



## OHIO Youth Advisory Board 2017 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. *The OHIO YAB will create a video to recruit foster parents and host homes for teenagers.*
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. *The OHIO YAB will develop an Independent Living Resource Guide for foster youth throughout the state.*

### 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. *The OHIO YAB will seek additional support for the cost-neutral, bipartisan Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act.*
3. Continued partnership with local, statewide and national housing advocates and experts. *The OHIO YAB will visit a local Safe Place in order to create a roadmap for youth in crisis.*

### 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. *The OHIO YAB will stay informed about the Every Student Succeeds Act.*



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### 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. *The OHIO YAB will continue our partnership with the Ohio Supreme Court.*

### 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. *The OHIO YAB will continue to seek opportunities to review this curriculum.*
2. Seek partners to assist in the creation of an online Independent Living Clearinghouse and/or phone app to share resources to help foster care youth during their transition into young adulthood. *The OHIO YAB will seek to partner with Bridges on this project.*
3. Advocate for a review of how training related to independent living is delivered to foster parents and caseworkers, and experienced by youth. *The OHIO YAB will advise that Foster Care Alumni Trainers should be involved in developing and delivering this future training.*

### VI. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

1. Research and promote Educational Best Practices on a local, statewide and national level. *The OHIO YAB will seek additional information about Ohio's Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP).*
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.