



Youth Voice Action Campaign

#YouthCanSHINESMwith:

POLICY REPORT

Written by: Florida Youth SHINE





WHO WE ARE

Florida Youth SHINE is a youth-led organization of current and former youth in foster care and homeless youth that empowers them to become leaders and advocates within their communities. With more than 14 chapters statewide of young people ages 13-26, Florida Youth SHINE has represented the youth voice in Florida since 2005 and is supported by Florida’s Children First. By amplifying our voices and sharing our stories and experiences in foster care, we actively seek to improve Florida’s Child Welfare system for ourselves, our brothers and sisters currently in care, and all who have yet to enter the system.

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EMPOWER IMPROVE EDUCATE SUPPORT

Florida Youth SHINE is Florida’s premier, independent, innovative and impactful youth advocacy organization of youth with lived experience in the foster care system.

Our Action Campaign is the result of a youth-led process that began with input from hundreds of current and former foster youth. Florida Youth SHINE (FYS) chapters held listening sessions starting in March of 2022. We asked 250 youth, ages 13-26, to discuss their experiences in the foster care system. We also asked them to describe what supports helped, or could have helped, them thrive. Their responses created Florida’s Foster Care “BURNING WALL” of issues - issues that the youth experts identified as ways in which the foster care system can be improved.

The FYS Policy and Initiative team (PI Team), a team of youth leaders from Florida Youth SHINE interested in substantive policy change, - if you then sorted the identified issues into main themes. We then asked FYS members around the state to examine the root cause of the issues, and to gather experiences and recommendations for change. After considering all the themes and topics at statewide in-person meetings, youth prioritized the topics to develop the four key 2022-2024 Florida Youth SHINE Youth Priorities.

The Florida Youth SHINE Statewide Policy and Initiative team compiled this report and is pleased to share our findings from the “experts” with you.

Together.... #YouthcanSHINE!

Sincerely,
Florida Youth SHINE



All children deserve to be loved and nurtured. Unfortunately, far too many times, we live in places without a loving and nurturing family connection. When we don't experience what it's like to have a nurturing, positive person to parent us and we can't see what healthy, safe, and loving relationships look like, we look for connections elsewhere. That can result in acting out, running away, or looking for love in unsafe and unhealthy relationships. **Every child deserves to be in a home that is healing, loving, and nurtures our well-being.**



OUR VOICES

“During my time in foster care I was abused, and I had almost all of my belongings stolen from me. I spoke to my caseworker about feeling unsafe and nothing was done. I thought this is just what foster care is like and that nothing could be done since my voice was never heard”

- **Alexia**, Florida Youth SHINE
Palm Beach Chapter Member



DID YOU KNOW?

47% of youth had 4+ living placements in their most recent foster care episode*

* Annie E. Casey Foundation's "Fostering Youth Transitions 2023"

Our Lived Expertise

1. We need **STABILITY**

We need stability to be able to develop properly. Many of us carry long-term trauma due to placement instability, lack of stability with friends and family, high turnover in case management and group home staff, and lack of structure that promotes youth's needs. Due to a lack of consistency in foster care, we lose trust in adults. Instability can also affect a person's brain and mental state, leading to long-term repercussions to both society and ourselves. Many young people reported that their lack of stability continues to affect them well into adulthood. For many, even when they find stability and a long-term place to live, they don't unpack their belongings for fear of having to move again.

2. We need the system to protect us and ensure our **SAFETY**

When we are in a safe and loving home we are able to thrive. However, many youth around the state said they did not feel physically or emotionally safe in at least one placement, and that safety-void still impacts them long term.

- Many youth shared that they were physically or emotionally abused by caregivers, staff, and other youth while in foster care.
- Many of us reported this to a case manager yet remained in the same placement and were never told how our report was handled or how we would be protected moving forward. We feel there is a lack of accountability and transparency when we express our safety concerns. Nor do we know about the processes in place that are used to verify our wellbeing and safety.
- We often did not report issues because we feared repercussions. There should be more focus on encouraging and empowering us to speak up when we feel unsafe.
- Many of us were not given an opportunity to speak with someone privately or with someone who they could trust. Therefore, we don't know how or where to share our concerns.

