



**By Youth For Youth (BYFY) Awards \$36,447 to Local Youth Programs**  
*High school leaders review and award City and County grants that will benefit youth-led organizations and youth programs in Dane County.*

Dane County, WI - In April 2023, the By Youth for Youth committee awarded \$36,447 to 13 local youth programs and projects. BYFY is a collaborative program through the Dane County Youth Commission, United Way of Dane County, the City of Madison Community Development Division, and UW-Extension Dane County's Institute of Positive Youth Development.

By Youth For Youth's funding priorities for 2023 were focused on mental and physical health, school programming and student support, youth experiencing poverty, youth experiencing food insecurity, youth experiencing homelessness, climate change, STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), and immigration.

**Funding highlights:**

Rooted - "Eggcellent Chicken Coop": Thanks to generosity from the City of Madison supporting S.T.E.M. related youth projects, \$5,000 goes toward the Badger Rock urban farm and youth garden educational chicken coop program. Youth will engage in hands-on learning about caring for and managing the chicken coop to provide organic eggs at a low cost to residents to address food security needs.

Bayview Foundation - "Youth Advocacy & Support Program": \$3,000 goes toward providing low-income BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth gender-specific spaces and activities to discuss youth issues and build community with their peers.

Avicenna Society of Madison - "Afghan Kabul Cuisine Startup": \$3,000 goes toward funding a Afghan cuisine startup restaurant that will help address poverty, food insecurity, and employment opportunities for Afghan refugee youth in the Dane County area.

**Supporting partner statements:**

"By Youth For Youth gives the next generation of community leaders an opportunity to make real impact at a young age. These inspiring teens are learning how to collaborate, communicate effectively and accelerate results, all in order to help more people and change more lives. We are proud to convene Dane County's up and coming thought leaders." - *Renee Moe, President & CEO of United Way of Dane County*

“By Youth For Youth is a one-of-a-kind youth program and the City of Madison is proud to partner with them. BYFY puts decision-making power in the hands of young people in real and structural ways, allowing participants to fund other youth programs, preparing them to be community leaders and participate in policy-making and funding decisions. BYFY supports young people in understanding and exercising the power they have to better their communities.” - *Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor of Madison*

“We are honored to provide funding to By Youth For Youth each year. This program provides Dane County high school students the experience of allocating tangible funds that positively impact youth county-wide. It’s a unique and wonderful experience for youth interested in making a difference in their communities.” - *Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive*

**About By Youth For Youth:**

By Youth For Youth (BYFY) is a volunteer committee of Dane County high school students that make investment decisions for youth-led programming and initiatives in Dane County. BYFY members identify critical public health issues impacting youth in Dane County, establish funding priorities, review grant proposals, and recommend funding from County and City grants to support projects developed and implemented by youth to serve youth.

Three sponsors provide the funding for BYFY projects: United Way, Dane County Youth Commission and the City of Madison Community Development Division. United Way of Dane County is the fiscal agent for both City and County funds. University of Madison-Wisconsin Extension provides administrative and programmatic oversight in partnership with the City of Madison.

**2022-2023 By Youth For Youth Committee Members:**

Laila Ahmed	Madison West High School
Savanna Bresette	Edgewood High School
Jack Christensen	Bridges Academy - Studio City
Freny Gandhi	Vel Phillips Memorial High School
Alexa Garber	Middleton High School
Jenni Granados Osorio	Verona Area High School
Bridget Helland	Edgewood High School
Lily Hofstetter	Edgewood High School
Lindsay Moen	Deerfield High School
Olivia Morsbach	Edgewood High School
Christine Negovani	Vel Phillips Memorial High School, MATC
Sarita Retana	Madison West High School
Brynn Ronk	Madison West High School
Aurora Ross	Madison East High School
Armani Stovall	Vel Phillips Memorial High School
Hosanna Tekle	Madison West High School
Kalia Thao	Madison East High School
Adriana Villagomez	La Follette High School