

# CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMUNITY PLAN (CYCP) REPORT CARD



## ALEXANDRIA'S PROGRESS TOWARDS ENSURING EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS TODAY AND TOMORROW

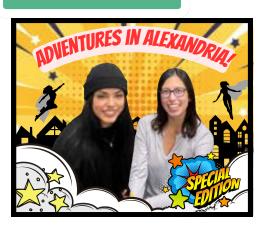
#### VOLUME 3, ISSUE X

This issue reports the progress made on providing youth with accurate sexual health information and access to reproductive health care services between April 2021 - May 2023

#### CYCP GOAL

All Children, Youth, and Families will be Physically Safe and Healthy

#### **ALEXANDRIA SPOTLIGHT**



THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF "ADVENTURES IN ALEXANDRIA" FEATURES THE "OGS" OF THE VALIANT PEER ADVOCATES, VAERELIN MOLINA AND CHLOE YOKITIS.



THE KEEP IT 360 PEER
ADVOCATE PROGRAM
HIRES AND TRAINS
YOUTH TO EDUCATE
THEIR PEERS ON
MAKING HEALTHY
LIFE CHOICES.

YAERELIN WAS HIRED AS A PEER ADVOCATE IN 2019 AND CHLOE WAS HIRED ON IN 2021. DURING THAT TIME, THEY HAVE...

- DELIVERED 65 PREVENTION-BASED WORKSHOPS TO NEARLY 500 MIDDLE SCHOOL-AGED YOUTH.
- SERVED ON THE ALEXANDRIA CAMPAIGN FOR ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY (ACAP)'S BOARD.
- PLANNED AND HOSTED FOUR ANNUAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES.
- PARTICIPATED IN WEEKLY PLANNING SESSIONS IN 2020-2021 TO DEVELOP HE CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMUNITY PLAN.
- FACILITATED "YOUTH SPEAK UP" EVENTS.

AND SO MUCH MORE.



AS YAERELIN DEDICATES MORE TIME TO SUPPORTING
ANOTHER AWESOME PROGRAM (THE CAPITAL YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM) AMD CHLOE
TRANSITIONS TO COLLEGE (UNIVERSITY OF
ROCHESTER), IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE THESE TWO
PHENOMENAL PEER ADVOCATES (PAS). LET'S HEAR
FROM OUR HEROES ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE AS PAS.

## WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO APPLY FOR THE JOB?

YAERELIN BECAME A
PEER ADVOCATE WHEN
SHE RECEIVED A SCHOOL
EMAIL ENCOURAGING
YOUTH IN ALEXANDRIA
TO APPLY FOR THE
POSITION...

"I IMMEDIATELY APPLIED BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SERVE MY COMMUNITY AND SPREAD ACCURATE INFORMATION THAT COULD HELP PREVENT PREGNANCY, ENCOURAGE LEADERSHIP, PROVIDE SUPPORT, AND OVERALL ENCOURAGE ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL GROWTH."

(3)



CHLOE LEARNED
ABOUT THE PEER
ADVOCATES (PA)
DURING THE YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE IN 2020.
SHE WAS INSPIRED TO
APPLY FOR A PA
POSITION AFTER SEEING
A PRESENTATION THAT
THE PAS DELIVERED ON
YOUTH MENTAL
HEALTH...

"IT WAS A REALLY AWESOME PRESENTATION. THEY INTRODUCED A LOT OF NEW IDEAS THAT I HADN'T THOUGHT OF, AND IT WAS SO COOL TO BE ABLE TO HEAR FROM PEOPLE MY OWN AGE TALKING ABOUT THINGS THAT PEOPLE DON'T TALK ABOUT..."

"...AFTER THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, I REACHED OUT TO ERIKA KLEINER AND I WAS LIKE, "HEY! I WAS JUST AT THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. THERE WAS THIS REALLY COOL GROUP. IF THEY'RE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE, LET ME KNOW." AND THEN SHE SENT ME THE INFO TO APPLY, AND I DID."

## WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A PA?

YAERELIN: "BEING A PEER
ADVOCATE IS LIKE BEING THE
BIG SISTER I'VE NEVER HAD. WE
FOCUS ON EARLY
INTERVENTION, ENSURING THAT
YOUTH'S VOICES ARE HEARD
AND OFFERING SUPPORT AND
RESOURCES WITHIN THE
COMMUNITY."

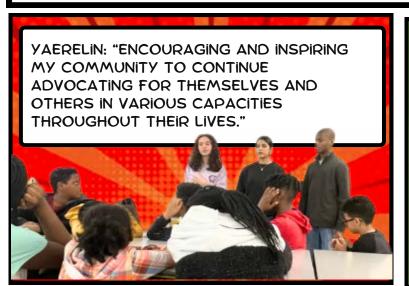
CHLOE: "WE GO TO MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND WE DO ACTIVITIES ABOUT THINGS LIKE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND HEALTHIER RELATIONSHIPS. WE TALK ABOUT THINGS THAT I WISH I HAD TALKED ABOUT WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL."



CHLOE: "IT SURPRISES ME HOW MUCH THE YOUTH SPEAK UP AND THE SORT OF QUESTIONS THEY ASK. I'M SO IMPRESSED WITH HOW MUCH THEY ARE WILLING TO PUT THEMSELVES OUT THERE IN ORDER TO LEARN MORE AND CONNECT WITH THEIR PEERS."



#### WHAT IS REWARDING ABOUT YOUR ROLE AS A PEER ADVOCATE?



CHLOE: "KNOWING THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT LOTS OF TOPICS LIKE, HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, SUBSTANCE USE, SOCIAL MEDIA AND MENTAL HEALTH, IS AMAZING. IF YOU'RE NOT HAVING THESE CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR FAMILIES OR FRIENDS, THEN ALL YOU'RE SEEING ABOUT IT IS ON INSTAGRAM OR TIK TOCK OR NETFLIX."

#### WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A PEER ADVOCATE?

YAERELIN: "I HAVE THE ABILITY TO INSPIRE AND MOTIVATE OTHERS THROUGH DIFFICULT CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. BEFORE MY ROLE AS A PEER ADVOCATE, I NEVER KNEW I WAS CAPABLE TO GUIDE MY PEERS IN A WAY THAT IS INSPIRING."

CHLOE: "I'VE LEARNED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ASKING QUESTIONS. I LEARN THE MOST WHEN I ASK QUESTIONS AND I'M REALLY ABLE TO DIG DEEP INTO SOMETHING. THAT HAS REALLY GUIDED ALL THE CONVERSATIONS."



AS YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE AND PREPARE FOR CHANGES, WHAT PARTS OF BEING APPEAR ADVOCATE DO YOU THINK WILL SERVE YOU MOST AS A YOUNG ADULT? WHAT WILL YOU TAKE WITH YOU?

YAERELIN: "TRANSITIONING AS A YOUNG ADULT CAN BE HARD AT TIMES DUE TO SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS AND PRESSURES. BEING A PEER ADVOCATE HELPED ME BUILD A SUPPORT NETWORK THAT PROVIDES GUIDANCE AND CULTIVATES RESILIENCY. IT PREPARED ME FOR LEADERSHIP ROLES AND HELPED ME NAVIGATE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF MY LIFE. AND IT INSPIRED ME TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN MY COMMUNITY."

CHLOE: "I USED TO BE REALLY AFRAID OF MESSING UP OR SAYING THE WRONG THING. BUT NOW I'M SO MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE TALKING TO PEOPLE. I'M NOT AFRAID OF SPEAKING MY MIND ANYMORE. AS I MOVE ON TO COLLEGE AND BEYOND, I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE CONNECTIONS MORE NATURALLY BECAUSE I HAVE THIS MINDSET OF LIKE, "BE WHO YOU ARE AND DON'T OVERTHINK THINGS." IF YOU JUST SPEAK FROM THE HEART AND SAY WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, THEN I THINK THAT'S WHAT MOST PEOPLE WANNA SEE AT THE END OF THE DAY."



## WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM YOUR YEARS WORKING WITH THE CITY?



CHLOE: "THE PEER
ADVOCATES AND I
WENT TO A NATS
GAME, AND WE ALL
GOT TO KNOW EACH
OTHER. WE HAD DINNER
AND ON THE CAR RIDE
BACK, WE LISTENED TO
OLIVIA RODRIGO AND
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL
SONGS. WE WERE ALL
SINGING ALONG AND IT
WAS SO MUCH FUN..."



## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

YAERELIN: "INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS IS SOMETHING I WISH I STARTED SOONER. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE COMMUNITY LEADERS IN THE CITY FOR ENCOURAGING OTHERS AND ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY'S SOCIAL FABRIC."

CHLOE: "I REALLY ENJOYED MY TIME AS A PEER ADVOCATE. I AM DEFINITELY A DIFFERENT PERSON NOW THAN I WOULD HAVE BEEN IF I HAD NOT EVER ENTERED THE PROGRAM. IT'S GUIDED ME IN HIGH SCHOOL AND REALLY SHAPED ME. I'VE REALLY BEEN ABLE TO GROW INTO MYSELF MORE."



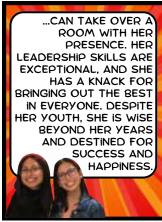
#### "YAERELIN IS THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO ... "



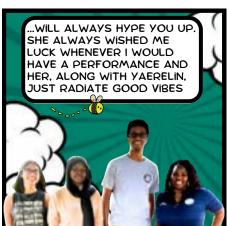




#### "CHLOE IS THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO ... "



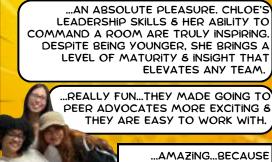


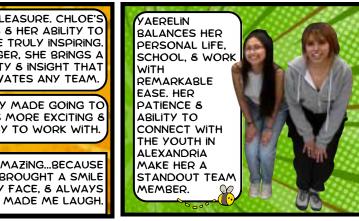




#### WHAT'S IS IT LIKE TO WORK WITH CHLOE AND YAERELIN?







## WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM CHLOE AND YAERELIN?



PASSION I HAVE FOR TEACHING KIDS FROM YAERELIN BECAUSE I SEE HER DEVOTION TO PEER ADVOCATES AND IT INSPIRES ME.

YAERELIN HAS TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE MORE RELAXED AND COMFORTABLE **DURING OUR** WORKSHOPS & HOW TO ADJUST TO **EVERYONE'S** NEEDS BY STARTING CONVERSATION WITH THE STUDENTS WE WORK WITH.

FROM CHLOE, I HAVE LEARNED HOW TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY & MANAGE BOTH IN SCHOOL & OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

THEY BROUGHT A SMILE

ON MY FACE, & ALWAYS

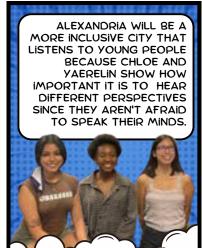
I LEARNED TO BALANCE WORK AND **FUN FROM CHLOE** SINCE SHE TAKES HER JOB SERIOUSLY WHILE KNOWING HOW TO LET LOOSE SOMETIMES.



## HOW IS ALEXANDRIA BETTER BECAUSE OF YAERELIN AND CHLOE?





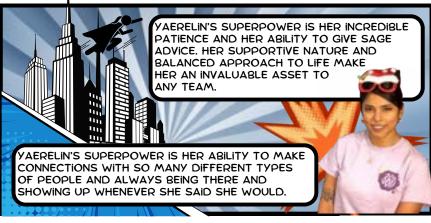








#### WHAT IS YAERELIN'S SUPERPOWER? CHLOE'S?







RESULT

Young people have complete and accurate sexual health information and access to sexual and reproductive health care services

## WHY THIS MATTERS

When young people have access to comprehensive, medically accurate and inclusive sexual health information delivered by educators they trust, they are empowered to plan for the futures they desire.

