

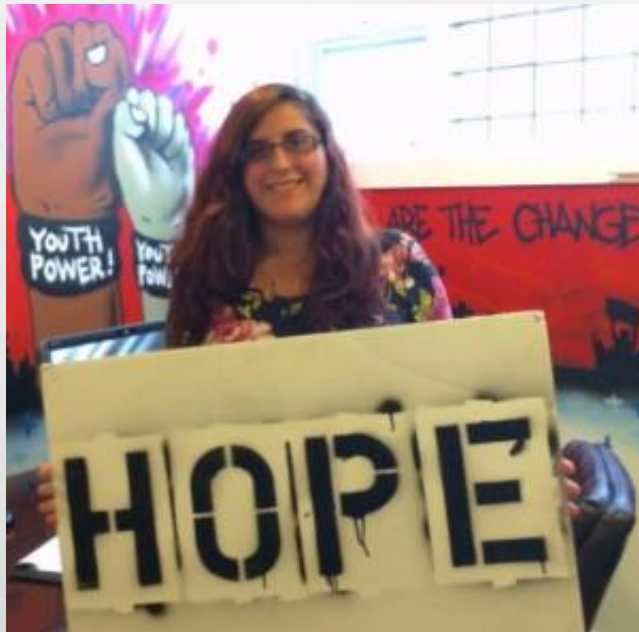


YOUTH PEER ADVOCACY

**The Regional Planning Consortia in partnership with
YOUTH POWER! | December 2018**



MEET THE PRESENTERS!



- **Brianna Gower – Director**
- **Email: bgower@youthpowerny.org**
- **Phone: 518-598-2467**

MEET THE PRESENTERS!



- Bianca Logan - Youth Peer Development & Training Manager
- Email: blogan@youthpowerny.org
- Phone: **585-622-1221**

AGENDA

- Overview of YOUTH POWER!
- What is a Youth Peer advocate?
- How can someone become a Credentialed Youth Peer Advocate?
- Support & Resources available through YP!

WHO IS YOUTH POWER!?

YOUTH POWER! is the New York State network of young people who have been labeled and are seeking change. Together, we have decided to speak up about our experiences because no one knows what it is like for us better than we do.

Through peer to peer mentoring, we empower young people to be active citizens that are aware of government operations, their rights and the ability to use their voices to influence policies, practices, regulations and laws.

We are young people helping other people, ensuring availability of self-help and peer support while changing systems so that young people get the support they need with the respect and dignity they deserve.

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!

WORKING ACROSS SYSTEMS AND DISABILITIES

- Mental Health
- Special Education
- Child Welfare
- Juvenile Justice
- Addiction Recovery
- Developmental Disabilities
- Independent Living
- Special Health Care
- Youth Development



PROMOTES YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ON ALL LEVELS OF SERVICE

- Individual supports and services
- Community/county planning and oversight
- Regional
- Statewide
- National/Federal
- International



PRIORITY AGENDA

YOUTH POWER!

2018 PRIORITY AGENDA

About This Agenda

YP! regularly collects the input of young people through regional youth forums, focus groups, surveys and other input gathering events to gain insight into the issues of importance to young people with disabilities and/or involvement in systems such as: foster care, addiction recovery, mental health, juvenile justice, and special education. This agenda represents the major issues YP! supports and regularly works to address. Not all of the items on the agenda are legislative. A good majority of the work YP! does to bring youth voice to government is through committees and regular meetings with government employees.



- In 2008 we introduced our first Policy Agenda
- In 2010 we renamed it to Priority Agenda to highlight our major advocacy positions for the year
- Each year, YP! releases a Priority Agenda to represent the issues we support and regularly work to address

GOALS OF YOUTH POWER!

- 1: To expand and strengthen the YP! network while remaining youth run**
- 2: To successfully advocate for systems change to ensure better opportunities for young people**
- 3: To increase empowerment, skill building, leadership and advocacy opportunities for young people with disabilities and system specific labels**
- 4: To improve quality of youth peer advocacy & involvement by offering technical assistance and training opportunities to young people and adult allies**
- 5: To practice and promote cultural competency & diversity**

