council 2024-2025 Application



**What is the Vermont Tobacco Control Youth Leadership Council?** This is a new youth leadership opportunity designed to bring youth and youth voice to the forefront of tobacco prevention efforts in Vermont.

**What will the Vermont Tobacco Control Youth Leadership Council do?** Members of the 2024-2025 Vermont Tobacco Control Youth Leadership Council will meet to make important decisions on youth engagement strategies, areas of focus and statewide activities for the Our Voices Xposed (OVX) and Vermont Kids Against Tobacco (VKAT) youth initiative programs. Council members will also work alongside Vermont Department of Health staff to envision and run the Annual Youth Leadership Summit and Annual Statehouse Rally.

**Who can apply be on the Vermont Tobacco Control Youth Leadership Council?** This opportunity is open to any Vermont youth entering grades 6-12 in the fall, who has an interest in public health and wellness, youth leadership and using their voice to create positive change in their schools and communities.

**How many open seats will there be on the Vermont Tobacco Control Youth Leadership Council?** There will be 12 seats open this year. Six will be reserved for middle school youth and Six will be reserved for high school youth.

**How long will I serve on the council?** If selected, you will serve a term of one year, starting on June 1, 2024 and running through May 31, 2025.

**Will I be compensated for my time?** Yes! This year we are happy to announce that each council member will receive a stipend to compensate them for their time, energy and participation in the Vermont Tobacco Control Youth Leadership Council activities. The maximum stipend will not exceed \$1,400/year.

\$35- Stipend for each on-line council meeting attended = \$420 total

\$225- Stipend for each in person council event attended = \$675 total

\$305- youth leadership council member base stipend = \$305 total

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## What are my obligations as a council member?

- Attendance at and participation in monthly on-line youth leadership council meetings, which will be held the first Thursday of the month from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. *Members will receive a \$35 stipend for each council meeting attended.*
- Attendance at and participation in the three in-person youth engagement events scheduled from June through May. *Members will receive a \$225 stipend for each in-person event attended in addition to mileage reimbursement.*
  - June or July - Leadership Council Retreat
  - November- Youth Leadership Summit
  - February- Statehouse Rally

**Do I need my parents or guardians' permission to participate?** Yes. It is very important that your parent or guardian understands the commitment you are making and supports you in this process.

**How do I apply?** Simply fill out the attached application and answer a few questions about why you want to be part of the Vermont Tobacco Control Youth Leadership Council. If a written response is not your thing, that's okay too! We accept audio and video recordings in lieu of written responses.

We are also asking for two letters of support to help us get to know you better. These can be from friends, relatives, classmates, teachers, special educators, paraeducators, SAPs, social workers, multicultural liaisons, guidance counselors, mentors, employers, coaches, etc.

Please submit your application (written response or recording) and your two letters of support to Liza Comiskey at [liza.comiskey@vermont.gov](mailto:liza.comiskey@vermont.gov) by May 1, 2024. You should expect a response on the status of your application the week of May 13.

# Vermont Tobacco Control Youth Leadership Council

## 2024-2025 Application

- Audio or video recordings can be submitted in lieu of written responses.
- Please submit two letters of support with your application. These can be from friends, relatives, classmates, teachers, special educators, paraeducators, SAPs, social workers, multicultural liaisons, guidance counselors, mentors, employers, coaches, etc.

### General Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your current school year (as of April 2024): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your parent/guardian aware of and supportive of your application to the Vermont Tobacco Control Youth Leadership Council? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

We are looking for students with diverse backgrounds and experiences to join this year's Youth Leadership Council. In your own words, please describe your identity and who you are. (This can include anything about how you see yourself, including race, ethnicity, community, disability, life experiences, etc.).

How has your life, your school or your community been impacted by commercial tobacco misuse?

Why do you want to be part of the Vermont Tobacco Control Youth Leadership Council?

# **Vermont Tobacco Control Youth Leadership Council 2024-2025 Application**

What is youth voice and why is it important?

How have you used the power of your voice and/or leadership skills to create positive change in your school or community and how have you motivated your peers to join you in your efforts?

Do you have a personal story or background without which your application would feel incomplete? If so, please share it here.

*Please submit your application (written response or recording) and two letters of support to Liza Comiskey at [liza.comiskey@vermont.gov](mailto:liza.comiskey@vermont.gov) by May 1, 2024. You should expect a response on the status of your application the week of May 13.*

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## **Letter of Support Examples**

### **Example 1**

Dear Vermont Tobacco Control Program,

I am writing this letter in support of Alex Gold, who has expressed interest in applying for the Vermont Tobacco Control Youth Leadership Council. I have had the pleasure of knowing Alex for four years and have witnessed firsthand their dedication, passion and drive to make a positive impact in their community.

Alex has demonstrated their ability to work collaboratively with others, listen to different perspectives, and effectively problem-solve in challenging situations. I have no doubt that Alex will be a valuable asset to the council and will contribute positively to the team dynamic. They are eager to learn, grow and take on new challenges, and I believe that this opportunity will provide them with the platform to further develop their leadership skills and make a difference in the lives of others.

Sincerely,

*Sara Brown*, Saratoga Middle School Afterschool Program Coordinator

### **Example 2**

Dear Vermont Tobacco Control Program,

I have seen Cassandra take leadership roles in our school, from helping organize the winter coat drive, to stepping up to help others when needed. She has a way of inspiring others to be their best selves and creating a positive and inclusive environment wherever she goes. Cassandra is not afraid to speak up for what she believes in and is always looking for ways to make our community better.

I believe Cassandra would be a valuable member of the Youth Leadership Council. Her energy, enthusiasm and passion for creating healthy change will be a good addition.

Sincerely,

*Kara Bean*, Student at Hoghton Elementary