



April 3, 2020

Today the Youth Leadership Forum sub-committee of the Governors Committee on Disability Issues and employment met by video conference. In these uncertain times, the sub-committee is as committed as ever, to continuing to offer the Youth Leadership Forum during Summer 2020.

We cannot currently predict what the restrictions will be in July in Washington State due to the current public health crisis. Or how these past months and those to come will impact our community. However, we are exploring a variety of innovative options, including virtual modalities, to be able to offer YLF in a manner that is safe, meaningful, and accessible, this summer. We realize that conducting a portion of YLF brings challenges in the area of accessibility, technology, and personal relationships. We want to assure you that we will be looking into all options to make this feasible. Our intention is to provide that in-person segment in the last quarter of 2020 or first of quarter of 2021 during a long weekend, after the public health crisis has resolved itself. We will select a date later in this process when we have more information. However, those that can only attend the online portion of YLF will still find it rewarding and will be eligible for applying for a peer counselor for the 2021 Youth Leadership Forum.

We are continuing to recruit delegates and counselors for the program. In order to make this happen, we need your in reaching and assisting youth to apply for this opportunity. Each YLF experience is unique, and we know that although there will be many challenges this year, there will be many more rewards. Applications have been revised to include the information we need to ensure accessibility and technology needs are met. Applications and updates on the format of YLF are available through the Friends of YLF Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofyflf/>) or by contacting me (425) 319-7036 or:

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We look forward to sharing this experience with you,

Julie Peddy

Julie Peddy, Chair
Youth Leadership Forum