



Transforming foster care &
Ending youth homelessness

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TRAINING 2024

Using your voice to make change in
your community

LAND AND EQUITY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A map of the United States with numerous Native American tribe names labeled across the land. The map is a stylized representation, likely a 'Tribal Map' as mentioned in the credit. It shows the outlines of the states, and within each state, various tribal territories are marked with their names. The names are in different colors and fonts, some in bold, some in regular weight. The map is oriented with North at the top.

I invite everyone to pause, quiet, and reflect as we open with this acknowledgement.

We would like to recognize that we are on the land of the Coast Salish, Interior Salish, and Yakama Nation tribes. They have taken care of this land before it was colonized, and they continue to care for, honor and defend their land. We honor with gratitude the land itself and all of the native tribes of Washington State.

We would also like to recognize the historical and systemic exploitation and oppression of indigenous peoples, enslaved Africans, and other historically under-invested people which has led to the disproportionality in representation of these communities among the youth we serve and whose voices we seek to elevate.

I ask that we keep this in mind as we work to transform the systems that have and continue to impact us.

Art credit: Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Tribal Map, 2000

MOCKINGBIRD MISSION & VISION

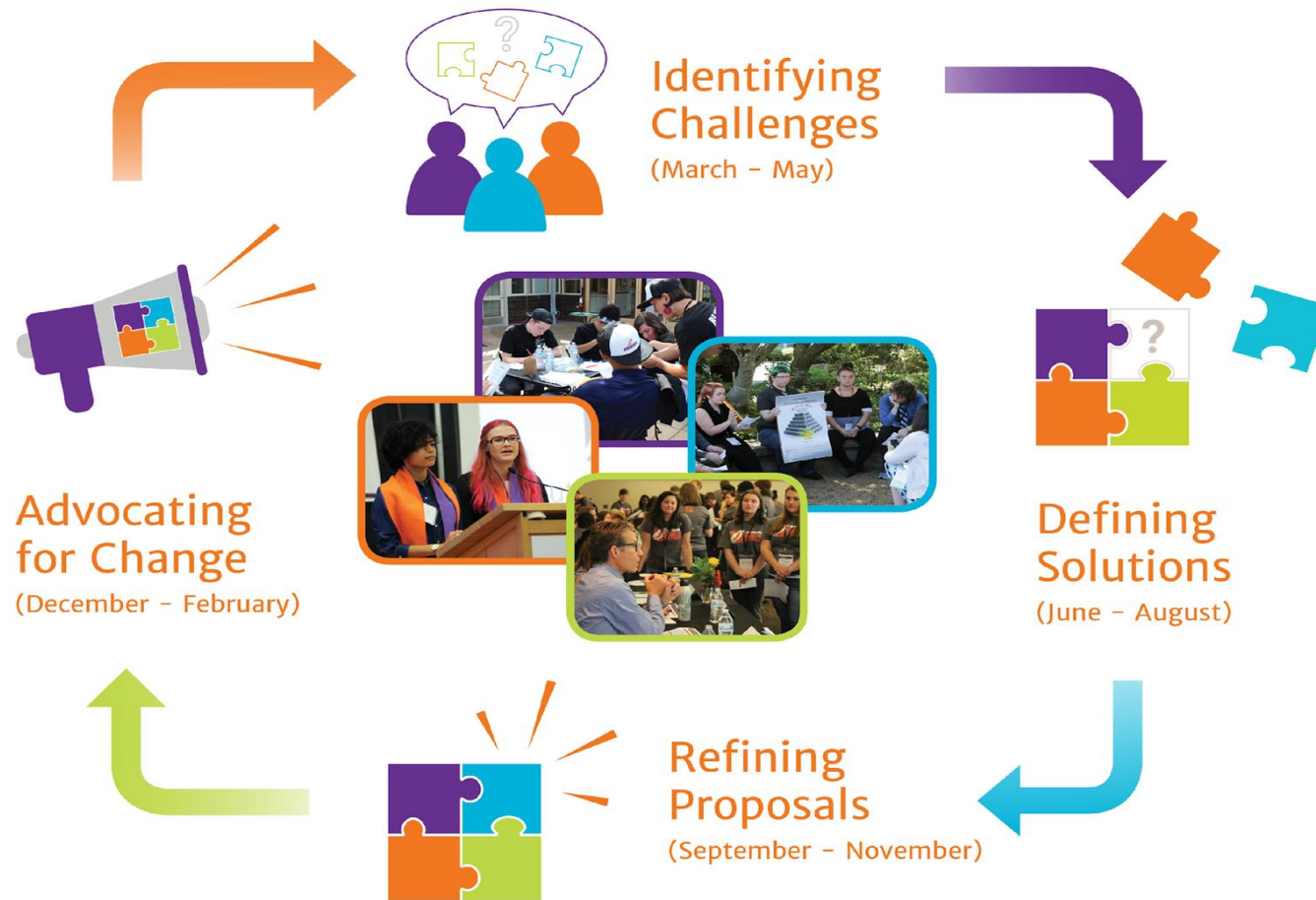
Our Vision

Mockingbird envisions that each and every young person, regardless of race and individual experience, reaches adulthood with an equitable opportunity to thrive.

Our Mission

Mockingbird creates, supports, and advocates for racially equitable, healthy environments that develop young people at risk of or experiencing foster care or homelessness.

ADVOCACY CYCLE





WHY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY?

The purpose of this training is to:

- Understand the purpose of YAD
- Understand the 2024 Advocacy Agenda
- Learn effective strategies for talking with policy-makers



YOUTH ADVOCACY DAY!

FEB. 2, 2024

