



Statewide Youth Advisory Board Application Process

Purpose

Statewide Youth Advisory Board ("Advisory Board") is established as a direct result of youth voice and collaboration with the Department, underscoring the power of lived experience in shaping system change. This Advisory Board will provide young adults with direct access to Department leadership through consistent monthly engagement, quarterly meetings, and ongoing support for their local councils. The Advisory Board will serve as the Department's primary mechanism for integrating youth perspectives and serve as an increased pool of youth experiences to pull from for state and federal initiatives.

Eligibility

1. The Advisory Board will consist of young adults who are at least 18 but not yet 23 years of age by January 1st.
2. All applicants must be endorsed by either a Community-Based Care Lead Agency (Lead Agency) or a state-recognized Youth Advocacy Organization.
3. Each agency will identify a designated representative who will be responsible for appointing their young adults for membership and support their young adult(s) with mentorship and logistics such as attending virtual or in-person meetings.
4. Lead Agencies and Youth Advocacy Organizations can sponsor up to two youth or young adults each.
5. Members must reside in Florida during their term and demonstrate ongoing engagement with child welfare services or advocacy initiatives.

Interest Form

- The attached Interest Form will be filled out by the interested young adult and their agency representative.
- The form contains five interview-style questions for the young adult to complete that are intended to gauge their interests and leadership capabilities.
- Once completed, the interest form must be signed by the young adult and their agency's designated representative and sent to the Department's Youth Advisor at Kyle.Johnson1@myflfamilies.com
- Included as an attachment to the interest form is a listing of all of the Community-Based Care Lead Agencies and their respective Advisory Board point of contacts, along with a listing of each of the case management organizations serving each lead agency.

Application Process

- Young adults who are interested will submit a completed Interest Form. Interest Forms will be reviewed to determine eligibility.
- Applicants who are approved to be a member of the Advisory Board will receive a letter from the Office of Child and Family Well-Being Youth and Young Adult Services informing the young adult of their acceptance as well as next steps for onboarding.



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- An application would only be denied if the applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria, their agency already has the maximum number of approved members, or if the application was not completed in its entirety and needs to be resubmitted.
- Future cohorts will follow an annual application cycle thereafter, with an official application that will be submitted by the interested youth or young adult and their sponsor.
- Additionally, members of the Department's existing Youth Subcommittee will have the opportunity to participate in the inaugural cohort to help develop the structure of future Advisory Board cohorts.

Timeline:

- Applications to be sent out November 5th, 2025.
- Applications are due by December 3rd, 2025.
- Applications will be reviewed by December 10th, 2025.
- Onboarding and approval letters to begin December 17th, 2025.
- First meeting to occur by January 30th, 2026.

Contact:

If you have any questions, please contact the Department's Youth Advisor, Kyle Johnson at Kyle.Johnson1@myflfamilies.com



Membership Interest Form

Article I. Purpose and Goals

Purpose

This Advisory Board is to be developed as a direct result of lived experience feedback and will serve as a youth-led, self-standing body for youth and young adults with lived experience to provide advice and expertise on topics and discussions from its members, the Department, and external stakeholders. The Advisory Board serves as a platform to provide young adults with lived experience in the system of care with the information, tools, and resources needed to advocate effectively on behalf of their peers, while simultaneously serving as an accessible repository of youth knowledge and perspective for the Department to obtain in-depth or immediate feedback on policy decisions and initiatives.

Goals

The Statewide Youth Advisory Board shall:

1. Facilitate meaningful participation of youth and young adults in Department decision-making processes, ensuring consistent and constructive feedback from individuals with lived experience.
2. Create a formal structure through which the Department can engage young people in a supportive role, facilitated by the Youth Advisor.
3. Equip young adults with the necessary skills and knowledge to lead impactful discussions with key stakeholders, including Department leadership.
4. Provide training and development opportunities for youth members in areas of advocacy, policy development, and public speaking.
5. Bridge communication gaps between the Department and youth populations, particularly in areas where Department staff may lack experience in effectively communicating with youth and young adults.
6. Maintain independence as a self-standing body separate from other advisory groups, while working collaboratively with the Department to improve services and policies affecting youth.
7. Ensure that youth and young adult perspectives are systematically incorporated into Department initiatives, policies, and programs that impact their lives.

Article II. Eligibility

Membership shall be exclusively composed of Youth and Young Adults with Lived Experience in Florida's child welfare system, including out-of-home care, adoption, or independent living programs administered by the Department of Children and Families (Department).

Eligibility requirements include:

1. **Age:** Voting members must have reached eighteen (18) years of age but not yet twenty-three (23) years of age by the first day of January of the year that they will be serving on the Advisory Board. Non-voting members must have reached fourteen (18) years of age but not yet twenty-



six (26) years of age by the first day of January of the year that they will be serving on the Advisory Board.

2. **Sponsorship:** All applicants must be endorsed by either a Community-Based Care Lead Agency (Lead Agency) or a state-recognized Youth Advocacy Organization. Lead Agencies and Youth Advocacy Organizations can sponsor up to two youth or young adults each.
3. **Residency:** Members must reside in Florida during their term and demonstrate ongoing engagement with child welfare services or advocacy initiatives.

