


YOUTH  POWER

RESOURCE GUIDE

SPRING 2023

Introduction

Welcome to the [YouthNPower](#): Transforming Care Resource Guide!

Hey You! Yes You! Transitioning out of foster care can be difficult, and we know it's not always easy to figure out what resources are available to you. That's why the **YouthNPower** (YNP) Team has put together this guide - to help you navigate this next stage of your life with confidence. This guide is **by us and for us**, meaning that members of the YouthNPower collective who have experienced foster care in New York City have selected these resources for you.

We wanted to provide information and resources that you can use. YNP compiled this guide for young people between the ages of 18-24 who have experienced foster care in New York City; however, we believe that many other young people can benefit from this guide. **We want you to be able to live a great and self-sustaining life.** Whether you're looking for housing options, job training, or just need someone to talk to, we've got you covered.

YNP created the resource guide with organizations and programs that are available to help young people beyond survival services. Our vision is to connect young people to accessible resources to help them thrive, such as Medical/Health, Mental Health, Immigrant Support, Legal Support, Housing, Education, Parenting and Caring for Your Child, LGBTQIA+ Community Supports, Financial Literacy, and other Community Services to **live your best life.**

There are a lot of resources in New York City for young people. We used our collective knowledge and lived experiences to create this guide, including our best efforts to provide complete and up-to-date information. If you have any recommendations to share or feedback that you think we can use, please reach out to Jose Perez, YouthNPower Project Manager at: jperez@childrensdefense.org.

Now, grab a cup of coffee, smoothie (or your favorite energy drink), get comfy, and dive in!

About YouthNPower: Transforming Care. We are an intergenerational collective of researchers, organizers, advocates, and artists with both professional and lived expertise in the child welfare system. Our team is documenting, uplifting and advocating for the power, needs and visions of young adults transitioning out of foster care in New York City. We are a partnership of the [Children's Defense Fund-New York](#), the [CUNY Graduate Center's Public Science Project](#), the [Center for the Study of Social Policy](#), and [New Yorkers For Children](#). Learn more about us and our work at: <https://youthnpower.org>.

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Education & Employment

Programs for High School, High School Equivalency, College & Job Training

Fair Futures

All young people with foster care experience in NYC up through age 26 are entitled to free support and coaching for school and employment through Fair Futures, which includes personal coaching and housing assistance provided through foster care agencies across the City. You don't need to still be in foster care to get these services. To get connected with a personal coach, complete an [online form here](#). Learn more about Fair Futures at: www.fairfuturesny.org

One Degree

One Degree is a central listing for high school, post-secondary, and workforce programs for young people, where you can search for all of these opportunities in one place. One Degree contains 1,500+ high school, post-secondary (college, professional training), and workforce development opportunities for young people in New York City. Learn more about One Degree at: www.fairfuturesny.org/1degree

- You can find [educational opportunities here](#)
- You can find [employment opportunities here](#)

ACS Youth Employment Program

The NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) has a web-based job and internship finder for young people through 24. **You don't have to be in ACS or have ACS history.** You can use the website to connect with job training, placement, and paid positions for young people in different organizations across the City. Learn more at: www.NYC.gov/ACS or call: (212)-341-0900

Advocates for Children

Advocates for Children (AFC) provides resources for older students reconnecting for credit and high school equivalency in NYC. You learn more about AFC's support at www.advocatesforchildren.org or call AFC's Education Helpline (866) 427-6033 Monday to Thursday 10am to 4pm.

BronxWorks

The BronxWorks Workforce Development Department prepares people that are unemployed, looking for their first job, or need help improving their careers. They have targeted programs for young adults, NYCHA residents, non-custodial fathers, and HPD Section 8 voucher holders. They provide comprehensive job-readiness instruction, sector-based training, job referrals with trusted employment partners, one-on-one financial counseling, financial workshops, and wraparound services, which include access to benefits and educational opportunities for young people living in the Bronx. Learn more

about BronxWorks at: www.BronxWorks.org or contact: **Ursula Cooper-Hunter, Department Director, Children & Youth** ucooperhunter@bronxworks.org or call: (718) 508-3193

Children's Aid Next Generation Center

The Children's Aid Next Generation Center offers support for people ages 14-24 with high school equivalency degree programs as well as internships and job readiness. Learn more at: www.childrensaidnyc.org or call: (718) 589-4441

City Living NY in NYC

City Living offers ongoing support and connections with counseling, education, and job training programs. They assist with resume writing and job searches, career counseling, and interview readiness, as well as college tuition issues, internship guidance, and enrollment challenges. They have 2 programs:

Comprehensive services program

City Living's Comprehensive Services Program (CSP) works with young people through age 26 to support their longer term educational, employment, and socio-emotional goals. City Living provides a licensed social worker to design a plan based on each young person's unique needs and aspirations.