3. We need **QUALITY PLACEMENTS and CAREGIVERS, that promote our well-being, provide for our individual needs and RESPECT our identities.**

Just because a placement, a group home, or a person meets all licensing requirements, does not mean that it is a quality place where a child can thrive.

- Many youth indicated that they don't have access to healthy foods and personal hygiene products. Often they are not allowed to have personal items such as a cell phone.
- Many of our healthcare needs go unmet
- Many placements, especially group homes are not clean and sanitary, and food is often locked up.
- Like adults, youth need a homey environment where they can feel calm and be able to decompress with items they are comfortable with.

Our identities need to be promoted and respected

- Our racial and cultural needs are not always met and embraced, and we are often forced to eat foods and use hair products that are not suitable for our individual preferences and needs. Often in care, we lose ties to our race or culture.
- Many placements we have experienced do not allow us the opportunity to make our own decisions to participate in activities, have normalcy, practice our own religion, or even choose our own clothes.

Our ideas that DO NOT require legislative change

1. We urge the Department of Children & Families to use a quality review process to ensure all youth:

- Have and know about normalcy
- Are allowed to practice their own religion.
- Have all healthcare needs met
- Are provided with clothing and hygiene items, and have access to personal items that respect their personal needs, identities, and preferences.

2. Encourage and provide an opportunity for youth to fill out quality evaluation surveys on placement, caregivers, and other staff each month, of whenever a youth requests one. Someone outside of the case management agency should review these forms regularly to ensure the agency makes an appropriate response.

3 Improve Training

Work with youth to evaluate, develop, and expand pre-service training for caregivers, case managers, and licensing workers to ensure individuals receive quality ongoing training that includes the laws and rules intended to help children and promotes respect for youth's identity and individual needs.

4 Recruit foster parents from a range of backgrounds.

Recruit individuals of various identities and backgrounds that align more closely with children in care.

5 Create an accessible grievance process.

Ensure the process is publicized, easy to access, confidential, and treats complaints seriously.

Our ideas that REQUIRE legislative change

- Create an independent process and entity (office of child advocate or ombudsperson) that is dedicated to overseeing, reviewing, and providing independent oversight and accountability for how the child welfare system serves children. This includes a confidential grievance process and reporting system for youth to review their case and placements.
- Check in with kids to see how they are doing every 6 months after their case was closed to adoption or guardianship. These check-ins should be done with individuals the youth know such as their case manager.

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HOUSING & ECONOMIC SECURITY

Becoming an adult is especially challenging for youth transitioning out of state care. Like all young adults, we need help with our finances, emotional support, and stability in both economic and housing security. We need better preparation before turning 18, and ongoing support after we are 18. Current supports aren't meeting all of our needs, and some are inflexible, preventing us from getting the help we need.

Our Lived Expertise



1. We need an ALLOWANCE to learn how to budget

Although foster parents and group homes are supposed to give us an allowance, many of us do not receive it. Others get something, but it is a very low amount, and this does not allow us to have opportunities to make purchases or practice savings. Often our allowance is tied to chores or behavior. We need an allowance to participate in normal kid activities like going to the movies or the mall. Allowances help us learn how to budget, save and manage money before becoming adults.

2. We need help and support to have a strong FINANCIAL FUTURE

- We are not receiving an adequate education to assist us in financial literacy, taxes, applying for jobs, resumes, information about our Master Trust account, credit, and more. We lack hands-on opportunities with positive role models to guide us through these processes and decisions.
- Many of us are not provided with a bank account before turning 18. We experience challenges in regard to employment, and we need opportunities to develop our skills and obtain internships and jobs.
- We age out without credit, so we can't apply for housing. We don't have anyone to co-sign for us, so housing options are limited.

