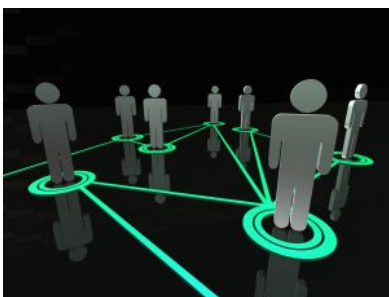


## Our Mission

Experienced current and former foster youth standing up to effect change, replacing the negative perception of foster care, and fulfilling a role of leadership within the state and community...



creating a better way of life for the children and youth of today and tomorrow.

## Eligibility

Youth ages 16-21 who are in foster care for a period of 6 months as a CHINS or adjudicated a delinquent with a case plan establishing the need for independent living services.

Youth ages 16-21 who were formerly in foster care for a minimum of 6 months as a CHINS or adjudicated a delinquent between the ages of 16-18 that were returned to their own homes and remain a CHINS or adjudicated a delinquent with a case plan establishing a need for independent living services.

Youth ages 16-21 who were formerly in foster care for a minimum of 6 months as a CHINS or adjudicated a delinquent between the ages of 16-18 who have been adopted or placed in a guardianship from foster care and were receiving independent living services prior to the dismissal of their case.

Youth ages 18-21 who were formerly in foster care for a minimum of 6 months as a CHINS or adjudicated delinquent between the ages of 16-18 under the supervision of the DCS and had a case plan establishing the need for independent living services.

Youth ages 18-21 who would otherwise meet the eligibility criteria above and who were in the custody of another state or were a 'ward of another state' will be eligible if, through the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children, there is a verification of wardship and all eligibility criteria from the state of jurisdiction.



The Indiana Youth Advisory Board is sponsored and funded by the Indiana Department of Child Services

**For more information, or to apply, please contact:**

Josh Raines  
Social Science Research Center  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306

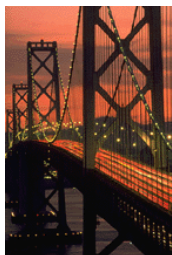
Phone: 765-285-4176  
Fax: 765-285-5462  
E-mail: indianayab@yahoo.com



Sponsored by the Indiana  
Department of Child Services



**INSPIRE GREATNESS**



**“Our purpose is to be heard and make a huge difference.”**

We are a group of young adults from around the state of Indiana working together to improve the lives and futures of other young people experiencing foster care. We meet at least six times per year to develop and implement our mission to positively impact the foster care system in Indiana. We, the State of Indiana Youth Advisory Board have a purpose! Our purpose is to be heard and make a huge difference. We do this by participating in various conferences, trainings, and activities throughout the year. Our involvement on the Board offers us each unique opportunities for leadership and personal development by educating others and learning from our experiences. We plan to succeed by becoming leaders, advocating for youth in care, and most of all, building friendships and changing minds.

## Who We Are

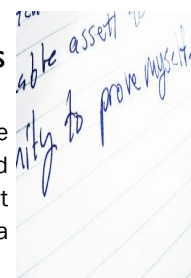
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## Our Goals

- Goal #1: Before youth transition into adulthood, they will have a better support system through family and friends and an understanding of the programs and benefits available to them.
- Goal #2: Life skills training offered by programs throughout the State of Indiana will offer high quality and consistent preparation for youth in care.
- Goal #3: IYAB members will serve as advocates by participating in activities that raise awareness about issues important to youth in care.
- Goal #4: Prior to transition, all foster youth will have an understanding of the educational opportunities available to them following high school, as well as the internships and employment options available in their areas of interest.

## Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed and voted upon by current members of the Indiana Youth Advisory Board. Recommendations for new members and alternates will then be submitted for approval to the DCS Director in the County which the prospective member represents. Every attempt will be made to select one member and one alternate from each of the 18 established DCS Regions. Terms run from October to September. Members in good standing may remain voting members of the board until the age of 21 if receiving Chafee services, and until the age of 23 if receiving ETV funds.



**“We meet at least six times per year to develop and implement our mission to positively impact the foster care system in Indiana.”**

*To apply, please send your completed application and required letters of recommendation to:*

Josh Raines  
Social Science Research Center  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306  
Phone: 765-285-4176  
Fax: 765-285-5462  
E-mail: indianayab@yahoo.com