

## Annual Youth Speak Outs held across the state...

This allows hundreds of youth to speak about their experiences, concerns, and ideas for improving the foster care system.

*Youth In Progress identified key topics to address and create tangible quality improvement products that are consistent with its priorities. Youth expressed their desire to:*

Educate foster care teens on their rights and responsibilities.

Update adolescent regulations and policies.

Encourage all agencies and levels of placement to hear their voices.

Update clothing inventory policies and practices.

Inform local and state government about their experiences and needs.

Break down stereotypes and “normalize” the foster care experience.

Keep families and siblings connected and engaged.

Learn to best articulate their message and inform decision makers.

Create pamphlets about the policies and practices that affect them.

Allow youth to participate in case planning and court proceedings.

*Partnerships are built and support accessed to finalize the following policies, practices, and products. Statewide and Regional Youth Leadership teams were instrumental in the following accomplishments:*



**2004**  
Foster Care Youth Handbook and training video developed and distributed

**2004**  
Seats designated for youth at Adolescent Strategy Workgroup meetings

**2005**  
Monitoring Tool developed and youth advisory boards created

**2005-2006**  
Updated clothing inventory and training video created; 06-INF-10 released

**2006**  
Quarterly meetings begin with Assemblyman Scarborough and his related committees

**2006**  
Training video debuted: “Confronting Stereotypes of Foster Care Youth”

**2007**  
OCFS White Paper: “Keeping Siblings Connected” (07-INF-04) released and SCAA White Paper “Disconnected Youth: An Answer to Preventing Disengagement” published

**2007**  
Youth In Progress FosterClub All Americans created and certified  
**2008**  
NYS supports a Foster Club All Star

**2007-2008**  
Need to Know Series informational pamphlets developed entitled: “Law Guardians” & “Sibling Placement and Visitation”

**2008**  
Collaboration with Permanent Judicial Commission training video: “Hear Me, Hear Me, Hear Me” Digital stories regarding youth involvement in court proceedings