Pratham USA invites qualified applicants for a unique two-week youth leadership development program that combines community service and cultural immersion in a safe and enjoyable environment. The program is open to US students between the ages of 16 and 20 (high school sophomores, juniors and seniors, and college freshmen).

Our objective is to encourage and enable intellectually curious American students to forge an independent and meaningful connection to Pratham and India through a structured agenda and planned activities at Pratham Arora Centre for Education (PACE) near Aurangabad.

Participants gain a broad understanding of how a particular Pratham program functions while placing it in the larger context of the problems Pratham addresses through its work. In addition, the youth leaders gain valuable experience in a field of interest, new perspectives on contemporary issues in India and an opportunity to make new friendships.

Participants will have an opportunity to support three Pratham’s programs: Vocational, which offers technical training, certification and job placement to rural youth; Science, which aims to stimulate scientific curiosity among middle schoolers; and PraDigi, which uses technology to promote self-learning by providing access to tablets with preloaded educational content.

The youth leaders will observe and support these programs and interact daily with Pratham program participants. In addition, Pratham will supplement the program by incorporating field trips to the world heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora, yoga lessons, mindfulness exercises, hikes/treks, cooking classes, market visits and other enrichment activities.
**HOUSING**
Participants will stay at the PACE Hotel, located in Khultabad, Maharashtra, a short distance from Aurangabad with air/rail connections to major cities in India.

**DURATION**
The program runs for two weeks from Friday, July 24, 2020 to Friday, August 7, 2020.

**PROGRAM COSTS**
$2,500 includes food and accommodation, local transport and costs of cultural immersion activities. Airfare is **not** included in the estimate. Full and/or partial scholarships are available on basis of need and other criteria.

**VISAS**
Applicants are responsible for procuring a visa. Pratham will work with accepted applicants to assist them in completing the necessary paperwork.

**HOW TO APPLY**
Candidates should submit a resume/curriculum vitae and a 300-word essay on their interest in and motivation to participate in the program to youthleaders2020@prathamusa.org no later than March 22, 2020. Following an initial review, a small group of applicants will be shortlisted for interviews. Final selections will be announced April 19, 2020. Spots will be filled on a first come, first approved basis.

**ABOUT PRATHAM**
Established in the slums of Mumbai in 1995, Pratham is now one of India’s largest non-governmental education organizations, having affected the lives of more than 58 million underprivileged children in the past two decades. To achieve its mission of “every child in school and learning well,” Pratham develops practical solutions to address gaps in the education system and works in collaboration with India’s governments, communities, educators, and industries to increase learning outcomes and influence education policy.

Pratham USA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a consistent four-star rating from Charity Navigator that seeks to raise awareness and mobilize financial resources for its work in India. For more information or to make a tax-deductible contribution, visit prathamusa.org.

For additional information prior to application, please contact program heads Subash Pereira (subash_pereira@yahoo.com) and Susan Dass (sdass@prathamusa.org).