Our Lived Expertise

3. We need access to our VITAL DOCUMENTS to help us succeed

- Many of us are not provided with our vital documents, such as Birth Certificates, Social Security cards, and other important information, when exiting care or even in care.
- We think there is an implementation and practice issue. Case Managers often don't follow up obtaining these documents, and if they can get them, it takes a very long time. When we try to get our vital documents ourselves, there are numerous barriers such as legal obstacles, fees, and a lack of guidance from adults on how to procure these documents.

4. We need safe, stable, and affordable HOUSING to avoid homelessness

After being in the Child Welfare system and aging out at 18, we struggle to obtain safe, stable, and affordable housing. Without families to lean on for support this leads to housing instability, homelessness and other challenges.

- In Florida's housing crisis, there is not enough transitional living housing that is affordable and located in safe areas.
- We need more help from our Case Managers to assist us in finding affordable housing, to inform us about housing vouchers, and to assist us with navigating eligibility and guidelines to obtain housing.
- We often have unsafe housing conditions and landlords who don't treat us fairly.
- Many students can't afford to live on campus, and housing close to campus is also expensive. Transportation to areas with affordable student housing is challenging.

Federal Housing Vouchers intended for youth from foster care are a great resource, but there are many barriers to their use:

- The voucher amount is insufficient to obtain housing in many areas, especially with the rapidly rising housing costs.
- Most counties in Florida still do not offer this resource to us.
- It is difficult to obtain housing vouchers when we move from our home communities to other parts of the state.



DID YOU KNOW?

Our ideas that DO NOT require legislative change

1. Implement the current laws across the board

The law already requires the system to provide us with a bank account, our vital documents, information about our Master Trust accounts, and quality financial literacy education. However, many of us still don't receive this support.

- We recommend putting practices in place to verify and ensure we are receiving an allowance, documents, financial literacy, and a bank account by signing that we have received these items and confirming the amount of our allowance.
- We recommend that the Department of Children & Families review and ensure all of us receive our documents, have a bank account, and know where copies of our documents are stored.

2. The Department of Children & Families should require the Community Based Care Lead Agencies to engage with local housing authorities to expand FYI voucher availability across the state.

3. Community Based Care Lead Agencies should make a staff person responsible for meeting the housing needs of youth.

Our ideas that REQUIRE legislative change

1. Create a minimum allowance amount for all youth in care and a process to ensure all youth receive an allowance.

2. Offer secured credit cards so children can have credit history before aging out.

3. Provide on-campus housing options at a free or reduced cost for those youth using the foster youth or homeless tuition exemption.

4. Direct the Department of Children & Families to use Aftercare funds, so all youth with housing vouchers have access to additional funds needed to obtain housing in costly housing markets, regardless of their status in licensed care at age 18.

- **Laws ARE in place to provide us with our important documents, so a verification of receipt process is recommended.**
- **1 in 5 youth from care experience homelessness between ages 17 and 19; 29% become homeless by 21***

*Annie E. Casey Foundation's "Fostering Youth Transitions 2023"

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INDIVIDUALS
& SUPPORT
TO HELP US
INTO
ADULTHOOD

Our Lived Ex

Becoming an adult is especially challenging for youth from the foster care system. **We need better preparation before turning 18**, and ongoing support after we are 18 from consistent and positive individuals and supportive programs and resources. Current supports aren't meeting all of our needs and some are inflexible, preventing us from getting the help we need.

OUR VOICES

"I am a prime example of why we need change when it comes to adulthood aftercare. I was adopted at 15 by abusive parents, and I lost all DCF support. Because of this, when I turned 18, I was homeless and ineligible for absolutely everything except for the tuition waiver. Even with the waiver, I lost money because I had no support navigating how to apply it each semester. I would have been able to save myself from many of my negative experiences, especially homelessness if only I were eligible for services."

– Tee, Florida Youth SHINE Palm Beach Chapter Member

DID YOU KNOW?

Only 7% of youth aging out of foster care received the federally funded Independent Living mentoring services.*

* Annie E. Casey Foundation's "Fostering Youth Transitions 2023"

1. We need help to be GOOD PARENTS, so our children have the support we lacked.

Young parents have to balance school, employment, and family. It is difficult for parents to stay in school full-time to meet the Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS) requirements, as well as, to work and care for their families. Young parents struggle with childcare, and even with a voucher, it's still too expensive to be able to afford.