Sex Ed For All Month is an opportunity to raise awareness and call for real investment in sex education in schools and communities across the United States. Young people benefit from sex ed because it:

- Gives them age-appropriate, medically accurate information so they can have healthy relationships, make healthy decisions, and have positive health outcomes.
- Teaches them the importance of treating everyone with dignity and respect, with racial justice, fairness, and compassion for others as core values.
- Strengthens a family's bonds and understanding of their values and helps to create more open and honest communication.

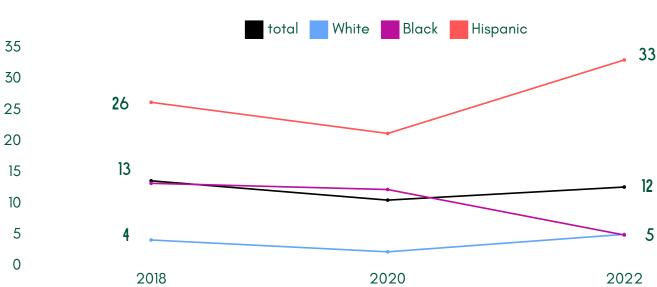
Sex education can occur at all grade levels with information that is age- and culturally-appropriate.

- In elementary school, sex ed covers foundational building blocks around things like consent and boundary setting with friends, understanding our bodies, and the beautiful diversity in the ways people form and have families.
- In middle school, sex ed addresses relevant issues such as puberty, healthy peer relationships and anti-bullying, and media literacy skills to support kids in developing a healthy body image.
- In high school, sex ed covers everything from birth control and safer sex, to sexual decision-making and communication skills, to understanding how society and culture shape our ideas about sex, gender, and race, and how we can work towards more equitable communities.

## HOW WE ARE DOING

## TEEN PREGNANCY RATE pregnancies / 1,000 females aged 10-19 Virginia Department of Health Division of Health

pregnancies/1,000 temales aged 10-19
Source: <u>Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics</u>



**Trend:** The teen pregnancy rate is 12.4 for every 1,000 girls, aged 10–19. The number has decreased by

8% since 2018. Hispanic youth are 6.83 times more likely to become pregnant than White youth.

## CYCP STRATEGIES

#15: Support ACPS in providing comprehensive K-12 sex ed that's LGBTQ inclusive and includes consent, violence, prevention, and refusal skills

#16: Prevent unintended teen pregnancy by targeting resources for prevention education and health services specifically for communities and groups that are disproportionately affected by teen pregnancy (i.e. Black and Latina girls, girls ages 18-19)

## IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

**2** Strategies, Progress with promoting sex Action Steps, ed for all:

100% are in progress or fully implemented

## **CHAMPION**



#### **PARTNERS**

- Alexandria City Public Schools
- Alexandria Police Department
- Alexandria Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Activities
- Alexandria Sexual Assault Center
- Boys & Girls Club
- Capital Youth Empowerment Program
- Community Lodgings
- Northern VA Juvenile Detention Center
- Sheltercare
- Seaport Foundation
- Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria
- Keep It 360 Peer Advocates Teen Wellness Center

## WHAT DID WE DO?

## ACAP HAS FULLY IMPLEMENTED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:



Formed the School

Health Advisory Board Family Life Education (FLE) Workgroup

Reviewed current FLE curriculum with the FLE Workgroup and made recommendations for revisions and enhancements.

The revised ACPS FLE curriculum has been approved to be implemented starting school year 24-25!



