



# ACS Youth Leadership Council

## JANUARY 2022 QUARTERLY MEETING

### UPDATES FROM ACS/ THE YLC:

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- Welcome to ACS's new Commissioner, Jess Dannhauser! If you'd like to learn more about him, read his profile [here](#)
- SYEP 2022: Vaccination/ in-person requirements are pending, but consider getting vaccinated & boosted in case that is the requirement! Stay tuned for exciting placement opportunities with ACS & partners – for questions: [Raymond.Singleton@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:Raymond.Singleton@acs.nyc.gov)
- Our YLC Strategic Action plan, developed in the youth summit in association with the Casey foundation, was formally adopted by ACS in December. Congratulations on all your hard work developing this guiding document!

### WHAT ABOUT US INC.

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- Felicia Wilson shared her progress developing an exciting new mentorship program by & for young adults impacted by the foster care system, including winning the [David Prize](#) for this initiative
- Mentors have been identified in Washington DC, Philadelphia, NYC & Jersey to support NYC young adults who decide to pursue opportunities outside of the city
- They are currently recruiting additional mentors with foster care lived experience nationwide, and will launch with their first group of mentees from St. John's Strive for Success program

#### Learn More & Connect:

- **Article:** [Imprint News](#)
- **Website:** <https://www.wauinc.org/aboutus>
- **Email:** [info@wauinc.org](mailto:info@wauinc.org)

## iFOSTER

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- Jill Block shared a few projects of iFoster- a national nonprofit with over 60,000 members supporting youth in foster care, formerly in foster care, informal adoptions, and caregivers of nonbiological children
- The iFoster website has a portal for resources, with partnerships to help youth receive
  - o Products & services like – Glasses, lower cost braces
  - o Educational, employment, health & other support
  - o Trauma-informed programs to aid the self-sufficiency of youth

### Of particular Note- Cell Phones!

- o Lifeline offers cellphones to youth on Medicaid but there can be eligibility issues
- o iFoster is working with foster care agencies to purchase & distribute phones at a discount, pre-paid for 3 months at a time; they have distributed 500-600 phones
- In development- Self-directed training on the website – stay tuned!

### Learn More & Connect:

- Jill's Email: [jill@ifoster.org](mailto:jill@ifoster.org)
- iFoster Website: <https://www.ifoster.org/>
- Email: [support@ifoster.org](mailto:support@ifoster.org)
- Phone: 1-855-936-7837
- Text: 530-414-5060

## FAIR FUTURES

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- Ericka & Cheyanne shared updates on Fair Futures (FF) advocacy efforts- FF is organizing to become fully funded at \$35 million
- This funding will expand FF's model to reach youth up to 26, and ensure an additional 3,000 youth 21-26 leaving foster care are supported with tutors and coaches

**Virtual Rally- Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm! Zoom Meeting**  
**<https://Graham-Windham.zoom.us/j/7544509266> Meeting Number: 754 450 9266**

### Learn More & Connect:

- Ericka's Email: [ericka@fairfuturesny.org](mailto:ericka@fairfuturesny.org) (and 2020 opinion piece for City Limits [HERE!](#))

- **Fair Future's Website:** <https://www.fairfuturesny.org/>
- **Contact form for the YAB!** [LINK](#)

## COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA)

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- Kerry Moles from [CASA](#) shared updates for their Youth Advisory Board (YAB), the Youth Leadership Council (YLC), and the creation of a new position as a Youth Fellow
- The YAB is a mentoring & development opportunity, whereas the YLC is an advocacy & shared governance group
- **The Youth Fellow** position will be for a young person with lived experience in the foster care system; 21 hours a week with benefits- job posting coming soon!

### Learn More & Connect:

- **CASA YLC Webpage:** <https://www.casa-nyc.org/youth-leadership-council>
- **Kerry's Email:** [kmoles@casa-nyc.org](mailto:kmoles@casa-nyc.org)

## OFFICE OF CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES (OCFS)

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- Ronni Fuchs shared information about a new group & resources within OCFS about preparing youth for adulthood
- OCFS is hiring for **Regional Training Consultants** – look out for future updates!

### Learn More & Connect:

- **OCFS Young Adult Services Webpage:** [Link](#)
- **Ronni's Email:** [ronni.fuchs@ocfs.ny.gov](mailto:ronni.fuchs@ocfs.ny.gov)

## NEW YORKERS FOR CHILDREN (NYFC)

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- NYFC is planning a train the-trainer cohort of peer-mentors who will learn how to coach young adults on time management, money management, and other skills – some ACS YLC members & staff will be participating- contact Seline for more info
- Liandra T shared information about the **“Deeper than Love Series”**; consisting of 4 events Wednesday evenings to help you get to know the real deal about love, relationships but most importantly how to make sure *you* are healthy in all.

### Learn More & Connect:

- **Deeper Than Love RSVP:** [LINK](#)
- **Seline's email:** [ssurita-seda@newyorkersforchildren.org](mailto:ssurita-seda@newyorkersforchildren.org)
- **Joi's Email:** [jcampbell@newyorkersforchildren.org](mailto:jcampbell@newyorkersforchildren.org)
- **NYFC Website:** <https://www.newyorkersforchildren.org/signature-programs/>

### LEGAL AID SOCIETY

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- Sirica McIntosh shared updates in the development of Legal Aid's youth advisory board, including youth's plan for a virtual advocacy day
- The Youth board recently led an organization wide training on sexual orientation & gender identity (SOGI) grounded in their personal experiences and expressions

#### Learn More & Connect:

- **Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Justice Page:** [Link](#)

**Sirica's Email:** [SMcIntosh@legal-aid.org](mailto:SMcIntosh@legal-aid.org)

### ACS & OCFS – EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS

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If you are age 18-24 and you are currently in or recently left the foster care system in NYC, **you may be eligible for an Emergency Housing Voucher (EHVs).**

EHV's help pay part of your rent, broker's fee, and security deposit for apartments in neighborhoods throughout New York City. Help is also available with move-in expenses and furniture for eligible youth.

If you are interested, please contact your foster care agency or the **ACS Housing Academy Collaborative Team 212.676.6779 or 646.770.4979, or [housing@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:housing@acs.nyc.gov).**