2. We need a STRONG SUPPORT SYSTEM of caring individuals who educate us and help us navigate our transition into adulthood.

We are reaching the age of maturity without proper knowledge and, most importantly, a support system to rely on to help us navigate adulthood, and our education, develop healthy relationships, and navigate obstacles. We are not educated about the benefits and resources we may qualify for. That problem is exacerbated for youth placed with a relative or non-relative, or in guardianship or adoption because they don't always have case management support. Even those of us who have a Case Manager because we are receiving Independent Living services, are still not getting wrap-around support.

We need a team in place to help us navigate things like registering for classes, filling out our financial aid, building a resume, and things that a parent helps their college youth with. Without a support system, we look for that support in relationships that often lead us to unsafe places, violence, crime, and substance abuse.

3. We need ACCESS to support us if we age out of a relative, non-relative, or adopted placement.

Youth who age out of foster care are at a severe disadvantage when navigating adulthood compared to the general population. Fortunately, there are services that make life a little bit easier for us. However, some of us who were in the system for most of our life but did not age out of a licensed foster care placement do not qualify for any help at all. Youth who are adopted, reunified, or in relative or non-relative care when we age out are ineligible for most aftercare services. Many times, at 18, we find ourselves kicked out of our homes, or our caregivers cannot help support us financially when we turn 18 and are ready to go to college. Through discussions with our peers around Florida, we found that there is an increase in the number of youth identified as a "failed adoption" when they are kicked out at age 18 and find themselves homeless.

Even though many of these youth were in care for most of their lives before being placed in a "forever or permanent" home, they find out that the "forever" doesn't go past age 18. Their family either cannot or will not help support them as adults or when they go to college. These youth may be able to stay with those caregivers after they are 18, but they can't afford to go live on their own without being eligible for Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS) or Extended Foster Care (EFC). This leaves those youth at a disadvantage even though they don't have parents to support them.

We support adoption, relative, and non-relative care to help youth find much needed permanency. However, many caregivers that open their homes to foster youth cannot always financially support the youth when they become an adult at 18. Additionally, the system no longer considers youth in these types of care as being 'in the system' and they are denied benefits. Therefore, Florida must do a better job to help youth who turn 18 and will be out on their own, despite the type of placement they are in when they age out.

Our Lived Expertise

4. We need more FLEXIBILITY – Success is not one size fits all.

We are young adults, and we all have unique goals we want to pursue. To be successful adults, we need to make goals, make decisions, and make mistakes that we may learn from. For example, some of us may want to work and gain career skills while gaining our independence but Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS) only supports youth attending college full time. PESS requirements limit us from looking at our journey into adulthood as an individualized approach.

- Life happens! If we need to take some time off school due to an emergency or if we are not doing well in a class because we registered for the wrong course, most of us don't know that we can drop below that requirement with the permission of our academic advisor.
- After 23, everything is cut off, but we may still be in school, or emergencies may still come up when we have a career, that a parent could help with. But, 23 is not the magic number for when we can support ourselves financially. We have no access to resources if an emergency arises, which can often cause instability and financial insecurity leading to poor outcomes, homelessness, and an intergenerational cycle.

23 is not a magic number for when we can support ourselves financially.

Pathways from foster care to homelessness



SOURCE: Chapin Hall <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/CW-Figure-1-Web-1.png>

**Our ideas that DO NOT
require legislative change**

1. Create a youth team to assist us before we turn 18, staying with us until we graduate college or find long-term employment.

More than a Case Manager that checks in with us at various times, these individuals will be available to sit down with us regularly and help us navigate problems and challenges

2. Repeal the Rule that limits Aftercare to youth who aged out of licensed care at 18.

3. Educate us thoroughly on all resources we may be eligible for as an adult.

Then track what happens to adopted youth after they become adults. This can be done by the Office of Continuing Care

4. Contact children who were adopted as a teen to verify if they are still in the home after their 18th birthday.

**Our ideas that REQUIRE
legislative change**

1. Extend aftercare services to youth older than 23 who are still utilizing the tuition exemption.

2. Expand eligibility for all aftercare services to be as broad as what federal Chafee covers. Currently, that would result in adding eligibility for the following:

- Youth who were adopted or placed into guardianship after the age of 16.
- Youth who were in an open case, but placed in an unlicensed placement (relative or non-relative) when they turned 18.

