

The Utah Department of Health and Human Services Office of Substance Use and Mental Health (DHHS SUMH) with the National Collaborative for Transformative Youth Policy (TYP) and Utah National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), invite you to submit an application to the fourth annual **Youth and Young Adult Policy Summit to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah on August 11th, 12th, and 13th 2026.**

The dual purposes of the Policy Summit are:

- 1) To bring young people and policymakers from across the nation to showcase policies designed to improve services for youth and young adults.
- 2) To examine the levels of youth and young adult engagement in the development and implementation of these policies. We hope that through the careful analysis of these policies, we can learn valuable lessons on developing policies impacting young people and ways to improve youth and young adult engagement in that process.

If you **would like to watch the 2023, 2024, and 2025 Policy Summits**, including Youth Panelists highlights, the videos can be found [here](#):

<https://sumh.utah.gov/services/treatment/child-mental-health/youth-policy-summit/>

and [here](https://www.clasp.org/events/utah-youth-transition-policy-summit/): <https://www.clasp.org/events/utah-youth-transition-policy-summit/>

During this summit, leaders from around the country in health and human resources will bring their existing youth and young adult-centered policies to be reviewed by a panel of young people. The topics include:

- 1) Eliminating barriers to meeting basic needs, such as:
 - a) Childcare
 - b) Transportation
 - c) Guaranteed income
 - d) Accessing entitlements such as SSDI and Medicaid
 - e) Housing stability and security
 - f) Obtaining competitive and integrated employment
 - g) Mental health and/or substance use disorder treatment
- 2) Transitions from child-serving to adult-serving systems, such as:
 - a) medical/physical health
 - b) Education
 - c) Maintaining service for youth exiting state custody
 - d) Brained funding from various child and adult serving systems for TAY
 - e) Developing neutral safety nets for youth with inadequate formal or informal support
 - f) Mental health and/or substance use treatment
- 3) Approaches that systematically incorporate youth leadership into decisions, through youth engagement in state and local government (i.e. youth leadership, youth offices, youth advisory boards), such as:
 - a) About their own care
 - b) About service offerings
 - c) About budget

Further questions? Please contact kelcybrock@utah.gov

If you are interested in this opportunity, please fill out the application to be considered for the panel. Each question is an open response. You can take up as much or as little space as you want, and answers are typically between 50 - 400 words. You may also upload a video response, with the typical length under 10 minutes. We understand everyone has different communication styles so these are only suggestions. Our focus is on content, not length.

Applicants are not allowed to utilize AI (chatGPT, etc) to complete any part of this application. We want to hear YOUR authentic voice.

Purpose/goal of this event:

- 1) to bring young people and policymakers from across the nation to showcase policies designed to improve services for youth and young adults.
- 2) to examine the levels of youth and young adult engagement in the development and implementation of these policies.

Typical Event Structure (subject to minor changes):

- Each policymaker's presentation is 50 minutes long (25 minutes for policy makers to present and 25 minutes to dialogue with the Youth Panelists on the level of youth and young adult engagement).
- The panel of youth and young adults will review the policies to see the ways in which young people were/are involved in the creation and management of the policy. A rubric and training on evaluation and constructive recommendations will be provided to youth panelists and presenters before the event.

Compensation:

- Travel, lodging, and some meals will be covered for youth panelists (and their chaperone if under 18).
- \$250 per each day of the summit (if not being paid for your time in another way).
- \$25/hour for prep work before the panel (about 10 hours reviewing policies and rubrics).
- \$25/hour (optional) for writing the follow-up report after the event conclusion. Previous Policy Summit Reports as examples can be found here:

<https://sumh.utah.gov/services/treatment/child-mental-health/youth-policy-summit/>

Qualifications to be able to apply:

- Between 14 and 26 years old. A chaperone is required for youth panelists who are under 18 years old, chaperone travel expenses will also be covered.
- Confirmed ability to be in-person in Salt Lake City, Utah on August 11th, 12th, and 13th, 2026

Please note for the 2026 Policy Summit: the event may be virtual/hybrid. You will be notified whether this will be fully in-person in SLC Utah or virtual/hybrid when you receive a status update on your submitted application.

- Interest and/or experience in policy

Timeline

- Completed applications must be submitted by **May 15th, 2026 at 5pm Mountain Standard Time**
- You can expect to receive a status update on your application by **June 1st, 2026**

For any questions, please contact kelcybrock@utah.gov