

# Collective for Youth Empowerment in STEM & Society (CYESS)

An Initiative of the Afterschool Alliance

Empowering Youth to Use STEM to Drive Social Change and a Healthier Future



Youth deserve to have a say in issues that affect them. And, we need their power, perspective, and creativity to help solve the most pressing problems facing our society and planet.

To make change in today's world that is driven by science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), young people must have a strong grounding in STEM, and the agency and opportunities to engage in issues that matter to them. While some youth have the tools, support and opportunities to make a difference, most do not.

**CYESS is changing that.** We work with educators, researchers, youth, and funders to integrate more STEM, civic engagement, and youth leadership into out-of-school time programs.

## Our Impact



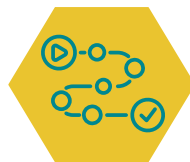
**EXCITE** young people about STEM by making it relevant



**EMPOWER** young people to create change



**NURTURE** motivated learners and critical thinkers



**PREPARE** young people for success in work and life



**CYESS**

Collective for Youth Empowerment in STEM & Society

## What We Do

CYESS brings together experts working at the intersection of afterschool and out-of-school time, STEM learning, civic engagement, and youth leadership to:



### Make and deepen connections.

We connect educators and leaders of youth programs with each other to build community, collaborate, brainstorm, and share resources.



**Build capacity.** We offer expertise, materials, and ideas that help practitioners continually improve their STEM and civic engagement programs.



### Distill research and advocate.

We curate best practices, gather information on program models and strategies, and research outcomes to share widely to educate and influence program design and funding.

**Photo caption:** CYESS partner trubel&co champions diverse youth to tackle societal challenges using data, design, and technology. Here, a group of high school students in their Mapping Justice summer program are learning to apply GIS to address environmental resilience in Florida communities.

**Image credit:** trubel&co

## Join Us!

Our network includes youth-serving organizations, science centers, professional associations, universities, and research groups. We can offer programs a peer community, curriculum and professional development support, and usable research. Young people can engage with us directly through our Youth Consultants program.

### WE WELCOME PARTNERS WHO CAN BRING:

Youth development, civic engagement, and STEM education expertise



Mentors or corporate teams to offer real-world STEM opportunities & perspectives for youth



Funding for our research, collaboration, and capacity building work



Visibility for our joint efforts



Afterschool, summer learning, and other out-of-school time programs provide the perfect space for youth to learn to use STEM to address the issues they care about.

#### PROGRAMS OFFER

- ✓ Youth-centered programming
- ✓ Supportive, engaging, flexible setting
- ✓ Hands-on learning
- ✓ Strong ties in underrepresented communities

#### YOUTH IN PROGRAMS BUILD

- ✓ Relationships with mentors and role models
- ✓ Life and work skills
- ✓ A sense of belonging
- ✓ Higher expectations for the future

Afterschool programs offer the potential for young people of all backgrounds to experience STEM subjects and applications in new ways – including youth who might not see themselves as interested in math and science – and to discover that they can make a difference.

## A Strategy for Today and Tomorrow

When youth have opportunities to learn and use STEM knowledge and skills, they will be invested in creating innovative new solutions to improve the world around them – often beyond what adults can imagine. Working together, we can help ensure that young leaders have the skills and experiences they need to be successful in their careers and become the change makers and problem solvers of tomorrow.



### Learn More and Get Involved!

[cyess.org](https://cyess.org)

[in Linked In](#)

[cyess@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:cyess@afterschoolalliance.org)

CYESS, a project of the Afterschool Alliance, is a network of youth programs, researchers, and leaders working to expand opportunities for all young people to engage with issues they care about and improve their communities.