3. Expand Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS) to part-time students or supplement the Educational and Training Vouchers Program (ETV) for part-time students who are also working.

4. Expand Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS) eligibility to age 26 for a maximum of 5 years.

5. Allow youth who are experiencing homelessness or no longer receive support from their caregivers (adoptive, non-relative, relative, or guardianship) to participate in Extended Foster Care if they had an open dependency case when they were 14 or older.

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ENGAGEMENT & POWER

Engaging young people in planning and decision-making regarding our lives and the child welfare system yields excellent benefits. Whether it is in case planning, self-advocacy, the court process, or providing lived experience, when we are authentically engaged, everyone benefits. However, we can only be empowered and benefit from this when we are equipped with the knowledge to self-advocate for ourselves. There are great laws in place, yet we don't know about them, so we cannot advocate for ourselves and our own needs. Therefore, those of us in the system feel we don't have a voice or a choice despite many laws and practices happening to bring us to the table.

DID YOU KNOW?

SB 272/HB 1101 just passed, with our FYS advocacy, in 2023 to help educate youth about the rights, benefits, laws, and resources available to them!



“My first placement was a group home. Once I was assigned my case manager and GAL I told them I wanted to visit my grandpa. About two years later I was placed in a foster home. I told my foster parent that I wanted to see him. She asked if I had talked to my GAL, and I told her I had yet nothing had happened. Then she suggested I talk to my attorney. My attorney looked into it and let me know that my grandfather had passed away. During my time in foster care, I did not know I had the right to visit my grandfather. If I did I would've not given up so easily. Many youth are currently in the same situation I was in. They do not deserve to experience not visiting a grandparent & not saying goodbye.”

- Selena, Florida Youth SHINE SouthWest Chapter Member

Our Lived Expertise

1. Lived experience MUST be thoughtfully utilized and intentional

The Department of Children & Families and many agencies give opportunities for us to amplify our voices; however, sometimes, youth engagement can end up being more disempowering than empowering. Including youth voices should be a very intentional process. It involves agencies and individuals providing support, preparation, and infrastructure to ensure authentic youth engagement and collaboration among the adults in the room and the youth. Oftentimes tokenism and adultism take place and when inviting our peers and us to contribute our expertise, agencies need to be prepared and exhibit best practices to give us power.

2. We MUST be authentically engaged in making decisions over our own lives

- We need to be present in court and empowered to participate in our court proceedings.
- We need to be prepared and educated about what will happen and what will be decided in court, as well as in case planning and transition planning meetings.
- During these opportunities, we need to be empowered to make decisions, so we learn how to make decisions.
- Challenges and barriers need to be addressed for the youth to ensure they are actively participating in these opportunities.

3. We need to understand Florida's excellent laws that are intended to help and protect us.

- We feel powerless and feel like we don't have a say in our own life. When we aren't educated about the resources and laws in place, then our life is significantly impacted, causing significant issues.
- Most youth were not educated about laws and did not know what to ask for. Without knowledge, we fail. We cannot envision our future without having good information. Some of the things we didn't know about: the right to attend court, the right to live with siblings, the availability of benefits like Keys to Independence, the tuition exemption, and the impact of decisions on future benefits like Medicaid to 26.
- Knowledge is power, and we can self-advocate and ask for services or opportunities ONLY if we know about them.
- Many GALs and Case Managers didn't know about laws when youth asked about them or were educated about them from youth hearing about them from other kids.
- Laws are changing all the time and are confusing. All youth should receive an easy-to-understand document informing us about our rights and the laws so we can feel protected in foster care. Additionally, our caregivers and Case Managers need to understand those so they can help explain them to us.
- We need a confidential place that we are empowered to call if we feel our rights are being violated, so we know something may be done if we are not being treated fairly. We are kids, and currently, there is nothing in place to empower us to speak up if we can't see a sibling or go to the mall.