Home good advocacy

City Living's Home Goods advocacy program offers a list of common home goods (like shower curtains, bedding, duvet cover/comforter, and window coverings) as young people move into new homes. There are also invitations to monthly workshops and training in a community of peers. Some of these workshops include financial budgeting, nutrition, stress management, and self-care.

Learn more at: www.citylivingny.org, email: team@citylivingny.org or call: (347) 746-1761

DYCD WorkForce Connect

The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) is the City's lead agency for youth employment programs, including:

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) provides NYC youth between the ages of 14 and 24 paid work experience each summer. To apply for SYEP, visit: www.nyc.gov/DYCD.

Train & Earn

Train & Earn provides comprehensive job training and employment services, along with support services to find a permanent job, obtain their high school equivalency if applicable, and access postsecondary education and training. Train & Earn is for young people aged 16–24, who are not working and not in school, and meet

certain eligibility requirements. Here is the list of [Train and Earn](#) organizations in each of the 5 boroughs that connect you with jobs and professional training opportunities.

For more information about DYCD, visit: www.nyc.gov/DYCD or call: **1 (800) 246-4646**

[The Door](#)

The Door offers a variety of free programs aimed towards helping young people aged 14-24 get their high school equivalency certificate and move on to a career, college or a vocational training program. The first step to getting enrolled is to [become a Door member](#). You will then be referred to orientation where you can figure out which program is the best fit for you. You can contact The Door by emailing membership@door.org. No appointment or paperwork is necessary. You can learn more at: www.Door.org or email resources@door.org or call **(212) 941-9090**

[LEAP at Ali Forney Center](#)

The Learning, Employment, Advancement, and Placement (LEAP) program is a partnership between the Ali Forney Center and the Center Youth Program at The LGBTQ+ Center. It is a six-month vocational and educational class for LGBTQ+ people ages 16-24 years old who are homeless or facing housing instability. You can contact LEAP at: **(212) 206-0574** or stop by their Harlem Drop-in Center at [321 W. 125th Street New York, NY 10027](#). You can learn more at: www.AliForneyCenter.org

[Pathways to Graduation \(P2G\)](#)

Pathways to Graduation is a program at the New York City Department of Education that helps students earn their High School Equivalency (HSE) Diploma. They have locations citywide and are open for students ages 17-21. To learn more, visit: www.p2g.nyc

Money for School or Professional Training

[New Yorkers For Children](#)

New Yorkers for Children (NYFC) works with young people who have had experiences in the child welfare system. NYFC provides direct educational, financial and emotional support in partnership with foster care agencies, community organizations, and the NYC Administration for Children's Services. **NYFC runs scholarship programs and provides computers and emergency cash support for students.** Learn more about their resources at: www.NewYorkersForChildren.org / email: info@newyorkersforchildren.org or call **(646) 257-2930**.

[Education and Training Voucher \(ETV\)](#)

Education and Training Vouchers provide funding and support for post-secondary education (after highschool, like college or vocational training) to help youth who have aged-out of foster care. ETV grants are up to \$5,000 per year to cover certain

school-related expenses. You have to complete the ETV application. You can learn more at: <https://etv-nys.smapply.org/>.

Federal Student Aid

Federal Student Aid is part of the U.S. Department of Education and is the nation's largest provider of student financial aid. They publish the FAFSA form, which you can complete to apply for scholarships and loans for college. You can learn more at: www.StudentAid.gov

The New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

The New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) helps pay tuition at approved schools in New York State. An annual TAP award can be up to \$5,665. Because TAP is a grant, it does not have to be paid back. TAP is also available for students attending a SUNY, CUNY, and not-for-profit independent degree-granting college on a part-time basis. You can learn more about TAP at: www.hesc.ny.gov.

College Success Guide

Fostering Youth Success Alliance

The Fostering Youth Success Alliance is a statewide advocacy group working with and on behalf of young people with a foster care background. They created a resource guide about navigating college. You can [access it here](#) at the website, www.FYSANY.org.

Housing

The Door

For youth aging out of foster care, The Door offers housing and public benefits support, based primarily at **The Door's Bronx Youth Center**. The Door's Housing & Benefits Coordinator makes referrals to shelters, transitional living programs, supportive housing and can help you explore independent housing. The Door also helps with:

Benefits support by connecting youth with programs like SNAP, Medicaid, Women, Infants, Children (WIC), One Shot Deals, HSASA, Child Health Plus, Social Security, Disability, Unemployment, Workers' Compensation, among others.

