



Voices for Children Coalition: Youth Advisory Council Application

We are excited to invite young adults (ages 18 to 28) with experience navigating various systems (mental health, child welfare, housing, juvenile delinquency, education) to apply for a paid opportunity to join the Voices for Children Youth Advisory Council. This opportunity is funded through a congressional grant through the support of the United States Senator John Fetterman.

As a member of this Council, you will have the chance to share your experiences, develop leadership skills, and become a voice for change in your community. Our goal is to build awareness and empower young adults to advocate for themselves and their peers as they navigate complex systems. The program will run from January 2025 to May 2025. Please complete the application below if you are ready to make a difference.

Program Overview:

Eligibility Requirements

- Ages 18-28
- Reside in or have experience with systems in Delaware County
- Experience navigating at least one of the following systems: mental health, child welfare, housing, juvenile delinquency, or education

Council Membership:

As a member of the Youth Advisory Council, you will have a platform to share your insights and develop the ability to access resources and advocate for yourself and your peers. This Council focuses on learning to tell your story to become an effective self-advocate.

Leadership Development:

You will receive training in professional speaking, leadership, and community engagement. Council members will help assess community services and develop plans to assist other youth in accessing resources.



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Pilot Training:

As a part of the Council, you will serve as the pilot group for our Community Resource Training Program. Your feedback will help refine the program, which will be designed to enhance awareness and access to support services for youth in Delaware County.

Submission Details

Please submit your completed application by November 30, 2024 to voicesforchildren@delcocasa.org with the subject of *Youth Advisory Council Applicant*

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at voicesforchildren@delcocasa.org

Application Questions:

Personal Information

Full Name:

Date of Birth:

Email:

Phone Number:

Background

- Which systems have you had personal experience navigating? (Check all that apply)
 - Mental Health
 - Child Welfare
 - Housing
 - Juvenile Delinquency
- Education
- Can you briefly describe your experience navigating these systems? (250 words)



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Motivation and Goals

- Why are you interested in joining the Youth Advisory Council? (250 words)
- How do you think your experience can help improve services and resources for other youth in Delaware County? (250 words)
- What are you hoping to gain from participating in this Council? (Leadership skills, public speaking, advocacy, etc.) (250 words)

Commitment

The sessions will take place from January 2025 to May 2025 and will require a minimum commitment of 4 hours per month. During this time, we ask that you actively engage in sessions, share your experiences and insights candidly, and bring your authentic self to each interaction.

- Are you available to participate in monthly Council meetings and training sessions (both in-person in Media, Pa and virtually) from January to May 2025?
- What is your current availability? (Specify any commitments such as work or school)



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- Are you willing to publicly share your experience navigating various systems through written formats, speaking engagements, and short video clips?

Thank you for your interest in joining the Voices for Children Youth Advisory Council. We look forward to reviewing your application and working together to make a lasting impact on our community!