OUR SOLUTIONS

Our ideas that **DO NOT** require legislative change

1. **The Department of Children & Families should change their publications to be more youth-friendly and compassionate.**
2. **Require case managers or others to educate all youth on their rights, and monitor implementation.**
This will ensure all youth receive information on their rights and how to report abuse.
3. **DCF should work with Florida Youth SHINE to create and update youth-friendly documents that list rights for kids of all ages.**
4. **Require Florida's child welfare professionals to be educated annually on current, essential rights, policies, and resources** that relate to youth in care as new legislation is passed each year.
5. **Create a virtual lesson for every youth in care.**
This will ensure the youth themselves know about the laws.
6. **Youth should always be at the forefront when the Department of Children & Families and agencies are seeking policy input.**
They should ensure youth are prepared for these opportunities, and value youth as the experts at the table. Agencies should accept and implement youth feedback, following up with how it is used.

Our ideas that **REQUIRE** legislative change

1. **Require youth to be educated on important laws every six months, with verification that we receive and understand this information.**
2. **Create a law to strengthen the requirement of youth appearing in court, thereby ensuring youth are not improperly excluded.**
 - Require youth to sign a form to waive their appearance if they are not in attendance.
 - Include youth in the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and also youth who are considered "CrossOver" youth.



Striving High for Independence and Empowerment



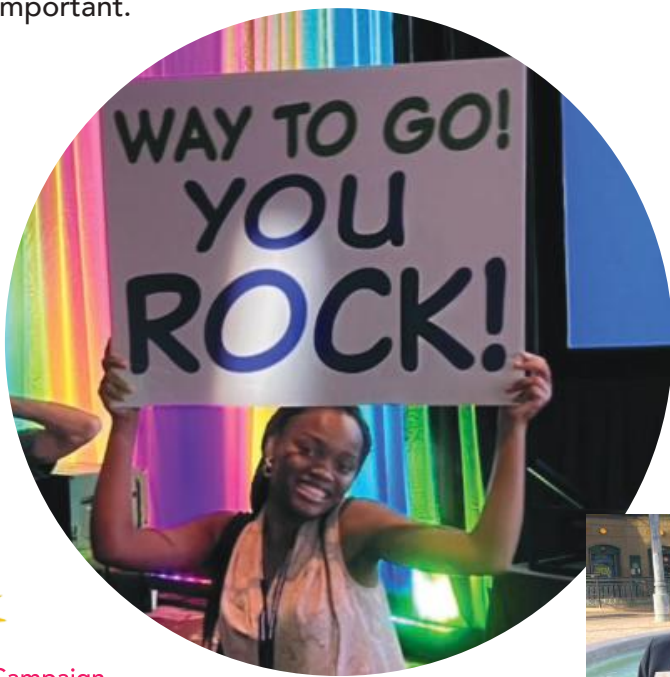
FINAL NOTE

Florida has many great supports for foster youth!

We commend the legislature, the Department of Children and Families, the CBC's, Case Managers, Foster Parents, partner organizations, and our wonderful Mentors for helping us thrive.

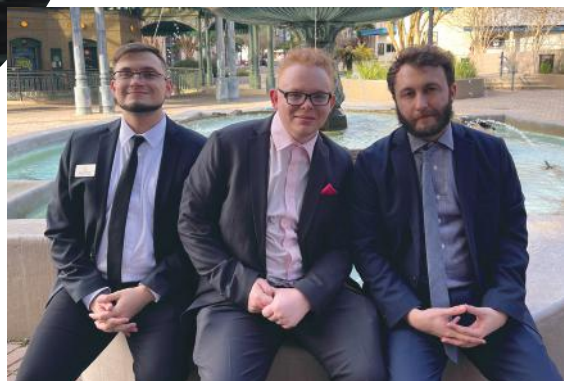
Programs like Florida Youth SHINE help us connect with these supportive individuals and organizations, and that is why Florida Youth SHINE is so important.

