## Health Career Pathways for Young People

CSHA believes that preparation for productive employment is an integral part of adolescent health. School-based health centers (SBHCs) bring health professionals into a setting that is part of a young person’s daily life and are well-positioned to play a role in promoting health careers among underrepresented groups as SBHCs groups by:

* Offering youth leadership programs for students who may otherwise not have access to off-campus extracurricular activities or programs focused on career exploration.
* Providing access to a multidisciplinary medical team that includes primary care and mental health providers, as well as health educators.
* Supplementing opportunities to access health career development beyond specialized academies and career-focused clubs, where space is limited and there are not enough resources to support all the students who want to enter the medical field.
* Reducing transportation barriers to off-campus, work-based learning opportunities.

## Youth Health Workers (YHW) at SBHCs

To strengthen the role of SBHCs in addressing the need for a diverse health workforce, the California School-Based Health Alliance (CSHA) is launching the **Youth Health Worker** project in six SBHCs:

* De Anza Health Center at De Anza High School (El Sobrante)
* Hercules High School Health Center (Hercules)
* JFK Student Health & Enrichment Center at John F. Kennedy High School (Richmond)
* James Morehouse Project Health Center at El Cerrito High School (El Cerrito)
* Pinole Valley High School Health Center (Pinole)
* Richmond High School-Based Health Center (Richmond)

*This project is funded by the California Endowment, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, and the San Francisco Foundation.*

CSHA will provide training, curriculum, and consultation to help each site implement the following program components:

**YHW Program & Curriculum –** Up to 60 students will participate in this program that consists of weekly group trainings to empower participants to link their peers with services at the SBHC, to empower them to advocate for the health needs of their peers, and to expose them to a variety of health careers.

**School-wide Outreach Events & Workshops –** Reaching a minimum of 500 students at each school, these events, classroom presentations, and/or individual health coaching will promote health issues chosen by the program participants.

**Prioritizing Young Men of Color –** Each of the six sites is required to prioritize the recruitment and retention young men of color ensuring diversity among program participants.

**Linkages to Health-Related Internships and Post-Secondary Opportunities –** Each site will coordinate presentations and training sessions with members of their multidisciplinary health staff. Additionally, CSHA is coordinating with local health pipeline programs and community colleges to ensure participants are connected to health career training and post-secondary opportunities.

**Evaluation** **–** All of program participants will complete pre- and post-test evaluations in regards to stigma associated with accessing services, accessing post-secondary studies, and interest in health careers.

## Partnership Opportunities

CSHA is looking for local trainings, youth conferences, or work-based learning opportunities to connect young people to so that they may continue to explore the variety of health career pathways available to them.