Worked with Capital Youth Empowerment Program to deliver evidence-based sex ed curriculum to youth groups across 13 community sites



Keep It 360 Peer Advocate program expanded to serve **five** sites in partnership with the ACPS LINK Program



Worked with ACPS to deliver evidence-based sex ed curriculum to middle school Health and P.E. Classes through Personal Responsibility Education Program Grant



Provided "Healthy Conversations" or other family engagement programs in multiple languages to build family skills related communication about sexual health/pregnancy prevention



Implemented the "El Camino" curriculum with Black and Latino youth, youth in the International Academy, and youth involved in the criminal justice system across various community-based locations



Installing condom dispensers at various community sites where disproportionately impacted groups reside, work and attend school

## ...AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF:



Advocating at local and state level for policies that improve student access to comprehensive sexual health education



Implementing ACAP's Latino Outreach Plan to provide prevention messaging and information to Latino community



dispensers at additional community sites where disproportionately impacted groups reside, work, and attend school



Identifying opportunities to provide prevention info/ resources to newly arrived students and families completing enrollment within ACPS

## HOW MUCH DID WE DO SINCE 2021?

#### # OF YOUTH SERVED BY ACAP'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS 6000 2023-24 5000 919 4000 2022-23 1,379 3000 2021-22 3,000 2000 5,298 1000 otal 0

## 5 KEEP IT 360 PROGRAM SITES have been served by the Peer Advocates

DISPENSERS have been installed

22 CONDOM

45,674 CONDOMS have been dispenses since launching Wrap Up, Alexandria

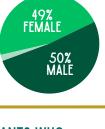
## **HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?**

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS' RACE & ETHNICITY

6% AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE 13% ASIAN 49% BLACK 39% HISPANIC 5% PACIFIC ISLANDER 40% WHITE

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS' GENDER IDENTITY 1% TRANSGENDER

100%



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

## % OF PARTICIPANTS WHO...

ARE LIKELY TO TALK WITH A PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR CAREGIVER ABOUT SEX 100% 80% 60% 40% 20% 77% 76% 2023-24 2022-23

ARE LIKELY TO RESIST OR SAY NO TO SOMEONE IF THEY ARE PRESSURED TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTS, SUCH AS KISSING, TOUCHING PRIVATE PARTS, OR SEX 86%

100% 80% 60% 40% 20% 68% 2022-23 2023-24

## PLAN TO DELAY SEXUAL INTERCOURSE UNTIL THEY GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL OR RECEIVE THEIR GED 86%

100% 80% 60% 40% 20% 0% 80% 2023-24 2022-23 ARE LIKELY TO TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT IF SOMEONE MAKES THEM UNCOMFORTABLE, HURTS THEM, OR PRESSURES THEM TO DO THINGS THEY DON'T WANT TO DO

100% 80% 60% 40% 20% 0% 89% 60% 2022-23 2023-24

BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT MAKES A RELATIONSHIP HEALTHY 92% 72%

100% 80% 60% 40% 20% 0% 2022-23 2023-24

#### 100% 83%

AFTER THE PROGRAM...

indicated improved attitudes towards

abstinence

of participants

of participants indicated improved attitudes toward

using condoms

of participants indicated improved selfefficacy to use a condom correctly

90%

88%

of participants indicated improved knowledge about preventing pregnancy and STIs (including HIV)

## % OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WHO... ...FELT THE MATERIAL PRESENTED WAS CLEAR

88% 59% 2022-23 2023-24 ...FELT THE PROGRAM'S DISCUSSIONS OR ACTIVITIES HELPED THEM TO LEARN PROGRAM LESSONS

100% 80% 76% 60% 63% 40% 20% 0% 2022-23 2023-24 ...FELT RESPECTED AS A PERSON WHILE IN THE PROGRAM

95% 66% 2022-23 2023-24

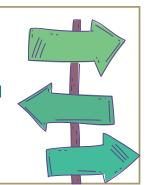
...WERE SATISFIED WITH THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION RECEIVED ABOUT CONDOMS AND BIRTH CONTROL 100% 80% 60% 40% 20% 0% 86% 67%

2022-23 2023-24 ...WERE SATISFIED WITH THE AMOUNT OF INFO RECEIVED ABOUT ABSTAINING FROM SEX

100% 80% 60% 40% 20% 0% 83% 66% 2023-24 2022-23

#### From now until 2025, we will:

- Increase the number of "Wrap Up, Alexandria" condom dispensers around the City and to specifically include locations where youth frequent.
- Seek funding for the PREP grant ad, if awarded, work with an additional community partner to increase ACAP's work over the next three years.



