



2026 YOUTH ADVOCACY TOPIC SUMMARIES

TACOMA CHAPTER - CPS INTAKE EVALUATION

Issue Summary: Youth living in volatile and unsafe homes sometimes remain in these harmful circumstances due to their case not meeting the Children Protective Services (CPS) criteria for removal. Despite repeated reports to CPS to intervene, the lack of physical abuse in reports results in a child staying in a home that may be harmful in non-physical ways.

Proposed Solution: The Tacoma Chapter would like to evaluate the CPS intake criteria and determine how to bridge the gap in response protocols, so children aren't remaining in harmful homes where other forms of abuse continue to affect them.

CENTRAL CHAPTER - ABUSE AWARENESS

Issue Summary: Children in Washington are not taught in schools what different forms of abuse can look like outside of physical abuse, leaving many young people in vulnerable situations without a way of reaching out for help or how to identify who can help.

Proposed Solution: The Central Chapter will discuss what different forms of abuse can look like while working towards coalition building to help develop community trainings to support abuse awareness education in Central Washington, with the hope of expanding the education statewide.

EASTERN CHAPTER - DISABILITY JUSTICE

Issue Summary: People with disabilities in Eastern Washington have a harder time accessing resources and care for themselves due to a lack of a common resource list and a way to get there. Most services are known through word of mouth while transportation for people with disabilities remains inconsistent due to scheduling, disqualifying requirements, and cost.

Proposed Solution: The Eastern Chapter will explore these challenges and how a common and accessible resource list and a resource navigator could assist people with disabilities reach the services they need.

KING COUNTY CHAPTER - REDUCING HOUSING BARRIERS

Issue Summary: There continues to be a lack of permanent housing supports for youth and young adults (YYA) in King County. YYA in the 24-26 year old age range often face especially high barriers as they age out of YYA services. Even if YYA with system-experience are ready and able to afford a rental unit, they face complex disadvantages such as not being able to meet credit requirements. Additionally, YYA do not have the length of homelessness required to compete with older adults for housing supports. This combination of hurdles often inhibits YYA from obtaining secure housing.

Proposed Solution: The King County Chapter is particularly interested in lowering barriers that highly impact young adults seeking housing such as: credit score, rent caps, and income requirements. The King County Chapter would like to seek alternative screening requirements for this population such as expanding portable background checks for YYA trying to secure housing.

NORTHERN CHAPTER - YYA HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Issue Summary: Currently, YYA across Washington's northern counties face high barriers in accessing housing supports. This primarily stems from long waitlists, an overreliance on minimal service providers with high turnover rates, and a lack of YYA-specific funding. These issues often force YYA into never-ending cycles of homelessness and housing instability; affecting YYA's ability to not only obtain stable housing, but also employment, medical care, and educational opportunities.

Proposed Solution: The Northern Chapter will be connecting with city and county electeds, community partners, housing experts, and other unhoused young people to ensure that YYA have a strong voice in the future of YYA housing across the region. Chapter members are interested in exploring creative solutions to reduce waitlists such as YYA-specific subsidized housing, flexible funding, and local tax allocation.

YAEH* CHAPTER - FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR HOUSING

Issue Summary: Youth and young adults identified that many different financial barriers can be a major obstacle to obtaining and maintaining stable housing. For young people, barriers to housing are multifaceted and complex, and often leaves young people needing multiple resources to sustain their housing support.

Proposed Solution: The YAEH Chapter will explore how having a flexible source of housing funds can remove many of those financial barriers in one step, while also helping prevent homelessness and improve housing stability.

YAEH CHAPTER - DISABILITY JUSTICE

Issue Summary: Young people with disabilities face disproportionate challenges and discrimination when navigating daily life, especially in acquiring necessary workplace accommodations and understanding their labor rights. Processes to prove the need for an accommodation can be long and burden the applicant while they wait for the accommodation to come through.

Proposed Solution: The YAEH Chapter will explore the different challenges faced by people with disabilities in the workplace and discuss ways to better support them while also having a clear guideline on workplace rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

***YAEH: Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO
CONNECT WITH AND SUPPORT THE WORK
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