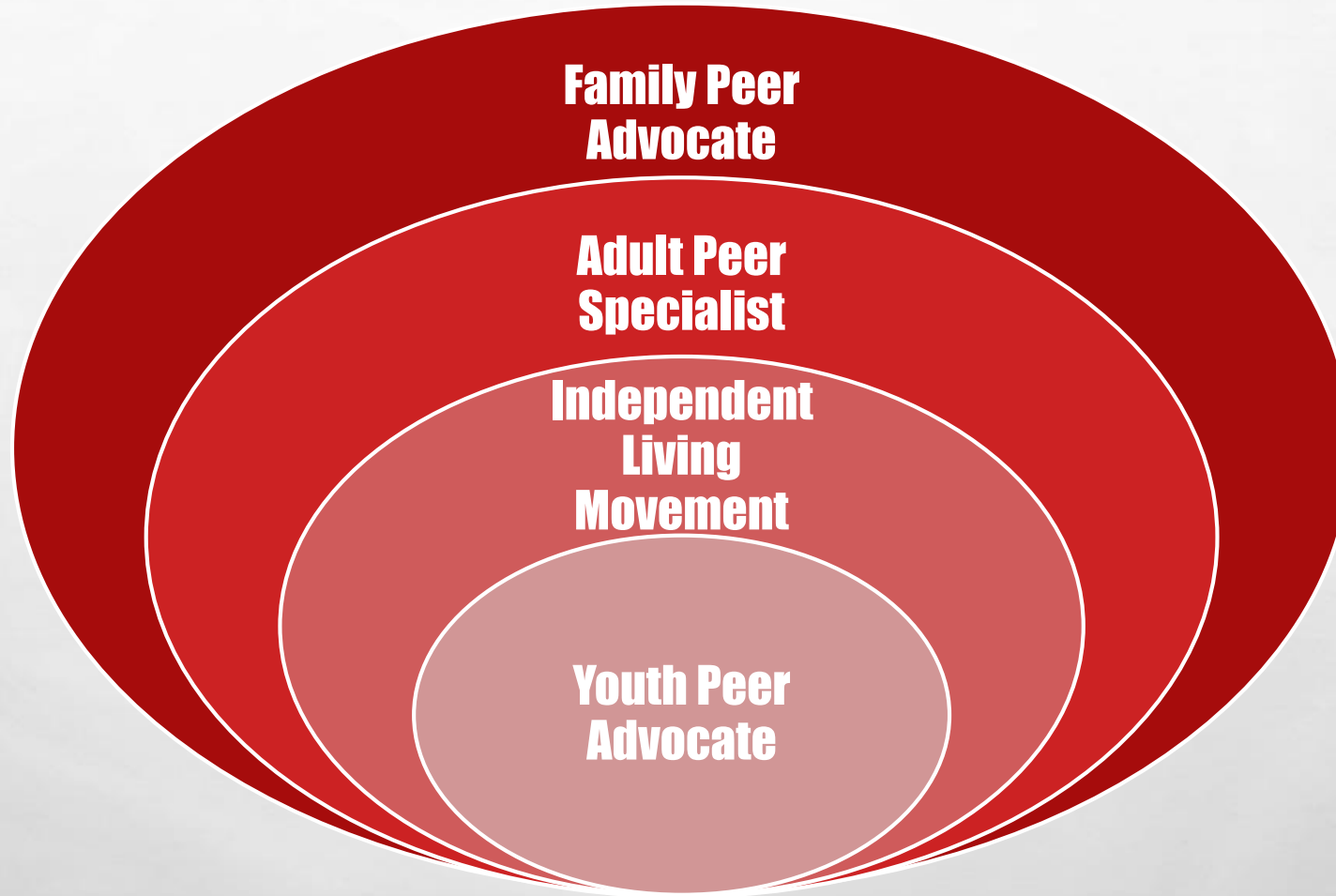


YOUTH POWER! BRINGS YOUTH PERSPECTIVE


“If you had a problem in the black community, and you brought in a group of white people to discuss how to solve it, almost nobody would take that panel seriously. In fact, there’d probably be a public outcry. It would be the same thing for women’s issues or gay issues. But every day, in local arenas all the way to the White House, adults sit around and decide what problems youth have and what youth need, without ever consulting us.”

