2026 Youth Commission Workplan

★ Background

This Youth Commission was established following a recommendation from a short-term Youth Task Force. This workplan marks the Commission's first year of operation and provides a structured framework for identifying and tracking its priority areas of focus. The specific goals, result statements, and milestones below are to be determined and adopted by the Commission.

How to use this framework: For each priority subject, the Commission should identify (1) the subject area itself, (2) a result statement describing the outcome it wants to achieve, and (3) two to three milestones that mark concrete progress toward that result within the year.

★ Priority Subject #1

Priority Subject #1	**Mental Health, Stress and Emotional Well-Being**
Result Statement (what success looks like)	**Youth in Santa Cruz County have easeful access to responsive, accessible & diverse mental health resources without fear of judgement.**
Milestones	✓ 1. Improve access to and awareness of mental health services for youth by identifying what is available in schools and the community, where the gaps and barriers are, and how youth can be better connected to support ✓ 2. Reduce stigma and judgment around youth seeking and using mental health services

★ Priority Subject #2

Priority Subject #2	**Basic Needs and Access to Opportunities**
Result Statement (what success looks like)	**Youth in Santa Cruz County, regardless of where they live or their family's circumstances, have reliable access to transportation and future-planning resources that reflect who they are and the full range of paths after high school.**
Milestones	✓ 1. Improve access to and awareness of transportation resources available to youth in Santa Cruz County ✓ 2. Improve access to and awareness of college and future-planning resources that serve youth of all backgrounds and reflect the full range of paths after high school

★ Notes & Timeline Considerations

Youth Commission meets monthly through May 2027. After final meeting, staff will prepare and present commission findings/recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.