

Mayor's Youth Council

Ruth & Lyle Taylor Endowment Fund 2026

City of Madison

Mayor Ranae Barlett
100 Hughes Rd
Madison, AL 35758-1110

amanda.jarrett@madisonal.gov
O: 256-772-2885

Amanda Jarrett

amanda.jarrett@madisonal.gov
O: 256-772-5602

Application Form

Organization Information

Primary Organization Name*

City of Madison

Mission Statement*

Please make any adjustment to your mission statement as reported to Candid (formerly Guidestar).

The City of Madison's mission is to provide excellent services through responsible use of public resources, enhancing the quality of life for our community.

Charity Tracker*

If you are an organization in Madison County providing direct services, are you an active member on the CharityTracker network and have you participated in the CharityTracker training?

Not applicable

Project Overview

Project Name*

The name of the project is attached to each and every form within your process. This is the "identifier" for the request.

Mayor's Youth Council

Project Service Area*

Project funding will be allocated for the Greater Huntsville, Alabama area only. Please check all counties served by your project.

Limestone County

Madison County

Project Executive Summary*

In **three sentences or less** provide a summary of your project. This summary should be written so that if it were shared with someone who has not read the whole application, they would be able to easily understand this project. If your grant is selected for funding, this summary will be used in Community Foundation publications to describe your grant

The Mayor's Youth Council will include 30 students from across Madison, representing public, private, and homeschool communities. Participants will be selected from 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students, ensuring a diverse group of young leaders from throughout the city. Monthly meetings will provide students

with an in-depth look at local government, community service opportunities, and potential career paths in public service.

Project Description*

Please describe in detail the proposed project including the scope of activities and the intended impact. How does your project or program serve to educate the public about the need to take an active part in civics in the United States?

The Mayor's Youth Council is a comprehensive civic engagement initiative designed to develop informed, responsible, and actively engaged young citizens. By moving civic education beyond the classroom and into direct interaction with local government, the program equips high school students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to participate meaningfully in American democracy. The program delivers a structured nine-month curriculum combining experiential learning, public service, and direct access to municipal leadership. Participants will engage with key City departments, including Public Safety, Planning, Finance, IT, and Public Works, to gain a working understanding of how local government functions and how public institutions collaborate to serve residents. Students will also examine the relationship between local, state, and federal systems, reinforcing the interconnected nature of civic life. A central objective of the program is to translate civic knowledge into action. Each participant is required to attend at least one City Council meeting and one board, committee, or commission meeting, providing firsthand exposure to public decision-making, transparency, and citizen input. These experiences are designed to increase civic confidence and demonstrate how individuals can influence outcomes at the local level. The program also integrates voter education and civic responsibility. During the opening session, students will learn about the electoral process and the importance of civic participation, with eligible participants offered the opportunity to register to vote. This early emphasis establishes voting as a foundational civic duty and reinforces long-term engagement. Monthly sessions incorporate hands-on activities and real-world applications, including interactions with law enforcement and fire personnel to understand public safety's role in maintaining a stable society; engagement with City planners and engineers to explore how policy decisions shape growth and opportunity; and financial literacy instruction to connect personal responsibility with broader economic citizenship. Students will also learn about cybersecurity, ethical use of technology, and the role of government in protecting critical infrastructure. The program further emphasizes inclusive and community-centered governance. Through engagement with small business owners, students will explore how local policy supports entrepreneurship and economic mobility. Interactions with the senior community will highlight the importance of responsive government services across all populations, reinforcing the principle that civic leadership must reflect and serve diverse community needs. A dedicated session with the Public Works Department will expand students' understanding of essential infrastructure and its designation as a critical component of emergency response and national resilience. This reinforces the concept that civic systems and services are foundational to both daily life and democratic stability. Participants are selected through a competitive application process that prioritizes demonstrated interest in service, leadership potential, and civic involvement. Throughout the program, students will be challenged to identify community issues, propose solutions, and develop a stronger sense of civic responsibility. The program will culminate in a formal graduation during a City Council meeting, symbolizing participants' readiness to engage as informed citizens. By the end of the program, students will demonstrate increased knowledge of government processes, greater confidence in civic participation, and a clear understanding of how to engage in their communities.

Intended Impact:

- Increase youth participation in local government processes
- Improve understanding of civic systems and public decision-making
- Promote voter awareness and registration among eligible participants
- Strengthen pathways to public service careers
- Foster long-term civic engagement and community leadership

Through measurable outcomes and sustained engagement, the Mayor's Youth Council will build a pipeline of civically engaged young leaders prepared to contribute to their community and uphold the principles of democracy.

Goal Measurement*

How will you measure the impact of your project/program? What outcomes or results do you hope to achieve?