Article III. Applicant Information

First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____

Preferred Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Agency:
*CBC Lead Agency or
state-recognized
Youth Advocacy
Organization* _____ **County:** _____

Advisory Council:
*Name of the local or
statewide council that
you represent* _____

Article IV. Leadership Experience

1. Why are you interested in being a member of the Statewide Youth Advisory Board?

2. Describe any leadership experience or training you have had, including school, sports, work, community activities, etc. If you held a specific role or position, please include that with your experience.



3. If you could change anything about the foster care system, what would it be and why?

4. What have you done in your community to improve services for youth in care? This can include involvement with a local advisory board, volunteering, etc...

5. What are some of your personal and professional goals? How can we support you with reaching these goals?

Article V. Sponsorship

Statewide Youth Advisory Board Bylaws, Article 3-2: "All applicants must be endorsed by either a Community-Based Care Lead Agency (Lead Agency) or a state-recognized Youth Advocacy Organization. Lead Agencies and Youth Advocacy Organizations can sponsor up to two youth or young adults each."

This section is to be filled out and signed by your agency representative.

Agency:

CBC Lead Agency or
state-recognized Youth
Advocacy Organization

Representative Name

Role:

Email:

Phone:

Do you appoint this to be your agency's voting member?

YES ____ NO ____

Signature:

Date:

Article VI. Signatures and Commitment

Are you willing to attend Youth Advisory Board meetings as scheduled? YES ____ NO ____

As a member of the Statewide Youth Advisory Board, you are committing to being an active participant in all Youth Advisory Board meetings and activities. By signing below, you



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acknowledge that you understand the expectations of the Department and the Youth Advisory Board.

Name: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Signature: _____



Community Based Care Lead Agency Point of Contacts

Region	Circuit/County	CBC Lead Agency	Case Management Organization
Northwest Region	1-Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa	Northwest Florida Health Network (West) Point of Contact: Tyrone Cleveland Tyrone.Cleveland@nwfhealth.org	Families First Network
	2, 14-Leon, Jefferson, Wakulla, Franklin, Liberty, Gadsden, Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington	Northwest Florida Health Network (East) Point of Contact: Tyrone Cleveland Tyrone.Cleveland@nwfhealth.org	Anchorage Children's Home, Camelot, DISC Village, Twin Oaks Community Services
Northeast Region	3, 8-Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Union	Partnership for Strong Families, Inc. Point of Contact: Keona O'Neal-Givens keona.oneal-givens@pfsf.org	4 Sisters Solutions, Camelot, Jewish Family and Community Services
	4-Duval, Nassau	Family Support Services of North Florida, Inc. Point of Contact: Maria Oxford Maria.Oxford@fssnf.org	Daniel Memorial, National Youth Advocate Program, Jewish Family and Community Services
	4-Clay	Kids First of Florida Point of Contact: Timothy Bergman Tbergman@kffclay.org	Camelot
	7-Volusia, Flagler, Putnam	Community Partnership for Children Point of Contact: Brittany Lawton Brittany.Lawton@cbcf.org	Neighbor to Family
	7-St. Johns	St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners dba Family Integrity Program Point of Contact: Jessica McCrickard jmccrickard@sjcfl.us	Family Integrity Program
Central Region	5-Marion, Citrus, Sumter, Lake, Hernando	Kids Central, Inc. Point of Contact: Vicki Aldis Vicki.Aldis@kidscentralinc.org	Kids Central Case Management, Lutheran Services, Youth and Family Alternatives
	9, 18-Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Brevard	Family Partnerships of Central Florida Point of Contact: Keri Flynn Keri.Flynn@familypartnerships.org	Camelot, Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services
	10-Hardee, Highlands, Polk	Heartland for Children, Inc. Point of Contact: Marquina Butts-Fisher mbutts@heartlandforchildren.org	Lutheran Services, Neighbor to Family, One Hope United, Children's Home Society



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Suncoast Region	6-Pasco, Pinellas	Family Support Services of Suncoast Point of Contact: Nyla Williams Nyla.Williams@fsssuncoast.org	Lutheran Services, Youth and Family Alternatives
	13-Hillsborough	Children's Network of Hillsborough Point of Contact: Sarah Sisk Sarah.Sisk@cnhc.org	Camelot, Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, Lutheran Services, One Hope United, Thompson Child and Family Focus
	12-Sarasota, Desoto, Manatee	Safe Children Coalition, Inc. Point of Contact: Wendy Readus wreadus@sccfl.org	Safe Children Coalition, Lutheran Services, The Florida Center for Early Childhood
	20-Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Hendry, Glades	Children's Network of Southwest Florida Point of Contact: Stephanie Lucas Slucas@cnswwfl.org	Camelot, Lutheran Services
Southeast Region	15-Palm Beach	ChildNet, Inc (Palm Beach) Point of Contact: Samantha Ramsaran Samantha.Ramaram@childnet.us	Children's Home Society
	17-Broward	ChildNet, Inc (Broward) Point of Contact: Kaydion Watson Kaydion.Watson@childnet.us	Children's Home Society
	19-Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin	Communities Connected for Kids, Inc. Point of Contact: Yulanda Baldwin Yulanda.baldwin@cckids.net	Children's Home Society
Southern Region	11, 16-Miami-Dade, Monroe	Citrus Family Care Network Point of Contact: Marta Torres Mtorres@citrusfcn.com	The Village South, Family Resource Center of South Florida, Wesley House