YAD is Mockingbird Society's annual youth and young adult-centered lobby day! Mockingbird participants and supporters meet at the State Capitol to advocate to legislators on topics impacting foster care and youth homelessness systems. These advocacy topics have been identified, developed, and refined in chapters across the state by young people wanting to change the systems that most impact them.

In-Person | Friday, February 2nd, 2024
Olympia, WA



**USE THE QR CODE TO REGISTER AND CONNECT WITH US.
FOR GENERAL INFORMATION, CONTACT YP@MOCKINGBIRDSOCIETY.ORG**

WHY YOUTH ADVOCACY DAY (YAD)?

- When Legislators hear from YOU about what needs to be changed, it is POWERFUL!
- Showing up together makes a difference!
- Many Legislators say YAD is their favorite day during legislative session!



2024 YOUTH ADVOCACY DAY AGENDA

Time	Agenda
8:00 am	Registration at Temple Beth Hatfiloh
9:00 am	Program
10:00am	Advocacy in Action – Walk to Capital
12:00pm	Rally at the North Steps
1:00pm	Closing & Lunch
2:00pm	Adjourn





OUR ADVOCACY AGENDA

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

LEAD

-VS-

SUPPORT

&

BUDGET

-VS-

LEGISLATION



2024 LEAD LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Extended
Foster Care

Financial
Capabilities

EFC – EXTENDED FOSTER CARE (LEAD)

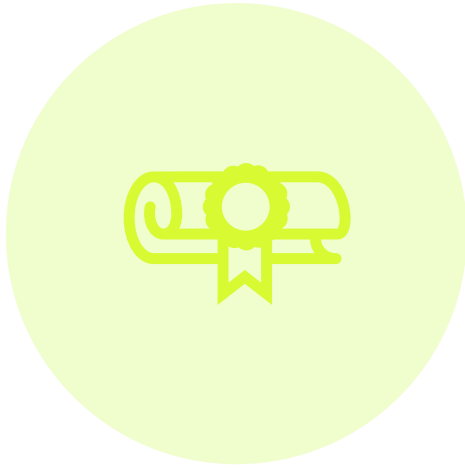
In 2023, Washington State's Extended Foster Care (EFC) program offers support to young adults after they turn 18, contingent on specific criteria. EFC provides case management, housing options, medical coverage, transition planning, and access to community resources. Participants must engage in education, employment, and independence goals, attend regular case worker meetings, and have legal representation. Evaluations have demonstrated cost savings and reduced reliance on other services. Challenges include limited awareness, financial support issues, and age-appropriate social work support. Proposed solutions involve amending the statute, providing financial subsidies, streamlining stipends, addressing delays, and preventing involuntary exits for enhanced program effectiveness.

FINANCIAL CAPABILITY (LEAD)

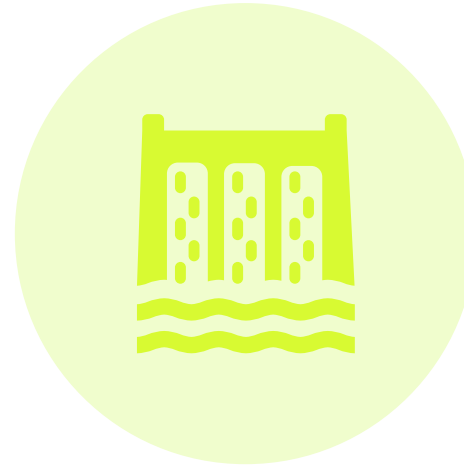
Young people in Washington state who are in foster care need access to financial literacy skills and a bank account at a young age, to help them be successful when they leave care. Without these resources, they can become trapped in a cycle of poverty.