Crisis management – facilitating access to basic needs like food and clothing, securing immediate shelter placement.

Documents – assisting youth with getting copies of official documents such as State ID, Social, and Birth Certificate.

For more information visit: www.Door.org, or email: academy@door.org

Fair Futures

All young people with foster care experience in NYC up through age 26 are entitled to free support for housing through Fair Futures, which includes personal coaching provided through foster care agencies across the City. You don't need to still be in foster care to get a coach or access these services. To learn more about Fair Futures, visit:

<https://www.fairfuturesny.org/>. To get connected, complete an [online form here](#).

Breaking Ground

Breaking Ground offers affordable housing for low-income working professionals and people exiting homelessness. In addition, most of their buildings offer a wide array of on-site support services, recreational activities, and amenities. Learn more at:

www.BreakingGround.org or call: **1 (800) 324-7055**

City Living NY in NYC

City Living offers ongoing support with housing, including 2 programs:

Comprehensive services program

City Living's Comprehensive Services Program (CSP) works with young people through age 26 to support their housing goals. City Living provides a licensed social worker to design a plan based on each young person's unique needs and aspirations.

Home good advocacy

City Living's Home Goods advocacy program offers a list of common home goods (like shower curtains, bedding, duvet cover/comforter, and window coverings) as

young people move into new homes. There are also invitations to monthly workshops and training in a community of peers. Some of these workshops include financial budgeting, nutrition, stress management, and self-care.

Learn more at: www.citylivingny.org, email: team@citylivingny.org or call: (347) 746-1761

[Coalition For Homeless Youth](#)

The Coalition for Homeless Youth is a consortium of over 60 agencies working to improve the lives of runaway, homeless and street-involved youth across New York State. They work to recognize and uphold the plight of homelessness among young people across ethnicities, genders, and orientations. Learn more at: www.NYCHY.org or reach out to them at: **Text: (347) 779-2352 / Email: info@nychy.org**

[Housing Connect](#)

The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and Housing Development Corporation (HDC) create affordable housing opportunities for some household income levels and sizes. Through the City's Housing Connect website, you can apply for affordable rental and homeownership opportunities, including housing lotteries in buildings across the City. Learn more at: www.HousingConnect.nyc.gov.

Parenting and Caring for Children

Support for Parents

[The Door](#)

The Door offers support for young people who have been involved with the foster care system and are parenting, including Parenting Journey – a small, closed parenting group that meets for 2 hours a week for 12 weeks. The program includes activities, discussions, and a family-style meal. The Door also has Parenting Support, which includes bi-monthly workshops led by pregnancy, birthing and childcare professionals. The Door can also make referrals to partner organizations, and keeps a stockpile of pampers, wipes and other baby/child essentials available. For more information, To learn more, visit: www.Door.org or contact them at academy@door.org

[Resource Guide for Expectant Parenting Youth](#)

This resource guide was compiled by the Hunter College School of Social Work for youth and young adults in foster care: however, any young person who is parenting or expecting a child may find these resources useful.

[Know Your Rights, Know Your Power: A Guide for Young Parents](#)

This website was created by the Brighter Futures Workgroup, which is a collaboration between current and former youth with lived experience in foster care, legal agencies representing children, legal agencies representing parents, community-based organizations, the Administration for Children's Services, and representatives from other NYC agencies including the Department of Youth and Community Development. The guide includes information about parenting after you leave foster care, what to do if CPS starts an investigation.

Child Care and Pre-School

[EarlyLearn](#)

This is New York City's child care and early education program managed by the New York City Department of Education (DOE). The program serves children ages 0 to 4. Visit EarlyLearn NYC on the DOE website to find a program that is right for your family, and enroll your child.

[Child Care Vouchers](#)

Your family may qualify for child care assistance if your family's income falls below the Federal Poverty Level and you have an approved reason for seeking child care ("reason for care"). This reason must be at least one of the following:

- You work 10+ hours per week
- You are in an educational or vocational training program
- You have been looking for work

- You live in temporary housing (priority access)
- You are attending services for domestic violence

Eligibility is based on your family size, residency, income, and reason for care. It is verified using the documentation you submit with your application. To learn more, visit www.nyc.gov/ACS or call the ACS Call Center at 212-835-7610, Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:30pm.

The Jeremiah Program

Helps single mothers and offers financial assistance, offers counseling services as well for single mothers living in Brooklyn.

Arts and Culture with Your Kids

Children Museum of Manhattan

The Children's Museum of Manhattan offers early childhood art classes with small group activities, hands-on artmaking, science explorations, storytelling, and more. Children's Museum of Manhattan - The Tisch Building, 212 West 83rd Street, New York, NY 10024, tel. (212) 721-1223.

