



*The Mission of Youth In Progress is to enhance and advance the lives of today's and tomorrow's foster care youth by giving them a sense of self and responsibility.*

*To do this, YIP pledges to educate everyone involved in the foster care system to the realities of this experience.*

*We will accomplish this mission by listening to youth in care and by offering them guidance that will allow them to achieve success in their lives and to realize their full potential.*



## **Region 4 Contact Information:**

*Michelle Ray*  
(518) 956-7888  
[mray@pdp.albany.edu](mailto:mray@pdp.albany.edu)

*Marie Limbach*  
(518) 402-3395  
[Marie.Limbach@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Marie.Limbach@dfa.state.ny.us)

## **Youth 4 Progress:**

**Region 4  
Youth  
Leadership  
Team**



*We are  
Today's  
Youth,  
Tomorrow's  
Leaders*

*I enjoy being a member of Youth In Progress & Youth 4 Progress. I get to share all of my experiences of being in foster care and help other youth in the foster care system.*

*Crystal M.*

## Youth Leader: Position Description

To be a youth member of *Youth 4 Progress*, youth must be in the care and custody of the New York State foster care system. Youth leaders must demonstrate emotional maturity equivalent to someone who is age 15 or above. Youth leaders must submit an application and a recommendation by the person who will serve as their mentor.

Youth leaders must be committed to the mission and goals of both the regional and statewide teams. To demonstrate this commitment, *Youth 4 Progress* members are expected to show initiative, take responsibility for group projects, and attend group meetings.

Excellent leadership, team-building, and interpersonal communication skills are essential. Youth leaders must demonstrate the ability to accept the differences of others and be open-minded and respectful at all times. Youth leaders must also represent the voices of other youth in care.

## Youth 4 Progress supports the 2007 goals of Youth In Progress :

- ◆ **Dispel negative stereotypes to “normalize” the experiences of youth in foster care.**
- ◆ **Increase funding opportunities for Statewide and Regional Youth Voice activities.**
- ◆ **Improve policies and practices regarding sibling and family contacts.**
- ◆ **Increase youth involvement in selecting, assessing and retaining service providers.**
- ◆ **Increase youth opportunities to make decisions and to improve practices that meet their needs and directly affect them (i.e., clothing allowance and policy, financial resources).**
- ◆ **Improve available services for youth while in foster care including trial discharge services.**
- ◆ **Improve policies and increase availability, awareness, and participation of services provided to youth aging out of foster care.**

## Adult Mentor: Position Description

Adult mentors must work on a regular basis with the nominated youth leader in some capacity within the New York State foster care system. Mentors must provide their youth with ongoing support, guidance and assistance. Mentors must submit the youth application and their recommendation for the youth to regional representatives from the Albany Adolescent Services Resource Network (ASRN) or the Albany Regional Office.

Adult mentors must be committed to the mission and goals of both the regional and statewide teams. To demonstrate this commitment, mentors are asked to show initiative, take responsibility for assisting youth with group projects, and attend group meetings.

Excellent support, caring, commitment and interpersonal communication skills are essential. Mentors must demonstrate the ability to accept the differences of others and be open-minded and respectful at all times. Mentors must also support and advance the role of youth as responsible leaders.