Together we can SHINE.



Youth Voice Action Campaign

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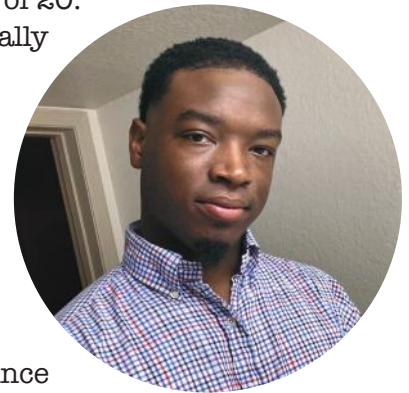
OUR VOICES



“After feeling so alone in care, Florida Youth SHINE led me to find other youth like me, who want to use their voice to make positive changes to the system we grew up in. We all have different experiences, and we use our lived expertise to help improve the lives of children. Florida Youth SHINE has given me a platform to be empowered, valued as an expert, but most importantly FYS is my family.”
- **Rebekka Behr**, FYS Statewide Chair

“I went through foster care almost my entire childhood, until the age of 20. After turning 18 and opting into extended foster care, I knew eventually I would want to move out on my own. Navigating the housing market can be quite challenging, especially if you don’t have any experience or know what you’re, this being me. Luckily for me, our lead agency has a Housing Manager that specifically works with youth to find a place to live. He worked with different communities in the area to open up units to our youth and have them qualify under what’s called Extremely Low Income housing (ELI). This allowed me to move into my very first apartment on my own and start taking more adult responsibilities. But this did not come without its challenges. Since I was never really educated on how to manage finances appropriately, I made some very unfortunate economic decisions. Within just a few years, I applied for credit cards without reading the terms, financing a vehicle with an extremely high interest rate, and ended up hiking my insurance due to too many infractions. I am now suffering the consequences of these actions. If there had been more education using real life scenarios, I would be in a much better position today. Our future youth deserve an opportunity to make the right choices.”

- **Martavius**, Florida Youth SHINE Orlando Chapter Member



“My experience in care was not bad. But hearing what my peers went through is not fair. All youth in foster care deserve to be treated the same way and have the same experience, since we are already at a disadvantage. So, I am really happy to be a part of FYS and know that we continue to impact current and future foster youth by using our voices to help fix the system where it is broken.”

- **Kyle**, Florida Youth SHINE
Orlando Chapter Member & Admin Chair



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“In my third placement after being in a shelter for a few weeks I was placed with my older sister in a licensed foster home with a family who had the same religion and background as me. I felt loved and supported even when I would made mistakes. They helped keep my identity and embrace who I was. After a few years, my sister and I were adopted by our foster parents.”

- **Alejandro**, Florida Youth SHINE
Broward Chapter Member



“When I turned 18 I was faced with either opting out of all services, PESS, or going into extended foster care. My case manager at the time told me I wasn’t eligible for PESS because I wasn’t accepted for financial aid due to problems with my social security number. Because of this, I quickly chose to opt-out. I wanted to live a life without a case manager watching and critiquing my every move. The first five months were good, but it quickly fell apart, and I became homeless. After 4 months I reached out to DCF to opt back in and was put into contact with a case manager. When asked about my housing situation. I explained that I had been homeless for the last 3 months. Within a week my case manager got me a housing voucher, and within two months I was in my very first apartment where I thrived. after spending time couch surfing and putting myself in a dangerous situations.”

- **Sophia**, Florida Youth SHINE
Palm Beach Chapter Member



Youth Voice Action Campaign

#YouthCanSHINESMwith:

Florida Youth SHINE is Florida's premier, independent and impactful youth run, peer driven youth advocacy organization working hard to change the culture of Florida's child welfare system. Florida Youth SHINE has over 350 members ages 13-26 who are or have been involved in the foster care system or experienced homelessness. Their lived experience informs their passion and advocacy. Supported by Florida's Children First, Florida Youth SHINE has represented the youth voice in Florida since 2005. For more information on the Youth Voice Action Campaign visit: FloridaYouthSHINE.org

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