



# Youth Voices from Foster Care

A youth-led initiative with the Kansas Youth Advisory Council



Youth Voices from Foster Care is an arts-based, youth-led creative storytelling project that aims to involve youth who have experienced foster care in the process of improving child welfare practice and policy. Youth Voices is a collaboration between Kansas Strong and the Kansas Youth Advisory Council (KYAC).

Using prompts developed by KYAC, participating youth will create art projects that answer one or more of these questions.

Their art will build knowledge around the hopes, needs, and aspirations of youth in foster care.

What supports do I need to thrive?

What did I appreciate about a caseworker who helped, impacted or supported me?

What advice would I give to others about how to communicate with me?

What insights do I wish my foster parents or placement provider had?

What information is most helpful for me to have?

## FAQs

**Who is eligible to participate?** Youth ages 14-26 who have experienced foster care.

**What kind of art projects will be made?** The art projects might be poems, drawings, or other projects.

**When and will the art projects be made?** The KU Research Team will lead youth in creating individual or collective art projects (or both!). These sessions will occur over Zoom for the foreseeable future.

**How long will each session last?** 1.5 – 2 hours

**Who is the audience for these projects?** Child welfare workers, anybody providing services to youth, administrators, policymakers, relevant child welfare stakeholders, researchers, youth

## Our goals

**Improved Services:** To hear from youth about their experiences and to use the project to better understand the needs, hopes, and aspirations of youth in foster care. Their input will help us share information with professionals who are responsible for developing effective services that meet the needs of children, youth, and families in Kansas.

**Research:** To share what we learn from this process with people working in child welfare across the country, to promote partnering with youth coalitions.



Youth Voices from Foster Care is an initiative of Kansas Strong for Children and Families, a federally-funded partnership that aims to support Kansas child welfare as a collaborative, data-driven system that achieves positive outcomes for children's well-being, safety, and permanency. Collaborators include the Kansas Department for Children and Families, Kansas Family Advisory Network, Kansas Youth Advisory Council, Parent Partners, Kansas Supreme Court Task Force on Permanency Planning and Office of Judicial Administration, Cornerstones of Care, DCCCA, KVC Kansas, Saint Francis Ministries, TFI Family Services, and the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare. For more info, please contact Kansas Strong for Children and Families Project Director: Becci Akin, PhD, (785) 864 2647 [beccia@ku.edu](mailto:beccia@ku.edu)