



## YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT, Inc. 2020

Stephanie Barksdale, Executive Director

John Gentile, President

Norma Sproul, Vice President

Secretary /Treasurer

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Directors of Special Education and Pupil Services, High School Special Education Department Heads/Supervisors, Transition Coordinators, School Psychologists, School Counselors, Private Special Education Facilities, BRS Counselors, BESB Counselors, DDS Case Managers, Centers for Independent Living, Parent Groups, Parents

**FROM:** Stephanie Barksdale, Executive Director  
Connecticut Youth Leadership Project, Inc.

**SUBJECT:** Enclosed Application Form for the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) – 2020 for High School Students with disAbilities

**DATE:** December 2019

Enclosed is the application form for the Twenty-Second Annual, Youth Leadership Forum for Students with disAbilities. The 2020 YLF is scheduled for July 27 - July 30, 2020 at the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus.

This Forum will bring together approximately forty high school students with disAbilities from throughout Connecticut for a four-day training focusing on enhancing community leadership skills as well as personal development skills-The Forum will provide a concentrated educational and motivational experience for the students selected through a formal, competitive process.

These student delegates will explore personal leadership skills; participate in team building activities; define career goals; develop and practice self-advocacy and independent living skills; and create a very specific action plan that describes what they will accomplish. Students who are accepted to YLF will be required to attend follow-up sessions after the Forum to implement their Individual LifeCourse Action Plan.

I am requesting that you make available copies of this application to any current **sophomore** or **junior** with a disAbility.\*

It is the goal of the YLF Planning Committee to select students from all regions of Connecticut, representing a wide range of disAbilities and ethnic backgrounds. All students should be referred to the school's BRS Level Up Counselor to register for Level Up pre-employment transition services prior to submitting the application in order to access agency funding for the Forum.

Thank you for your assistance in promoting this important Forum for young adults with disAbilities in Connecticut – you may download additional copies of the application by logging on to our website – [www.ctylp.org](http://www.ctylp.org)

If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact, Stephanie Barksdale at 860-689-6868 or [execdir@ctylp.org](mailto:execdir@ctylp.org)

\*Students in non-graded/transition-only programs must be returning to high school for at least 1 year.

\*All Students must be age 16 before July 26, 2020

[www.ctylp.org](http://www.ctylp.org)



**MEMORANDUM**

TO: High School Sophomores and Juniors with disAbilities\*

FROM: Stephanie Barksdale, Executive Director  
Connecticut Youth Leadership Project, Inc.

SUBJECT: An Invitation for you to Apply for The Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) – 2020 for Students with disAbilities

DATE: November 2019

Enclosed is an application for our annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with disAbilities.

2020 will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> year we are offering this innovative leadership program. The four-day Forum will include many exciting educational and motivational activities to assist you in strengthening your leadership and personal planning skills and create an individualized action plan for your future - The Forum will take place July 27-July 30, 2020 at the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus.

We are inviting you to apply, and are asking for your help in recruiting other students to apply for the Forum. Completed application packets must be sent electronically by February 24, 2020 to Stephanie Barksdale [execdir@ctylp.org](mailto:execdir@ctylp.org) If you need to print and mail it, please have a postmark date of February 24, 2020 and send to:

Stephanie Barksdale  
Executive Director  
152 Taylor Rd.  
New Milford, CT 06776

Through a competitive process, approximately 40 students will be selected to attend the forum - **If you are accepted to YLF you will be required to attend follow-up sessions after the Forum to implement your Individualized LifeCourse Action Plans.**

It is the goal of the YLF Planning Committee to select students from all regions of Connecticut, representing a wide range of disAbilities and ethnic backgrounds.

The Youth Leadership Forum is sponsored through the cooperative effort of the public and private sector in Connecticut - There is no cost for you to attend the Forum. However each student should be referred to your school's BRS Level Up Counselor to register for Level Up pre-employment transition services prior to submitting an application in order to access agency funding for the Forum.

All information in your application is strictly confidential and will only be shared with members of the YLF Selection Committee. Applications may also be downloaded by accessing our website at [www.ctylp.org](http://www.ctylp.org)

If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact Stephanie Barksdale at 860-689-6868 or [execdir@ctylp.org](mailto:execdir@ctylp.org)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 24, 2020**

\*Students in non-graded/transition-only programs must be returning to high school for at least 1 year.

\*All Students must be age 16 prior to July 26, 2020

**Connecticut Youth Leadership Forum - 2020**

**APPLICATION FORM**

**Deadline for Postmark on Mailed Application: February 24, 2020**

- Applicants must complete ALL information on pages 1 through 4 of this application.
- Please type or print with black ink.
- You can send the application Electronically or Mail to the address on the last page (pg. 4)
- Please see page 5 for additional application instructions.

