



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Family and Youth Engagement Summit (Family YES!)

Day 1 (Friday, Oct. 22) will include stories and life experiences shared by older youth and parents who have interacted with various state systems; time for child- and family-serving professionals to reflect on their practice in light of what they hear from families; and a keynote address by Tanya Tucker, Chief of National Engagement and Partnerships, Full Frame Initiative

Day 2 (Saturday, Oct. 23) will include workshops for families on identifying natural resources, the spectrum of advocacy, finding your voice and telling your story, and talking with legislators.

Over the course of two days, participants will build a list of youth and families' concerns and ideas for improving the professional services and policies that impact their lives. Families and youth will also leave the event with ways to stay engaged and continue to use their voices for positive change.

Purpose of Family YES!

- Educate state workers, policy makers, and local service providers about youth and families' experiences
- Stimulate positive change in state systems that serve youth and families
- Empower youth and families as advocates

Audience for Family YES!

- Day 1 audience is primarily those who work for state systems and local service providers, but families are also invited and welcomed
- Day 2 audience is families and youth involved with state systems and services

Goals for Family YES!

- Provide space for youth and families to share their stories
- State workers and local service providers listen to families and youth, reflect upon and learn from their stories
- State workers and local service providers leave with practical ideas for how to make their own program/service/system more effective by incorporating youth and family experience and voice
- Families and youth gain tools and information that improve their access to and understanding of resources and services and facilitate their participation in the public policy process