The Brooklyn Children's Museum

Founded in 1899 as the world's first children's museum, Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM) is New York City's largest cultural institution designed especially for families. Proudly based in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, BCM offers exhibits and programs grounded in visual arts, music and performance, natural science, and world cultures. Brooklyn Children's Museum - 145 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11213

Cool Culture

A Cool Culture Family Pass is available through your child's school or child care center, and offers discounts on museums and events across the City.

Food and Community Gardens

[GrowNYC Green Space](#)

GrowNYC has built more than 150 new gardens in New York City, including community gardens. If you want to start your own garden, you can request assistance from GrowNYC. Visit www.grownyc.org to learn more.

If you're looking for a garden near you visit [NYC Parks GreenThumb](#). People have created over 550 unique green spaces around the 5 boroughs. The majority of community gardens were abandoned and lots of them transformed by volunteers into green spaces for relaxation, socializing, and growing food, or a combination.

[Farmers Markets](#)

There are farmers markets across NYC offering locally grown vegetables and fruits, along with fresh juices and flowers, and many take EBT. You can [find farmers markets near you here](#).

[Met Council-Food Pantry Network](#)

Met Council's Emergency Food Card (EFC) program provides prepaid credit cards to people who are facing emergencies and require support to purchase food. The cards provided are discreet, so clients can use these cards as they would any Visa card. If you are interested, you can **email food@metcouncil.org**

[Nutrition Kitchen - NeON](#)

The NYC Department of Probation has five NeON Nutrition Kitchens throughout the city, offering free groceries. NeON Nutrition Kitchens are neighborhood food pantries, but you don't have to be on probation to come to a NeON Nutrition Kitchen. Everyone in the community is welcome. You can find a Kitchen by visiting www.nyc.gov/neon

[Food Bank NYC](#)

Food Bank For New York City includes over 800 food pantries, soup kitchens, and campus partners across the five boroughs. Visit www.foodbanknyc.org to find resources near you.

[SNAP \(Food Stamps\)](#)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as "food stamps") helps families and individuals supplement the cost of their diet with nutritious foods. You can apply online on [ACCESS HRA](#) or call the Infoline at 718-557-1399 to have an application mailed to you.

[WIC \(Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children\)](#)

WIC provides free healthy food and services to low-income women and their children, including nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, health education, and referrals to other programs and services.

Health Care, Counseling & Mental Health Supports

[Background on Medicaid Health Insurance](#)

Young people who were in foster care at age 18 or older and were enrolled in Medicaid at the point of discharge from the system should be eligible for and enrolled in Medicaid under the “Former Foster Care” category up to age 26. Medicaid is health insurance that covers health care, including mental health services in New York City.

[Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center](#)

The Clinic offers confidential medical and mental health services and prevention education to young people ages 10 to 26, all under one roof and at no cost to patients. At the Adolescent Health Center, young people can find a wide range of services specially designed for their needs, including:

- Primary health care
- Counseling, support, mental health, and family therapy
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Nutrition, fitness and wellness programs

The Center also offers Health Squad, an innovative, free app available in both iTunes and Google Play that allows people to ask the Health Center questions, request advice, setup reminders for medications and get reminders of upcoming appointments at the Center. **Call 212-423-3000** (for appointments), Mount Sinai-Adolescent Health Center, 312-320 East 94th Street, New York, NY 10128

[The Door](#)

The Door’s Health Center offers in-person and telehealth visits. To schedule a medical, dental, or vision appointment, **call 212-453-0222**. To reach the Counseling Center, **call 646-661-4862**. Individual psychotherapy and group therapy are available. Group topics range from anger management to open art space. To learn more, visit: www.Door.org.

[NYPCC](#)

New York Psychotherapy and Counseling Center (NYPCC) is a non-profit, community-oriented mental health organization, licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Health. We provide exceptional services to children, adolescents, and adults throughout the NYC area. To learn more, visit: www.nypcc.org.

Bronx

Bronx Child and Family Mental Health Center

[579 Courtlandt Avenue](#)

[Bronx, NY 10451](#)

p: (718) 485-2100

Bushwick

Bushwick Child and Family Mental Health Center

[102 Pilling Street](#)

[Brooklyn, NY 11207](#)

p: (718) 602-1000

East New York

East New York Child and Family Mental Health Center

[2857 Linden Boulevard](#)

[Brooklyn, NY 11208](#)

p: (718) 235-3100

A Home Within

A Home Within matches and connects young people to psychotherapists in their area for in person or virtual therapeutic services. Young people in New York City and the Hudson Valley can request a volunteer psychotherapist by visiting the organization's website. To learn more, visit: **www.ahomewithin.org**

The Trevor Project

You can reach out to a counselor if you're struggling, find answers and information, and get the tools you need to help someone else. To learn more, visit:

www.thetrevorproject.org

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones. ***Call or Text 988***

[Lifeline Options For Deaf + Hard of Hearing](#)

For TTY Users: Use your preferred relay service or dial **711** then **988**

Community and Peer Supports

[New Yorkers For Children](#)

New Yorkers for Children (NYFC) has a **Peer Mentoring Program** with modules about mental health, educational success, financial management, and more. Learn more by contacting NYFC at: program@newyorkersforchildren.org.

