



OHIO Youth Advisory Board 2016 Strategic Plan

The Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio (OHIO) Youth Advisory Board exists to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that effect all youth who have or will experience out of home care.

I. OUTREACH AND POLICY

1. Work to ensure that youth voice is included in all stages of statewide discussions of policy and practice.
2. Promote the establishment and ongoing development of local and county youth advisory boards.
3. Continued development and promotion of OHIO YAB toolkits and outreach materials.

II. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

1. Raise awareness of the “Foster Care to Homelessness” pipeline
2. Promote the establishment of additional transitional housing options for former foster youth.
3. Continued partnership with local, statewide and national housing advocates and experts.

III. EDUCATION

1. Raise awareness of the impact of school changes when it comes to credit loss, extra-curricular opportunities, and post-secondary preparation
2. Advocate for normalcy and least-restrictive school placements, particularly for young people who are currently placed in group homes and residential settings.
3. Research and promote Educational Best Practices on a local, statewide and national level

IV. YOUTH VOICE IN COURT

1. Ensure youth voice on statewide judicial roundtables
2. Seek methods and tools to inform and empower youth to understand and navigate the court system.
3. Identify and promote local, regional and statewide allies that youth can contact with their court-related questions.



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V. INDEPENDENT LIVING

1. Ensure youth voice throughout the development process of Ohio's future statewide independent living curriculum to ensure that it (a.) includes hands-on activities, (b.) begins with a pilot, (c.) includes youth feedback throughout the process, including youth evaluation forms, (d.) allows public and private agencies to customize the order in which the material is provided according to the immediate needs of their youth.
2. Seek partners to assist in the creation of an online Independent Living Clearinghouse to share resources to help foster care youth during their transition into young adulthood.
3. Advocate for a review of how training related to independent living is delivered to foster parents and caseworkers, and experienced by youth.

VI. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

1. Ensure that youth voice is included in Ohio implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
2. Advocate for one or more Ohio pilots of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) as a resource for emancipating foster youth.
3. Seek to overcome barriers for teens in foster care in establishing a savings account.

VII. OHIO YAB INITIATIVES

1. Seek opportunities for youth voice in pre-service training for foster parents, in order to increase the number and expertise of foster parents for teens
2. Work on OHIO YAB website and messaging
3. Explore the possibility of college internships and community partnerships to promote the sustainability of county and regional youth advisory boards
4. Encourage one or more Ohio counties to pilot the three-tiered mentoring model.
5. Seek partners to continue to develop the Ohio Pride initiative.