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### National Foster Youth Advisory Council

The National Foster Youth Advisory Council (NFYAC) is a diverse national group of current and former foster youth and adult supporters from several states who have had direct experience with the child welfare systems. The council's purpose is to provide a voice for and make a difference in the lives of youth currently in care and support their successful transitions into adulthood.



The council is dedicated to empowering youth to get involved in decisionmaking that affects their lives, develop their leadership potential, and advocate for themselves. NFYAC provides a forum for young people who have experience with the foster care system to share their experiences, provide feedback about what works and what doesn't, and be involved in developing proactive solutions to many of the challenges facing young people making the transition to adulthood. Council members have opportunities to address many of the negative perceptions and stereotypes about youth in foster care through training, public speaking, and developing and disseminating information and resources.

NFYAC members believe in the strengths, talents, and potential of all young people in foster care. Our central message is that young people in foster care require what all young people need to become contributing members of society--unconditional love, care, and support, and a strong connection to caring adults and communities who are willing to invest in our well-being and success.

Participation in NFYAC has been a life-changing experience for many members; we hope to make this opportunity available to more youth affected by the child welfare system. As one member said, "NFYAC gave me a chance not only to be involved in a system that had control over my life, but to help other youth in the system as well."

Your contribution to NFYAC can support the work of this dynamic, committed group of young people in a number of ways:

- Support the expansion of the council and the provision of this opportunity to current and former foster youth across the country.
- Support the development and publication of resources and materials.
- Support the infrastructure of the council, including meeting expenses and staff time.
- Support personal and professional development opportunities, like attendance at conferences, meetings, and specialized training events.

- Provide opportunities for participation in cultural enrichment activities.

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