Jason, 17 years old, Youth Force Member

BUILDING ON OTHER PEER MOVEMENTS



YOUTH PEER ADVOCATE EXPERTISE



Knowledge of the Provider
System

Knowledge of Community
Resources and opportunities

Knowledge of peer movements &
resources for self-advocates

Personal Recovery/Resiliency
Story

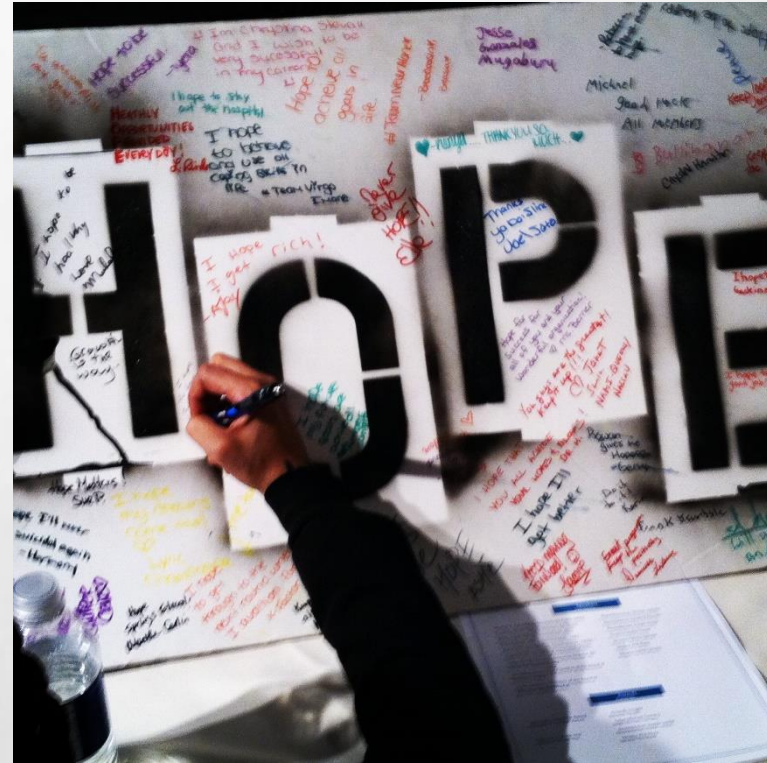
YPA BASE QUALIFICATIONS



- Be an individual **18 to 30 years old** who has **self-identified** as a person who has **first-hand experience** with social, emotional, medical, developmental, substance use, and/or behavioral challenges
- **Be able to use lived experience** to assist in supporting youth in their resiliency/recovery and wellness
- Have a high school diploma, high school equivalency preferred or a State Education Commencement Credential (e.g. SACC or CDOS). **This educational requirement can be waived.**

Service Components

- Skill Building
- Coaching
- Self-Advocacy, Self-Efficacy & Empowerment
- Community Connections and Natural Supports



6 STEPS TO BECOMING A CREDENTIALLED YPA



20 hours of continuing education required every two years to renew the credential

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Provisional

- Two letters of recommendation
- Signed YPA Code of Ethics
- Statement of lived experience
- Resume
- Proof of age

Professional

- Letter of recommendation from a supervisor
- Signed YPA Code of Ethics
- 600 hours of paid or formal volunteer work as a YPA

WHAT SUPPORT DOES YP! PROVIDE?



Technical Assistance
Networking
Education and support

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

YP! Provides Technical Assistance in three key areas:

- Supporting Self-Advocacy
- Implementing Youth Peer Services
- Increasing Youth-Guided Practice (Participation in the planning and oversight of agencies/organizations)

YOUTH POWER! HAS SUPPORTED YPAS AND AGENCIES TO INTEGRATE SERVICES BY:

- Providing trainings to agencies on Youth Guided Practices
- Supported the creation of the YPA job description
- Supported agencies with interview questions and orientation of YPAs
- Supported YPAs in structuring youth support groups
- Collected feedback from YPAs to improve service
- Brought agencies together to encourage strengthening YPA services
- Created an assessment for the integration of YPAs into agencies

For Youth Peer Advocates:

PEER LEADER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT (PLSD)



With

YOUTH POWER!'s

Regional Youth Partners

Regional youth peer workforce coalition meetings (YPAL) for YPAs and their supervisors are also available across the state. Contact your local RYP for more information.

UNIVERSITY OF YOUTH POWER!

June 2019

- Premiere youth peer conference
- 4 day conference modeled after the college experience
- Major in Systems Advocacy or Peer Advocacy
- Leaders' Dinner with state government officials
- Will be an opportunity for Continuing Education credits
- Many networking opportunities with other YPAs!



WWW.YOUTHPOWERNY.ORG

Resources

Contact Us

YP! Original Material

Links

Disability History

Acronyms – The Short List

YP! Pinterest

- Tip sheets
 - Do's and Don'ts of System Advocacy
 - Starting a Youth Advisory Council
 - Supporting and Fostering Youth Involvement
- Guides
 - Youth Involvement toolkit
 - Supporting Self Advocacy
 - The How To's of Youth Guided Practice
- Webinars
- Videos





RPC Website: <http://www.clmhd.org/rpc>

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QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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