## **RESOURCES & UPCOMING EVENTS**



#### DID YOU KNOW...?

ACAP has a text line for youth who have questions about sex, love, and relationships! Teens can anonymously text SEX to 30644 and receive answers from a trained staff to specific questions about sex, love, and relationships within 24 hours.

#### FIND MORE RESOURCES AT:

- Alexandriava.gov/ACAP
- Facebook/ACAP.va
- Sex Ed for All Month
- Instagram: @AlexandriaTeenLife
- Resource Directory for Alexandria's Youth & Young Adults

## **TEEN RESOURCES**

#### **GENERAL**

- Teen Source My Health, My Future, My Plan
- Scarleteen: Sex Education for the Real World
- Go Ask Alice!
- Advocates for Youth
- Sex, Etc.
- I Wanna Know: Sexual Health and You
- Planned Parenthood Info for Teens

#### **RELATIONSHIPS**

- Alexandria Domestic Violence Program
- Love is Respect

#### CONDOMS & BIRTH CONTROL

- Power to Decide
- Avert Using Condoms

## PARENT & GUARDIAN RESOURCES

- Planned Parenthood for Parents
- Talking about Sex: FamilyEducation.com
- Kids Health for Parents
- Real Life, Real Talk
- Talk with Your Kids
- PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) | Metro DC PFLAG | Email pflag.alexandria@gmail.com or arl.pflag@gmail.com for information on local chapters and support groups
- Helping Families Support Their Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT)
   Children - A brief by Dr. Caitlin Ryan, Director of The Family Acceptance Project
- Check out these resources compiled by SIECUS: Sex Ed For Social Change for a onestop shop to help bring sex education into your home.

## RESOURCES FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

- ACAP offers support for service providers in Alexandria through trainings, workshops and technical services
- Advocates for Youth
- Power to Decide
- Sex, Etc.
- GLSEN Gay, Lesbian, Student Education Network
- Search Institute

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY

- Safe Space NOVA
- The Trevor Project
- Side by Side
- Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL), Washington, DC
- Alexandria LGBTQ Task Force

#### PREGNANT & PARENTING TEENS

- Alexandria Teen Wellness Center
- Scarleteen Pregnancy & Parenting



DRIA CAMPAIGN ON ADDLESCENT PREGNANCY ALEXANDRIAYA.GOV/AGAP

#### **Champion Guide**

Starting conversations about consensual sex and effective birth control has the power to change EVERYTHING. **These tips** from Power to Decide will help you continue being a champion to the young people in your life.



Wrap Up, Alexandria is a condom distribution program aimed to make condoms more readily available to the community through strategically placed condom dispensers throughout the City of Alexandria. This program is designed to help people, especially young people, make positive choices about their sexual health.





driavages or call 703.851.6163

This event is hosted by the Substance Abuse
Prevention Coalition of Alexandria, the
Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy,
the Alexandria Sexual Assault Center, and the
Alexandria Library.

Questions? Contact
felicia.parksealexandriava.gov or call
703.851.6163.

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2024 ALEXANDRIA YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE! AUGUST 6-7, 10AM-4PM AUGUST 8, 11AM-5PM

This **free** event is open to rising 9th through 12th graders residing in the City of Alexandria.

This year's conference will be held August 6 and 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and August 8, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., at the Del Pepper Community Resource Center (4850 Mark Center Dr.) Participants who attend the conference in its entirety are eligible to receive a \$20 gift card! This event is free and youth must register by August 2. **Register here**.

The Youth Leadership Conference empowers emerging young leaders by providing training opportunities and connecting them to resources in their community.

Click here to view and share the event flyer.