[The Door](#)

At the Door, young people transitioning out of foster care can receive support and guidance from people who understand. Perhaps all you want is a safe space to meet other young people, learn new things and have fun. Maybe you need to talk to a lawyer to ensure that you have all of your entitlements, or a counselor to help you find housing. Or perhaps you need to meet with a college advisor to obtain your education training voucher (ETV), see a doctor or a counselor, or meet with someone who can help you finish your education and get a job. Visit www.door.org to learn more.

[The Academy Program at The Door](#)

Available in their **Bronx Youth Center** location, The Academy is a unique program designed to prepare young people for adulthood. It offers tailored case management, employment and internship services, therapy, housing and benefits referrals and case management parenting support, youth leadership opportunities, life skills workshops, trips and more. Youth between the age of 16-24 and a current Door member can join. To learn more about The Academy, **email academy@door.org**

[Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City](#)

The community-based mentoring program serves youth in all five boroughs. By matching a caring adult mentor to an NYC Youth, they spend eight hours a month in community and building their relationship. For more information, you can email help@bigsnyc.org or call **212-686-2042**

[Osborne | Young Adult Mentoring](#)

If you are on probation, formerly incarcerated, or are the child of an incarcerated parent(s), Osborne offers virtual mentoring services and case management to young people ages 16-24 who either are on probation in the Bronx, or live near Butler, Patterson, or Castle Hill. For more information, please call **(347) 738-3456** or email them at info@osborneny.org

[About Mutual Aid NYC – Mutual Aid NYC](#)

Mutual Aid NYC is a multi-racial network of people and groups building support systems for people in the New York area during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. They maintain a [community-sourced, volunteer-curated library that includes: education, housing, money, food and legal resources](#).

Budgeting & Financial Literacy

Fair Futures

All young people with foster care experience in NYC up through age 26 are entitled to free financial planning, budgeting and support through Fair Futures, which includes personal coaching provided through foster care agencies across the City. You don't need to be in foster care to get these services. To learn more about Fair Futures, visit: <https://www.fairfuturesny.org>. To get connected with a coach, complete an [online form here](#).

City Living

City Living NY in NYC offers free financial literacy training and classes designed to promote positive self-care. You can call **(347) 746-1761** / email: team@citylivingny.org

The Door

At the Door, young people transitioning out of foster care can receive support including financial literacy, budgeting and financial planning. To learn more about The Academy, email academy@door.org

Youth - Operation HOPE

Operation HOPE offers a program for young adults that is a combination of group workshops, group coaching sessions, and 1:1 coaching. Topics include budgeting, savings, debt reduction, income and benefits, identity protection, student loans, and more. To learn more about them, call **1 (888) 388-4673**.

The NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) Free Financial Counseling

NYC Financial Empowerment Centers provide free one-on-one professional financial counseling and coaching to support you in reaching your goals to reduce debt, strengthen credit score, save, balance a budget, open a bank account, and more. Learn more at: nyc.gov/dcwp or book a **free appointment at a Financial Empowerment Center by calling 311**.

NYC Anti-Violence Project Economic Empowerment Program

The Anti-Violence Project AVP provides direct services to survivors of all forms of violence and to those who love and support them. The Economic Empowerment Program (EEP) at the Anti-Violence Project supports clients with free and confidential financial and workforce development services, including financial counseling, which includes budgeting, resolving debt, building credit, and tax support, and job readiness services, including resume and cover letter building, mock interviewing, and career planning. **Call (212) 714-1184** to learn more.