Solution: Pass legislation directing DCYF to establish an account for youth in foster care ages 14+ with a monthly allowance deposited, paired with financial education beginning at 12 years of age.

SUPPORT AGENDAS



DOL (DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING)



THE BRIDGE

DOL

- Expand the eligibility on the required adult signature for a driver's license application to include a "responsible adult."
- Eliminate the need for an affirmative statement from DSHS or DCYF to be eligible for an at-cost ID card.
- Conduct a study on the feasibility of offering a reduced-fee identicard.

THE BRIDGE

- The Bridge Residential is a proposal to align with The Bridge Coalition designed to ensure young people facing unaccompanied homelessness and exiting inpatient behavioral health treatment have safe housing and services to avoid being discharged into homelessness or emergency based services.
- The Bridge Residential legislative proposal is for two 6-10 bed community based housing programs that young people can stay in for 1-90 days as they identify long term housing. Behavioral health services will be provided in The Bridge Residential housing with one located on the east and one on the west side of the state. NorthStar Advocates will provide consultation and technical assistance with peers and young people with lived experience. The budget request is for \$3m annual for both programs (\$1.5 each). For more information contact Jim Theofelis at jim@northstaradvocates.org

How to share &
What to Share

Checklist

Tips & tricks!

MEETING PREP



4 C'S OF SHARING PERSONAL STORIES

1. CHOOSE

- You have the power to choose what you want to share!
- Why are you sharing this information?
- Who benefits from you sharing this information?

2. CONNECT

- Who is your audience?
- How will you connect with them?
- How can you help them understand the purpose of your story?

3. CLAIM

- Take ownership of your story and the emotions they bring.
- *You* interpret your experience and name its significance.

