

**CALIFORNIA YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM**

**FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

# 2022 California Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities Informational Guide

**Tuesday, July 19 through Friday, July 22, 2022**

# What is YLF?

The 2022 YLF is a four-day leadership program for students with disabilities and **will be hosted virtually through the Zoom meeting platform**. Students will learn advocacy and leadership skills from alumni and professionals with disabilities and create a “Personal & Career Leadership Plan” to help reach their future education, independent living, and career goals.

Students interact with state and national leaders with disabilities, which may include celebrities, politicians, entertainers, and other adult role models with disabilities. Participants also make lifelong friendships with other statewide delegates and have mentorship opportunities with alumni.

Students will attend a combination of large group presentations and small group meetings during the forum. Typical YLF hours are 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and includes evening programs from 6-8 p.m. Additional optional post-YLF program sessions in the months following YLF will be offered. These are one to two hours each and hosted virtually on the Zoom platform.

# What does it cost?

There is no cost for students who are selected to attend. If needed, YLF can help selected delegates acquire the technology they need to attend the sessions online, and with any related reasonable accommodations. Funding for YLF is provided through a public-private partnership.

# Who can attend?

California residents with a disability who are high school sophomores, juniors, or seniors during the 2021-2022 school year, ending in June 2022.

The most highly qualified applicants are students who have demonstrated leadership potential in school and/or the community. All students with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

# How are students selected?

A Delegate Selection Committee reviews and scores all of the applications and will schedule interviews with the most highly rated applicants.

Interviews will take place in person or over Zoom during February and March 2022. A panel of Disability Community leaders will make the final selections by middle of April.

# If selected to attend the YLF, what happens next?

Delegates and parents/guardians will be informed of their selection through email.

Once selected, delegates and parents/guardians will complete a confirmation form and provide additional information to the planning partners, including details about what reasonable accommodations and technological supports are needed.

More detailed information about the forum’s schedule and activities will be sent in late spring.

# To Apply

Visit the [Youth Leadership Forum](http://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/ylf) website at [www.dor.ca.gov/Home/ylf](http://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/ylf) to download the application.

E-mail the application, essay, and letter of recommendation to [YLF@dor.ca.gov](mailto:YLF@dor.ca.gov).

In the email subject line, put your first name initial, last name, and the words “2022 YLF Student Application”. (For example, “A. Applicant YLF 2022 Student Application”)

Only typed application packets will be accepted.

# Application Deadline

The deadline date to send in your application is March 25, 2022.

# Have questions? Contact Us

Contact the CCEPD office at (855) 894-3436 (voice) or email us at [YLF@dor.ca.gov](mailto:YLF@dor.ca.gov).

For relay services please call 711.

# Who coordinates YLF?

The YLF is sponsored by the California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and administered annually through a collaborative effort of state agencies, non-profit organizations, private industry, and YLF Alumni. A YLF Governance Committee comprised of representatives from several YLF partners provides guidance, direction, and support on aspects of the program.