LGBTQAI+ Centered Support & Organizing

[LEAP at Ali Forney Center](#)

The Ali Forney Center and the Center Youth Program at The LGBTQ+ Center partnered to form a six-month vocational and educational preparation course for young people who identify as LGBTQIA+ ages 16-24 and have experienced homelessness or housing instability. You can contact LEAP at: **(212) 206-0574** or stop by their Harlem You can learn more at: www.AliForneyCenter.org or you can contact the Door by emailing membership@door.org. No appointment or paperwork is necessary. You can learn more at: www.Door.org or email resources@door.org / call **(212) 941-9090**

[The Center](#)

The Center fosters a welcoming environment where everyone is celebrated for who they are. We offer the LGBTQ communities of NYC advocacy, health and wellness programs; arts, entertainment, and cultural events; recovery, parenthood, and family support services. The Center is located at 208 W 13 Street, New York, NY 10011. **Call: (212) 620-7310**

[The Trevor Project](#)

The Trevor Project has trained counselors who understand the challenges LGBTQIA+ young people face. They will listen without judgment. All of your conversations are confidential, and you can share as much or as little as you'd like. Visit www.thetrevorproject.org to learn more.

[Next Generation Center](#)

The Next Generation Center (NGC) is a one-stop center designed to support young people, ages 14-24, as they prepare for and transition to adulthood and independence. It is located at 1522 Southern Blvd., Bronx, NY 10460, or you can **call: 718-589-4441**

[Hetrick-Martin Institute - HMI Youth Wednesday Onsite Services](#)

Hetrick-Martin Institute provides free year-round programs and services for LGBTQIA+ youth and allies ages 13-24 at 2 Astor Place in New York City. They also help organize and produce youth events throughout New York City. Both regular programs and special events are listed in our [Youth Calendar](#), which is updated weekly. For a complete listing visit their [youth programs](#).

[Queens Pride House](#)

Queens Pride House serves the LGBTQ community of Queens by increasing access to LGBT-friendly health and social resources, discussions and support groups, social and cultural events. Learn more at: www.queenspridehouse.org or call **718.429.5309**.

FIERCE!

FIERCE! is a membership-based organization building the leadership and power of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth of color in New York City by cultivating the next generation of social justice movement leaders who are dedicated to ending all forms of oppression. for more information you can call them at **(646) 336-6789**, or email them at **info@fiercenyc.org**. They are located at **147 West 24th Street, 6th Floor New York, NY 10011**

Legal Support & Youth Justice Organizing

Legal Services

Youth Represent

Youth Represent offers free legal services to people through age 25, including help with housing, employment, education, family, rap sheets and records. Youth Represent attorneys use both legal and youth development principles to get the best possible outcomes for our clients. You can contact them at their legal hotline: **646-759-8088** or visit www.youthrepresent.org to learn more.

Brooklyn Defenders Services

The Brooklyn Defenders Services provide a variety of legal assistance in the categories of ACS (if you are being investigated by ACS), release from jail or prison, arrest or police contact, evictions or housing legal issues, ICE or Deportation services, education, employment, and public assistance, medicaid, or other benefit legal issues. You can connect with Brooklyn Defenders Services by email or phone call. **Call: 646-971-2722 or contact communityoffice@bds.org.**

The Bronx Defenders

The Bronx Defenders is a public defender nonprofit that serves low-income Bronx residents in criminal, civil, child welfare, and immigration cases. You can learn more at: www.bronxdefenders.org.

Queens Defenders

Once assigned to a criminal case, Queens Defenders' attorneys conduct investigations, interview witnesses, and engage in settlement conferences with the Queens County District Attorney's Office and the Court. You can learn more at: www.queensdefenders.org.

Neighborhood Defender Service

NDS includes criminal and civil attorneys, family defense attorneys. You can learn more at: www.neighborhooddefender.org

Center for Family Representation

CFR represents parents in child protection cases in family court. You can learn more at: www.CFRNY.org.

Legal Aid Society

Legal aid provides representation in criminal and civil cases in NYC. **Call: (212)-577-3300 or visit www.legalaidnyc.org**

Youth Justice Network

YJN focuses on building trusting relationships and supporting young people who have had contact with the criminal legal system. YJN offers Youth Advocates, arts

programming, education support, mentoring and employment. Visit www.YouthJustice.org to learn more.

Legal Terms You Might Hear

The justice system can be overwhelming. Get familiar with some legal terms and acronyms you might hear like appeal, adjournment, petition, jurisdiction, deposition, and affidavit.

Immigration Supports & Organizing

[The Door](#)

The Door's Legal Services Center provides legal advocacy to young people ages 12 to 24. To learn more, visit www.door.org.

