

VISION:

Every young person leaving foster care will have the opportunities and support needed to thrive as adults

MISSION:

To improve policy, practice and community connections for young people transitioning from foster care to adulthood



Outcomes	A growing public constituency is aware and engaged in issues facing young people in transition from care to adulthood.	Young people have increased voice and influence in planning and decision-making.	Community organizations have increased resources, knowledge and connections to better support young people.	Research, evaluation and learning expand knowledge and effectiveness.
Community Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts and media projects highlight the issues for public understanding Public participation projects directly engage people in the issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects led by young people highlight issues of importance to young people and provide an opportunity for the practice of meaningful youth engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects increase inter and intra organization capacity, as well as community capacity Multi-year support for program services provides direct support to young people making the transition from foster care to adulthood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real-time, supported, collaborative learning contributes to improvements in practice and highlights gaps – “what we don’t know”
Youth Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people advise and participate in public engagement and communications work and act as co-hosts for events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people are involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of everything that we do 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded number and improved quality of tools and supports for young people and adult allies collaborating in community Community organizations and communities are better able to engage in meaningful youth engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train and support young people to advise on research Train and support young people to participate as active researchers and respondents
Shared Learning, Evaluation and Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public release of findings from shared learning, evaluation and research help public understand issues facing young people in transition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YAC captures and shares learning about meaningful youth engagement Youth-led and youth-directed research and learning highlight issues of importance to young people and expands evidence base of what we know 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared Learning and Evaluation (SLE) workgroup learning products support better practice in work with young people and inform possible system and policy changes A community of providers is built, providing a foundation for greater sharing of knowledge, resources and opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLE workgroup collectively identifies issues and learns together (practice-learning feedback loop) Contracted research contributes to evidence base of what we know Ongoing measurement of experience of young people contributes to evidence base of what we know (Measure key indicators; Health, Housing, Employment, Education, Support Networks, Finance)
Public Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase broad public awareness of key issues Invite participation and grow constituency Engage public in developing possible solutions and actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The voice of young people and the expertise of youth leaders are amplified Provide a platform for young people to directly interact with and influence decision-makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity of communities is developed to be able to confidently take public roles in promoting goals for youth in care Build credibility of organizations Showcase what is working and amplify success Highlight gaps in the system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning with communities about issues of importance to them and where they see strengths/gaps Generate a set of community tested “asks” that are meaningful and can be taken forward by stakeholders and assessed for relevance with broader public audiences and potential allies
WHY THIS MATTERS	<p>Research shows that systems change is enabled by public will which requires increased visibility of and engagement with the issue.</p>	<p>All people have the right to be involved in decisions that affect them. Research shows that authentic youth engagement leads to better individual, programmatic and policy outcomes.</p>	<p>Research shows that fragmented services lead to poor outcomes, therefore, communities need to be supported to collaboratively surface and demonstrate programs and practices that enable better outcomes for young people.</p>	<p>Developing a collective understanding of what works in a BC context and what we still need to learn supports effective practice and can inform policy and system change.</p>