



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Family and Youth Engagement Summit (Family YES!)

Vision for Family and Youth Engagement in State Systems

- Youth and family are involved in all aspects of systems, including planning, budgeting, and evaluating services.
- Systems are transparent and accountable to the families and youth they serve.
- Systems are trauma-informed and promote healing, resilience, and strength
- Systems recognize that families are the experts on their own lives and value families' voices.
- Families and youth know how to approach legislators and participate in the policy process

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, but professionals are also welcome

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

Full Frame Initiative and the Family Wellbeing Framework

We all need:

- **social connectedness** to people and communities, in ways that allow us to give as well as to receive;
- **stability** that comes from having things we can count on to be the same from day to day, and knowing that a small bump won't set off a domino-effect of crises;
- **safety**, the ability to be ourselves without significant harm;
- **mastery**, feeling that we can influence what happens to us, and having the skills to navigate and negotiate life; and
- **meaningful access to relevant resources** to meet our basic needs without shame, danger or great difficulty.

These five principles are the basis for Family YES!

We are looking for speakers who:

- Have interacted with one or more government systems, such as the child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, social services, or special education systems, either as a child/teen or as the parent of a child or teen in need of services.
- Would be comfortable sharing their story of interacting with systems, with some coaching and support
- Have a message to share about what helped them and what hindered them on their journey through these systems
- Represent the diversity of Hoosier families and youth in terms of geography, race, family structure, and various types of needs and services

Logistical Details:

- This is an online event. Speakers can participate from the location of their choosing. We will assist as
- Five speakers will each have about 20 minutes to tell their story. There will be moderated Q&A.
- The youth/family speakers will be compensated for their time.
- The event is being planned for a Friday and Saturday, October 22-23, 2021
- Most of the family/youth speakers will speak on Friday. All speakers will be invited to attend both days of Family YES!

If interested, complete this online [speaker application form](#) by September 19.

For questions, contact Julie Whitman at Julie.whitman@courts.in.gov or 317-232-1945