[New York Legal Assistance Group](#)

New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) provides comprehensive, free civil legal services, financial empowerment, impact litigation, policy advocacy, and community partnerships. **Call: 212.613.5000 on Mondays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm**, and leave a message to receive a phone consultation, or **email: ipuintake@nylag.org** and you will then receive a link to request a consultation or a callback

[The City Bar Justice Center's Immigrant Justice Project \(IJP\)](#)

The City Bar Justice Center's Immigrant Justice Project (IJP) assists asylum seekers fleeing persecution in their home countries, survivors of violent crimes and trafficking here in the United States, and individuals seeking humanitarian protection and other forms of relief. To learn more, **call: 212-382-6710**

[Legal Aid Society](#)

Legal Aid Society provides urgent legal services to reunify families and assist low-income immigrants in obtaining lawful status, applying for citizenship, and defending against deportation. For help with an immigration matter, whether for removal defense or for help with an affirmative immigration benefit (citizenship, green cards, family-based petitions, etc.), with concerns about a [public charge](#) or for help with advance planning for non-citizen parents, please call their **Immigration Law Unit Helpline: 844-955-3425**. (Interpreters are available in all languages.) Detained individuals and/or their family members can contact our Immigration Law Unit Helpline at **844-955-3425**, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

[Make The Road - New York City](#)

Make the Road New York is a second home to tens of thousands of immigrant and working class people of color. Their programs are designed to support families over years and even decades, first tackling crises – like an impending eviction or debilitating hospital bill – and then supporting community members to get on their feet, perhaps by training for a healthcare career or stabilizing their immigration status, and finally engaging clients and students in organizing to address root causes of problems. The result is a resilient and tight-knit community that nurtures the self-sufficiency and leadership of each member.

Arts Activism and Creative Culture

Urban Word

Urban Word hosts First Draft Open Mic for young people 13-22

This is an uncensored FREE space for young poets, spoken word artists, emcees, musicians, and activists to share their creative work and grow as performers and writers. Every Tuesday from 5:00-6:30 pm at Grae Wellness Space, 89 5th Avenue Between East 16th & East 17th, Suite 802, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10003. Learn more at www.urbanworldnyc.org

Willie Mae Rock Camp

Willie Mae Rock Camp provides a range of programs focused on music technology, including summer camp, in-school music education, after-school digital mentorship, community workshops and events, and online learning, tuition-free. For more information contact: Willie Mae Rock Camp, 540 President Street, Suite 2H, Brooklyn, NY 11215, tel: (646) 726-0247

Theatre of the Oppressed NYC

Theatre of the Oppressed NYC partners with community members at local organizations to form theatre troupes. These troupes devise and perform plays based on their challenges confronting economic inequality, racism, and other social, health and human rights injustices. After each performance, actors and audiences engage in theatrical brainstorming – called Forum Theatre – with the aim of catalyzing creative change on the individual, community, and political levels. Learn more at: www.tonyc.nyc.

Nuyorican Poets Cafe

Over the last 40 years, the Nuyorican Poets Cafe has served as a home for groundbreaking works of poetry, music, theater and visual arts. A multicultural and multi-arts institution, the Cafe gives voice to a diverse group of rising poets, actors, filmmakers and musicians. The Cafe champions the use of poetry, jazz, theater, hip-hop and spoken word as means of social empowerment for minority and underprivileged artists. The Nuyorican is located on East 3rd Street, between Avenues B and C, in Manhattan's Lower East Side. You can learn more at: www.nuyorican.org.

National Museum of the American Indian

A diverse and multifaceted cultural and educational enterprise, the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) cares for one of the world's most expansive collections of Native artifacts, including objects, photographs, archives, and media covering the entire Western Hemisphere, from the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego. Entrance to the museum is free. The museum is located in the historic Alexander Hamilton US Custom House at One Bowling Green in lower Manhattan. The museum entrance is on the south side of Bowling Green, adjacent to the northeast corner of Battery Park.

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, one of The New York Public Library's renowned research libraries, is a world-leading cultural institution devoted to the research, preservation, and exhibition of materials focused on African American, African Diaspora, and African experiences. The Center is located at 515 Malcolm X Boulevard (135th St and Malcolm X Blvd) New York, NY 10037.

NYCgo

New York City has one of the most diverse cultural art communities and events in the world. This site offers New Yorkers a guide on all things art happening in the big apple. New York City's museums, galleries and theaters host an incredible breadth of offerings. The choices are nearly endless, and they extend to every borough. You can sign up for their newsletter online where you can find more information.

One Whales Tale

One Whale's Tale is a multidisciplinary production company that creates, fosters, and generates new independent work with an appreciation for magic and the preservation of culture. They create work that accurately reflects the experiences of immigrants, first-generation Americans, and people of color by creating space for them to tell their own Stories. Learn more at: www.onewhalestale.com.

Children Museum of Manhattan

The Children's Museum of Manhattan offers early childhood art classes with small group activities, hands-on artmaking, science explorations, storytelling, and more. Children's Museum of Manhattan - The Tisch Building, 212 West 83rd Street, New York, NY 10024, tel. (212) 721-1223.