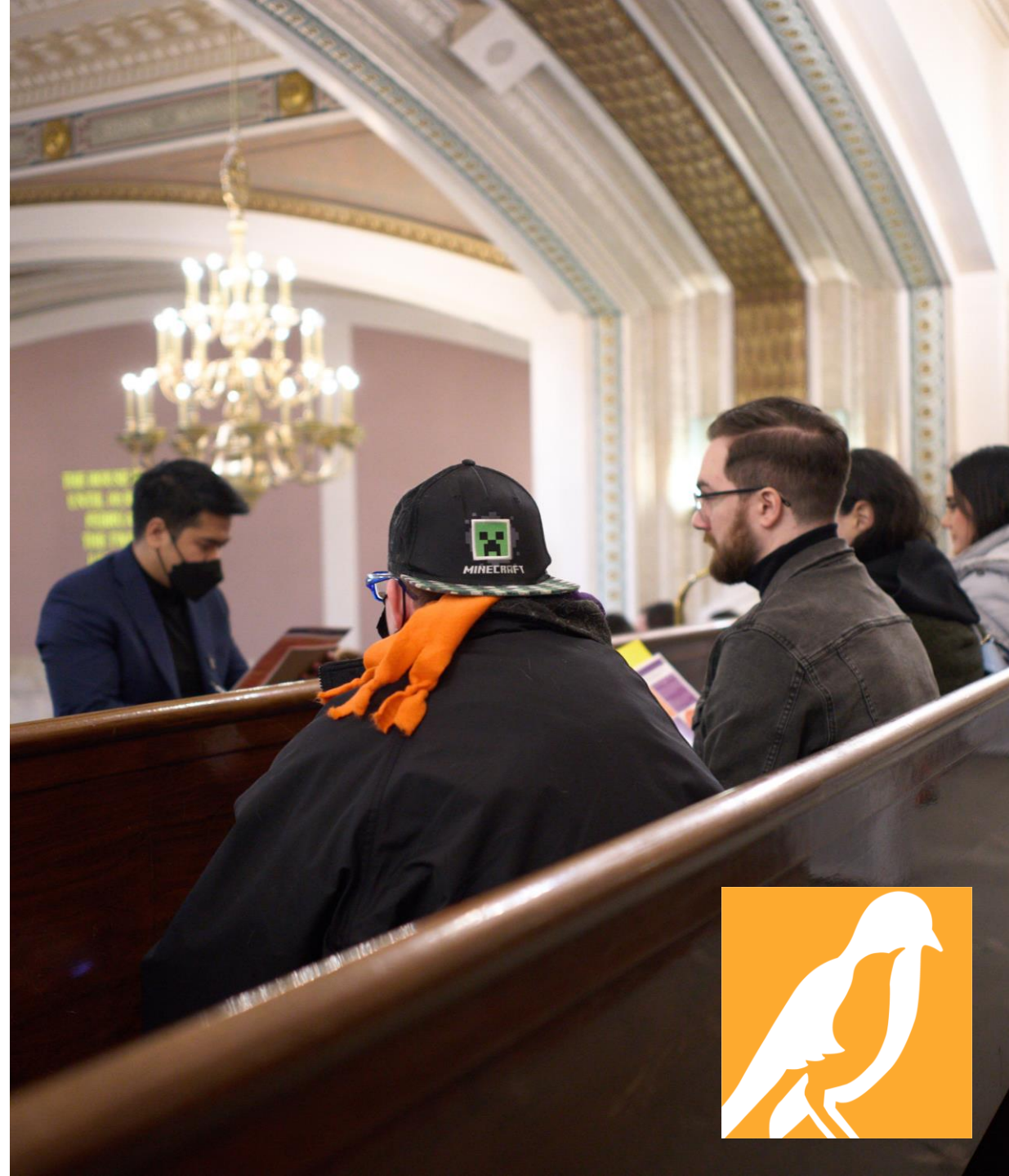
4. CREDIBILITY

- The *listener* assigns credibility.
- You can maximize your credibility by being consistent, having an organized presentation and having well-supported arguments.



MEETING GUIDE

1. Introductions
2. Issue Background
3. Personal Connection
4. Ask for Support
 - ▶ Include Bill #
5. Repeat steps 2 to 4 for all issues you have time for!
6. Closing



PREPPING PERSONAL CONNECTIONS/STORIES.

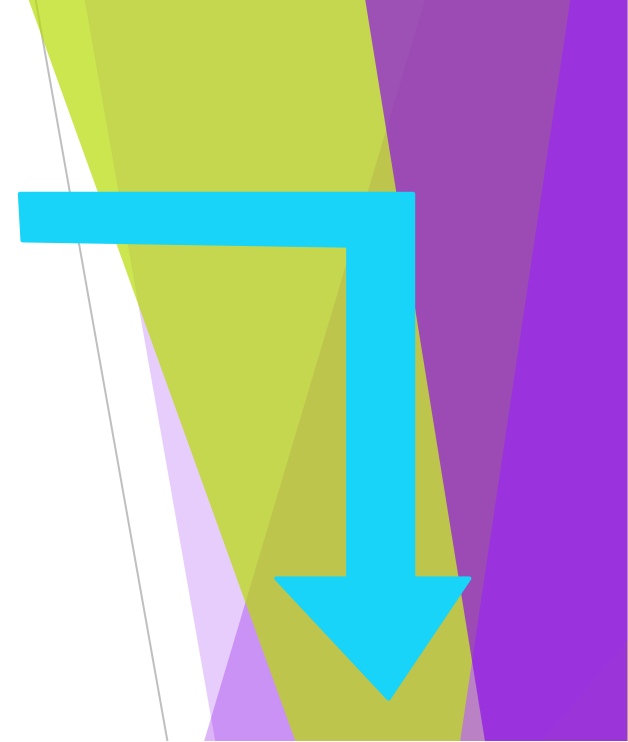
- Reflect
- Write bullets for your connection/story
- Consider sharing:
 - What would have been different for you or people you know if this law was in place?
 - What impact did this have on your life or the life of a person you know?

FINAL TIPS



1. Register by January 26th to ensure you are placed in a group and accounted for in meals. Register here:
2. Wear warm clothes and comfortable shoes, this event is rain or shine! (lots of walking and its February in Olympia so expect bad weather!)
3. Be ready and flexible for last minute changes (could be who you are meeting with, or who's in your group)
4. It's okay if you don't know an answer, be honest!
5. Be yourself and have fun!

“IF YOU WORK HARD, PREPARE, AND SPEAK FROM THE HEART – IT WILL BE PERFECT FOR TODAY.” – JIM THEOFELIS





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