



## YOUTH EQUITY SCHOLARS (YES)

Mentoring and Research Discovery

**Mission:** Youth Equity Scholars (YES) is a **research mentorship training program** that engages undergraduates in meaningful *community-partnered* projects addressing youth inequities and well being. YES builds a pipeline of these undergraduates, particularly those with lived experiences of inequality, into pathways of research, service and leadership careers that can impact and address youth equity issues worldwide.

The i4Y **Youth Equity Scholars** is a year long program providing:

- participation in community partnered projects focused on youth inequities and well being with faculty across multiple disciplines.
- training workshops that build in-depth research skills targeted towards their projects.
- cascading mentorship from faculty members to graduate students to undergraduate students.
- community building and co-learning opportunities amongst undergraduates throughout the curriculum, including career mentoring.
- models inline with campus-wise emphasis on enhancing undergraduate discovery experiences
- opportunities for students to provide feedback on research projects and initiatives to amplify the expertise and experiences undergraduates bring to this work.

**Impact:** Since its inception in 2018, YES has worked with over **25 undergraduates** on projects that benefitted hundreds of youth regarding:

- violence experienced by homeless youth in San Francisco
- global programs addressing child marriage
- partnership building between the city of Berkeley and UC Berkeley around homeless youth
- empowering youth voice in San Francisco middle and high schools

Because of the YES program, undergraduates stated that it has "*validated my passion for research and has provided me with the support needed to move on to the next academic phase of my life, " and "I felt a true sense of purpose and leadership. This facilitated confidence within myself."*

In the 2020-2021 academic year, we aim to double our impact, reaching more undergraduate students to engage them in meaningful community collaborative work. Our vision is to grow this model across the UC Berkeley campus, to provide students with important connections to community research that makes a difference in the lives of future generations.

**Funding Opportunities:** Every **\$5,000 gift** will fund an undergraduate student in the program for one year and covers undergraduate stipends, graduate mentors, and essential staff program coordination.

*The YES pilot project is supported by the VCRO Youth & Inequalities Initiative (Pls Ozer, Auerswald, Carter) and developed by Innovations for Youth. For more information visit [i4y.berkeley.edu](http://i4y.berkeley.edu) or [click here for our informative YES video](#). Thank you for your support!*