The Mayor's Youth Council success will be measured through quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods. Success will be tracked across participation, knowledge gain, and demonstrated civic engagement, including:

- Achieve 90% or higher program completion rate
- Maintain 85% average attendance across all sessions
- Ensure 100% of participants attend at least one City Council meeting and one board/committee/commission meeting
- Administer pre- and post-program surveys to measure growth in understanding of:
 1. Local government structure and functions
 2. Civic responsibilities (voting, public input, community service)
 3. Confidence in engaging with elected officials and public processes
- Target a minimum 30% increase in civic knowledge scores from pre- to post-assessment
- Target 80% of participants reporting increased confidence in civic participation
- Facilitate voter registration opportunities for all eligible students
- Completion of 3 total community service projects with a total of 300 student service hours per cohort.
- Target 75% of participants indicating interest in future civic engagement, public service, or community leadership opportunities

Project Duration

Project Duration*

Please describe the anticipated duration of this project/program

Ongoing

Project Start Date

09/02/2026

Project End Date

04/30/2027

Financial Information

Amount Requested*

Grant requests should be in the amount of \$2,500 - \$9,000.

\$7,000.00

Total Project Budget*

\$7,166.00

Project Budget*

Please upload a copy of the proposed project budget. (Note: If your overall project budget exceeds the amount requested in this grant, please indicate specifically how the grant funds will be used as well as plans for securing the remaining funding.)

mayors_youth_council_budget (1).pdf

Partial Funding*

We understand that some proposals can only be accomplished if the grant request is fully funded. Other programs/projects can be successful with partial funding. To assist the grants committee in their decisions, would you be willing to accept partial funding for this proposal?

Yes

Demographic Information**Participants***

How many unique participants will be impacted by this grant?

30

POPULATION QUESTIONS: If unable to report specific population statistics for your program in the following questions, please report the census data for the geographic area you serve. [Link to census data.](#)

POPULATION SERVED: AGE GROUP

Please indicate by **percentage (%)** the targeted age group of those impacted by this program.

Demographic Group	Percentage (Application)
% Under 5 years of age	0
% 5-17 years of age	70
% 18-64 years of age	30
% 65 years and older	0

POPULATION SERVED: RACE

Please indicate by **percentage (%)** the race of those impacted by this program.

Demographic Group	Percentage (Application)
% African-American or Black	25
% American Indian or Alaska Native	1
% Asian	3
% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1
% White	67
% More than one race	3

POPULATION SERVED: ETHNICITY

Please indicate by **percentage (%)** the targeted ethnicity of those impacted by

Demographic Group	Percentage (Application)
% Hispanic or Latino	7
% Not Hispanic or Latino	93

POPULATION SERVED: GENDER:

Please indicate by **percentage (%)** the targeted gender of those impacted by this program.

Demographic Group	Percentage (Application)
% Female	49

% Male	50
% Nonbinary	1

POPULATION SERVED: POVERTY

Please indicate by **percentage (%)** the targeted income/poverty level of those impacted by this program.

Demographic Group	Percentage (Application)
% Persons in poverty	10
% Persons not in poverty	90

Additional Information

Additional Information and Upload

Please share any additional information that would be relevant for the Grants Committee. You may also provide one additional upload related to your application.

We used census data for our region. We aim to have a well-rounded, diverse council.

SUBMISSION NOTES:

After you submit your application, you will receive an email from the grant portal (administrator@grantinterface.com) confirming your submission. If you do not receive it, return to the portal to confirm the submission went through.

If you get a message that one of your answers was over the character limit and cannot determine which question it is, it could be because of a cutting and pasting error. When answers are copied from an external document into the grant portal, it may pull the HTML code behind it. You can fix this by either copying and then pasting as plain text or copying it to your computer's notepad, which removes all formatting, and then pasting it into the document. You can then use the options within the question to do your formatting.

If you get an error message that the file for an upload was not found, try uploading the file again, waiting 60 seconds to ensure it is fully uploaded (even if it shows it is uploaded), and then click submit.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- mayors_youth_council_budget (1).pdf

Mayor's Youth Council — Program Budget 2026–2027

City of Madison, AL | Inaugural Session | 30 Students

KEY ASSUMPTIONS	Value	Notes
Total Students in Program	30	Per program page
Number of Monthly Sessions	9	Sep 2026 – May 2027
Lunch Cost per Student (per session)	\$14	Estimate; sponsor-eligible
Students Needing Transportation	25	From 2 high schools (mid of 21–30 range)
Van / Shuttle Cost per Session	\$120	Round-trip per van; 1 van assumed
T-Shirt Cost per Student	\$18	Screen-print, qty 30
Contingency Rate	5.0%	5% of subtotal
Booklet Print Cost per Student (per session)	\$4.50	Est. 12-pg saddle-stitch, local print shop, color cover

LINE ITEM				
LUNCHES				
Lunch per student per session	\$14	30	9	-
Lunch Subtotal				
TRANSPORTATION (Van / Shuttle)				
Van / shuttle round-trip per session	\$120	1	9	-
Transportation Subtotal				
CLASS SHIRTS				
Class T-shirt per student (one-time)	\$18	30	1	-
Class Shirts Subtotal				
PRINTED BOOKLETS				
Booklet per student per session	\$4.50	30	9	\$1,215
Booklets Subtotal				\$1,215
Program Subtotal				
Contingency (5%)				-
TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET				\$1,215

💡 Sponsorship offsets available: sponsors covering a session lunch or class shirts receive logo placement & acknowledgment.