The **mission** of California Youth Connection (CYC), a youth-led organization, is to develop leaders who empower each other and their communities to transform the foster care system through legislative, policy, and practice change.

Our **vision** is that all foster youth will be equal partners in contributing to all policies and decisions made in their lives. All youth in foster care will have their needs met and the support to grow into healthy and vibrant adults.
#FosterStability

a youth-led effort to create a youth-centered process for stability in all aspects of our lives:

- Stability in relationships and lifelong connections
- Stability in education and extracurricular activities
- Stability in placement
- Stability in health and wellness

We will create a system that honors and nourishes the mind, body, and soul of every child and youth impacted by California’s foster care system.
CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONNECTION'S
10 POINT MENTAL HEALTH VISION

1. WE WANT A PROCESS TO CONNECT WITH MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AUTHENTICALLY.
2. WE WANT EDUCATION AND ACCESS TO AVAILABLE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES.
3. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END OF OVERMEDICATION TO YOUTH WITHIN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.
4. WE WANT ACCESS TO HOLISTIC AND ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT FROM MEDICATION AND TALK THERAPY.
5. WE WANT THE IMMEDIATE STOP OF CASE-OVERLOAD OF PROVIDERS SERVING FOSTER YOUTH.
6. WE WANT ACCESS TO SPECIALIZED TREATMENT THAT MAY NOT BE BILLABLE TO MEDICAID.
7. WE WANT THE RIGHT TO VOICE WHAT SERVICES AND TREATMENTS WE WANT TO RECEIVE FOR OUR MENTAL HEALTH. WE DON'T WANT TO BE FORCED TO RECEIVE A TREATMENT WE DON'T WANT.
8. WE WANT HOTLINES FOR YOUTH TO REACH A PROFESSIONAL TO TALK THROUGH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES WHEN NEEDED INSTEAD OF CALLING 911.
9. WE WANT THE IMMEDIATE STOP OF MISDIAGNOSIS OF YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.
10. WE WANT TO REMOVE THE POLICIES THAT LABEL OUR SELF CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AS A LIABILITY.
Closing the Extracurricular Gap

CYC Members value the critical role of extracurricular activities for children and youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. CYC and YLC released a report that examines the benefits of extracurricular participation, the barriers young people face, and details steps that should be taken to ensure our young people have access to this crucial intervention, which has been shown to improve a broad array of childhood and adult outcomes.
CYC’s Feel the Heal Campaign
AB 505 (Ting): Office of Youth and Community Restoration

Existing law creates the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) within the California Health and Human Services Agency to promote trauma-responsive, culturally informed services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system, as specified. Existing law grants the office the responsibility and authority to report on youth outcomes, identify policy recommendations, identify and disseminate best practices, and provide technical assistance to develop and expand local youth diversion opportunities. Existing law requires the office to have an ombudsperson, as specified. This bill would make technical, non substantive changes to those provisions.
AB 1675 (Alanis): Extracurriculars for Foster Youth

This bill would promote participation in enrichment activities for youth in foster care by leveraging available funds for this purpose and increasing accountability under existing laws. The bill would require 1) the Department of Social Services, Department of Health Care Services, and Department of Education to develop a plan to maximize and leverage all available funds to support participation in enrichment activities; 2) require the Department of Health Care Services to include young people and families in implementation planning if its request to provide an activity stipend is approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid through its 1115 Demonstration Waiver Request (CalBH-CBC); and 3) additional accountability mechanisms to ensure that existing laws are followed.
Contact Information

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