

Hartford Youth Civic Collective (HYCC)

The **Hartford Youth Civic Collective** is a youth-led digital hub made *for* and *by* young people in Hartford. Our goal is simple: make civic life understandable, accessible, and meaningful—so youth know **how Hartford works, where they fit in, and how to take action.**

HYCC is a partnership of the Hartford Votes~Hartford Vota Coalition and the Registrars of Voters Office. It aims to bring together information about local government, elections, community organizations, internships, volunteer opportunities, and youth voices—all in one place. Think of it as your go-to guide for getting involved in Hartford.

Participant Requirements

- *Resident of Hartford*
- *and/or*
- *Currently Attend a Hartford High School or College (or graduated within the last year)*

Why This Project Matters

Across the country—and here in Hartford—young people are often left out of civic spaces or told they're “too young” to participate. HYCC exists to change that.

This project aims to:

- Break down confusing civic systems into youth-friendly language
- Show real, local ways to get involved (beyond just voting)
- Center youth perspectives, stories, and leadership
- Help young people feel confident using their voice in their community

Civic engagement isn't just about elections—it's about **showing up, speaking up, and shaping the future of Hartford.**

What Will HYCC Include?

HYCC will be a public website featuring:

- **Civic Opportunities Portal** – internships, volunteer roles, and ways to get involved locally!
- **Election Information Hub** – clear, nonpartisan info on voting, registration, and key dates!
- **Hartford Power Map** – who makes decisions in Hartford and how to contact them!
- **Organization Directory** – youth, civic, and advocacy groups by issue area!
- **Civic Glossary** – plain-language explanations of civic terms!
- **Youth Voice & Media** – blogs, social media, and storytelling led by youth!

Your Role as a Youth Participant

Youth are not just participants in this project—you are **co-creators**.

As part of a **Youth Working Group** (high school or college), your role may include:

- Sharing what *you* find confusing or missing in civic spaces
- Giving feedback on website design, language, and features
- Helping identify issues that matter to Hartford youth
- Brainstorming content ideas, social media campaigns, and stories
- Testing tools and resources before public launch

You do **not** need to be an expert in politics—your lived experience and perspective are what matter most.

What You'll Gain

By participating in HYCC, you will:

- Learn how local government and civic systems really work
- Build leadership, critical thinking, and collaboration skills
- Contribute to a public project that serves Hartford youth
- Gain experience useful for college, careers, resume building, and community leadership
- Help shape a resource that will outlast this project
- Gain volunteer hours

Our Commitment to You

HYCC is committed to:

- Respecting youth time, ideas, and contributions (*Virtual Format*)
- Creating inclusive, welcoming spaces for all identities and backgrounds
- Valuing honesty, curiosity, and collaboration
- Ensuring youth voices are reflected in final decisions

The Bigger Picture

HYCC is about more than a website. It's about building a **culture of youth civic power in Hartford**—one where young people know their voices matter and have the tools to make change.

We're excited to build this together.

Your city. Your voice. Your future.

Interested in being a member of our Youth Working Group?

[Complete the interest form by Friday, February 20th.](#)