**Personal Information:**

Male  Female

---

Student's Last Name    First                      Middle

---

Mailing Address                      City                      State                      Zip Code

(      )                      -    /      /

---

Home Telephone Number (with area code)    Birthdate (MM/DD/YY)

---

Email Address

**Ethnicity/disAbility Information:**

**Race:** Please check all that apply:

- AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE
- ASIAN/ PACIFIC ISLANDER
- BLACK/AFRICAN-AMERICAN (NOT of - Hispanic Origin)
- HISPANIC
- WHITE (NOT of - Hispanic Origin):

**disAbility:** Please check all that apply:

- ADD/ADHD
- BLIND       VISUAL disAbility
- I read with large print
- I read with Braille
- I require audio output

DEAF       HEARING IMPAIRED

- I use sign language
- I use live captioning
- I use lip reading
- I use an assistive listening device
- I use an FM system
- I use a loop system

DEVELOPMENTAL disAbility

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Intellectual disAbility (ID)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

LEARNING disAbility

MENTAL HEALTH disAbility

NEUROMUSCULAR disAbility

ORTHOPEDIC disAbility

- I use a wheelchair
- I use a walker

OTHER (DESCRIBE) \_\_\_\_\_

**School and Community Involvement:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of High School

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Mailing Address      City      State      Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
HS contact to help arrange interview      (      )      -  
HS contact telephone number (with area code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
HS contact email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade level on February 24, 2020      Date Graduation Expected

Please list the school classes in which you are currently enrolled:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Briefly list your involvement with your school and community - This may include any offices you held, club memberships, after school activities or work experiences - List the length of involvement, the grade level you were in at the time of participation, and the name of an adult contact with whom you worked.

**School Activities:**

Activity	Adult Contact	Dates	Grade Level

**Community Activities:**

Activity	Adult Contact	Dates

**Work Experience (Paid or Non-paid):**

Jobs Held	Adult Contact	Dates

**State Agency Involvement**

	Adult Contact	Dates
<b>DORS Level-Up Services</b>		
<b>DDS Services</b>		
<b>BESB Services</b>		
<b>Other State Services</b>		

## References

Please list two references. One reference **MUST** be a high school representative and one **MUST** be a community representative from outside your school.

List the name, position/title, email address and telephone number of your two references.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name                                      Position/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization                      Email Address                      Telephone Number (with area code)

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name                                      Position/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization                      Email Address                      Telephone Number (with area code)

## Required Essay:

Your answers to the following questions will be used to assess your potential to benefit from and contribute to this leadership Forum - Your total response to all four of these topics should not exceed four (4) typewritten, double-spaced pages. **(Responses must be double-spaced and either typewritten or printed in black ink). Remember to attach this essay when electronically submitting your application.**

1.     **Leadership**– Describe what the term “leadership” means to you.
2.     **Positive Influences** - In terms of leadership, tell us about two people who have positively influenced your life - (Family, teachers, counselors, friends, public officials or celebrities are appropriate examples).
3.     **Experiences as a person with a disAbility** - Describe two important experiences you have had as a young person with a disAbility - (Please be specific about your examples as they relate to your disAbility).
4.     **Future Plans** – Describe your plans for after high school graduation.

Thank you for completing this application - Applications must be emailed/mailed no later than February 24, 2020.

Email completed application to Stephanie Barksdale - [execdir@ctylp.org](mailto:execdir@ctylp.org)

**If you wish to print and mail this application**, send with a postmark of no later than February 24, 2020 to:

Stephanie Barksdale  
 Executive Director  
 152 Taylor Rd.  
 New Milford, CT 06776

**KEEP THIS PAGE, DO NOT MAIL IT WITH YOUR APPLICATION**

**How Student Delegates will be Selected and Applications Instructions for Students**

1. To be eligible for the Youth Leadership Forum - 2020, the student must:
  - a. Have a disAbility, as defined by the Americans with Disability Act (ADA);
  - b. Be in 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade as of February 24, 2020, or if students are in non-graded/transition only programs they must be returning to high school for at least 1 year;
  - c. Have demonstrated leadership potential in the school and community;
  - d. Have **Medical Insurance**; and
  - e. Reside in Connecticut.
2. All students should have been in touch with their school's BRS Level Up Counselor to register for Level Up pre-employment transition services PRIOR to submitting the application. YLF will receive reimbursement for students who are receiving Level Up services from DORS/BRS-BESB
3. Student applicants must email their completed application no later than February 24, 2020 to:  
Stephanie Barksdale - [execdir@ctylp.org](mailto:execdir@ctylp.org)

**If you wish to print and mail this application**, send with a postmark of no later than February 24, 2020 to: Stephanie Barksdale  
Executive Director  
152 Taylor Rd.  
New Milford, CT 06776

4. Semi-finalists will be selected and contacted by telephone to arrange a personal interview - The interview will be conducted by a panel coordinated by the Youth Leadership Project, Board of Directors - Interviews will take place in Spring 2020.
5. All applicants will be notified by letter whether they have been selected to attend the Forum. Letters will be mailed by late April - Approximately 40 students will be selected to attend.
6. After being selected, students will be asked to complete a confirmation form and provide additional information to the Planning Committee.
7. All appropriate expenses will be paid by the Youth Leadership Forum, including lodging, food, materials and interpreters for students who are deaf and personal care assistants for students with physical disAbilities.
8. Students needing any additional special support or attention please let us know at any time during the application process. ie: showering, dressing etc.

If you have any questions, contact:  
Stephanie Barksdale, 860-689-6868, [execdir@ctylp.org](mailto:execdir@ctylp.org)