The Brooklyn Children's Museum

Founded in 1899 as the world's first children's museum, Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM) is New York City's largest cultural institution designed especially for families. Proudly based in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, BCM offers exhibits and programs grounded in visual arts, music and performance, natural science, and world cultures. Brooklyn Children's Museum - 145 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11213

Acknowledgments

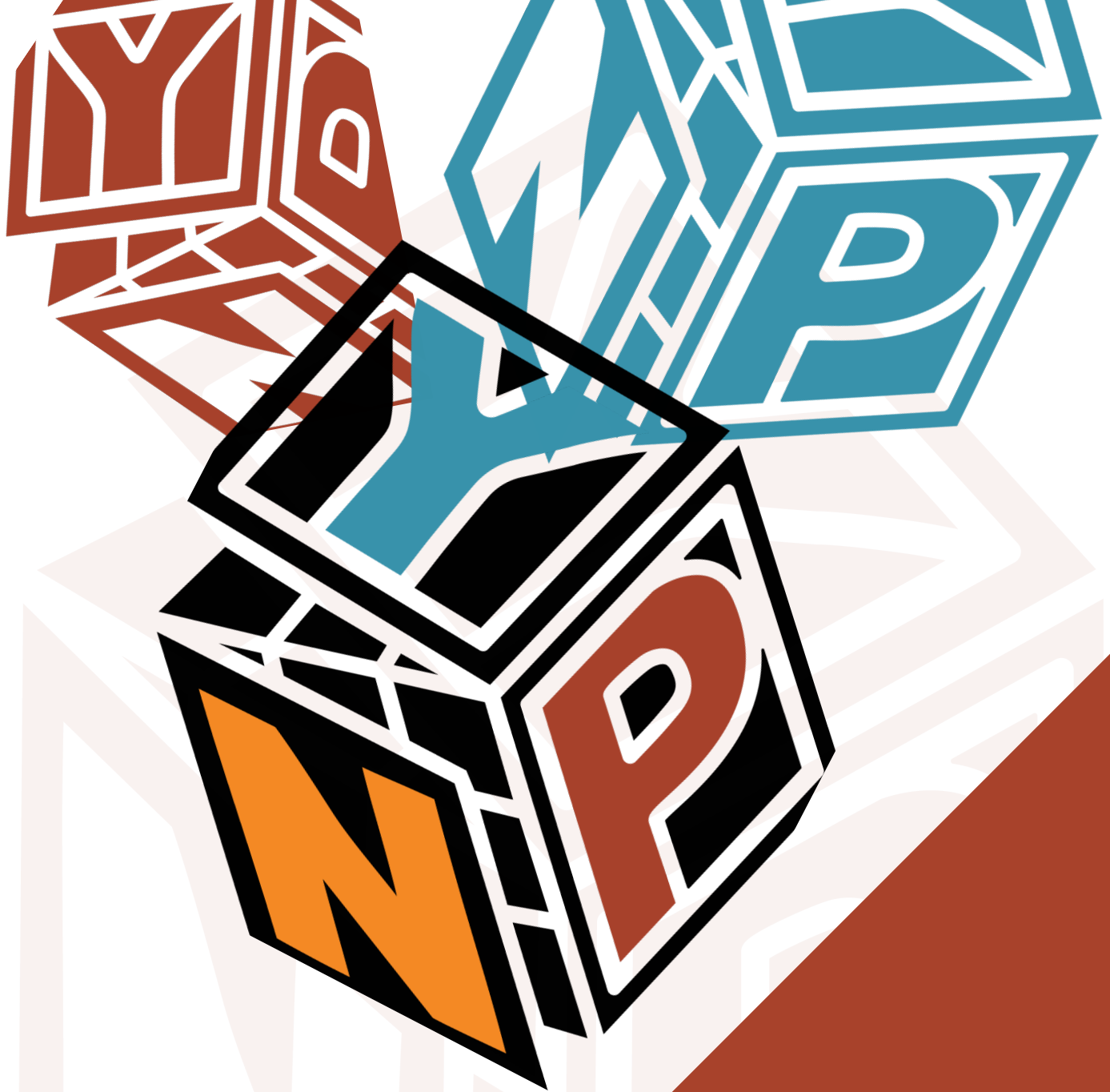
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WHO IS YOUTH N POWER: TRANSFORMING CARE?

We are an intergenerational collective of researchers, organizers, advocates, and artists with both professional and lived expertise in the child welfare system. Our team is documenting, uplifting and advocating for the power, needs and visions of young adults transitioning out of foster care in New York City. We are a partnership of the [Children's Defense Fund-New York](#), the [CUNY Graduate Center's Public Science Project](#), the [Center for the Study of Social Policy](#), and [New Yorkers For Children](#).

