

Training & Consulting Services

National Network for Youth



NATIONAL NETWORK
 for **YOUTH**

collaborate • advocate • transform

Table of Contents

- Introduction 1
 - Who We Partner With 1
- How We Work with Youth 2
- Communities Choose NN4Y 2
- Training & Consulting Services 3
 - Policy & Advocacy 4
 - Core Youth Homelessness 6
 - Community Strategies 7
 - Advanced Strategy Facilitation 9
 - Special Programs 10
- Deliverables You Can Expect 11
- What Makes NN4Y Different 11
- Get Started 11

About the National Network for Youth



The National Network for Youth (NN4Y) is the nation’s leading network of young leaders and youth homelessness providers. NN4Y envisions a world where every young person has a safe place to call home, with multiple opportunities to achieve their fullest potential. Together with our partners, youth homelessness providers, and young people with lived expertise of homelessness, NN4Y transforms systems through centering youth, policy advocacy, and supporting communities.

Learn more at nn4youth.org.

Transform Systems. Strengthen Communities. Advance Youth Power.

The National Network for Youth (NN4Y) provides nationally recognized **training, facilitation, and consulting services** to help state coalitions, Continuums of Care (CoCs), and community-based organizations take coordinated, effective action to prevent and end youth homelessness.

With more than 50 years of national leadership—and deep expertise in federal policy, systems change, and youth–adult partnerships—NN4Y equips communities with the knowledge, tools, and strategies needed to create lasting, youth-centered outcomes.

All services are available **virtually or in-person**, with options to add coaching, technical assistance, facilitation, and implementation support.

Who We Partner With



State Coalitions

We help statewide networks strengthen policy influence, align partners, embed youth leadership, and develop shared agendas that support coordination across child welfare, education, housing, behavioral health, and juvenile justice systems.



Continuums of Care (CoCs) and Community Partnerships

We support CoCs with strategy development, governance strengthening, YAB development, cross-system alignment, and policy training—empowering CoCs to drive coordinated, youth-centered systems of care.



Community-Based Nonprofits

We help frontline providers build capacity, improve their advocacy, strengthen youth engagement, expand prevention strategies, and navigate complex federal/state policy landscapes.

“The level of support and attentiveness has been unmatched. This has been a very positive experience and we look forward to continued work around supporting youth homelessness.”

—Delaware Service Providers

How We Work with Youth

Training & Consulting Packages

Choose the level of engagement that aligns with your goals:

- **Essentials Trainings (60 to 90 minutes):** Introduces key concepts and shared language. Ideal for staff development.
- **Applied Workshops (2- 3 hours/half day):** Hands on practice, tools, and small group work that moves participants from learning to application.
- **Strategic Intensive (Full-Day):** Facilitated planning using NN4Y's systems frameworks—resulting in clear priorities, timelines, action steps, and aligned partners.
- **Transformational Partnership (3-12 months):** Multi-session facilitation + coaching for communities implementing systemic change or building youth-adult partnerships. Includes deliverables such as systems maps, shared agendas, and implementation plans.

[Complete the Interest Form Today](#)



We look forward to working with you!

Why Communities Choose NN4Y

- **National Thought Leadership:** We shape federal policy and provide frontline training rooted in evidence, lived expertise, and field-tested strategies.
- **Deep Lived-Experience Partnership:** Our work is co-created with young leaders, ensuring solutions are equitable, relevant, and grounded in real experiences.
- **Systems Change Expertise:** We support communities in aligning systems, strengthening governance, identifying leverage points, and building sustainable strategies.
- **Customized Local Solutions:** Every service is tailored to your context, goals, and partners.
- **Actionable Outcomes:** You leave with tools, templates, strategic plans, and implementation support—not just information.

Training & Consulting Services

The following are training topics or longer interactive facilitated sessions designed to prepare coalitions, CoCs, community-based providers, advocates, and youth leaders to shape policy decisions and strengthen their influence at the federal, state, and/or local levels.

1. Policy & Advocacy

- 1a. Advocacy v. Lobbying
- 1b. Basics of Administrative Advocacy
- 1c. Basics of Legislative Advocacy
- 1d. Effective Advocacy Strategies
- 1e. Federal Policymaking 101: Legislative and Administrative
- 1f. How to Apply for the New Federal Earmarks
- 1g. In-District Advocacy Strategies
- 1h. Meeting & Communicating with Decision Makers
- 1i. Strategic Storytelling
- 1j. Strategy Session: Building an Advocacy Strategy
- 1k. Strategy Session: Developing Policy Goals

2. Core Youth Homelessness

- 2a. A Systems Approach to Youth & Young Adult Homelessness in America
- 2b. The Intersection of Youth Homelessness + Human Trafficking
- 2c. Seeing the Whole Picture: A Systems Thinking Workshop
- 2d. Trauma-Informed Care with Young People Experiencing Homelessness
- 2e. Youth Homelessness 101

3. Community Strategies

- 3a. Energize Your YAB: Facilitating Meetings & Discussions
- 3b. Engaging Stakeholders for Systems Change
- 3c. Launch Lab: Accelerate Your Project with a 30/60/90 Day Work Plan
- 3d. Launching & Sustaining a Youth Action Board (YAB)
- 3e. Partnering with Youth to Change Systems **Our Premier Training****
- 3f. Project Management Basics for Advocacy & Systems Work
- 3g. Systems Mapping: Finding the Levers for Change

4. Advanced Strategy Facilitation

- 4a. Centering Youth in Systems Change
- 4b. Community Needs Assessment
- 4c. Development of Shared Goals
- 4d. Large Group Facilitation

5. Special Programs

- 5a. Identifying Legal Resources for Youth Experiencing Homelessness (in partnership with the ABA)
- 5b. Youth Action Leadership Certificate (YALC) Program

1. Policy & Advocacy Services

1a. Advocacy v. Lobbying

This interactive session clarifies the difference between advocacy and lobbying so participants can confidently engage in policy work while remaining compliant with IRS and grant rules. Through real-world examples and quick quiz scenarios, attendees learn how to design powerful, legal, and effective advocacy strategies.

1b. Basics of Administrative Advocacy

Gain a clear understanding of how government agencies—at the federal or state level—develop and implement policies, regulations, and programs. Participants will learn where and how advocates can influence administrative decisions, engage with agency staff, and connect policy priorities to real-world impact in their communities.

1c. Basics of Legislative Advocacy

Understand how legislative bodies operate, where decisions are made, and how to connect your priorities to local impact (federal, state, and/or local). Participants will learn where and how advocates can influence decisions, build relationships with policymakers, and connect legislative priorities to local impact.

1d. Effective Advocacy Strategies

Learn practical tools and techniques to influence policy at the federal, state, or local level. Participants will learn how to craft clear advocacy goals, identify and engage key stakeholders, and use persuasive messaging to drive meaningful change. Participants will explore real-world examples and practice turning advocacy goals into actionable, high-impact strategies.

1e. Federal Policymaking 101: Legislative and Administrative

Demystifies how Congress and federal agencies work--and how your organization or coalition can influence each part of the process.

1f. How to Apply for the New Federal Earmarks

Breaks down the earmark process, including timelines, players, making a compelling case for your project.



Sarah Billings, Director of Community Strategies, with partners in Hawai'i before a training of over 100 participants on creating meaningful systems change.

1. Policy & Advocacy Services

1g. In-District Advocacy Strategies

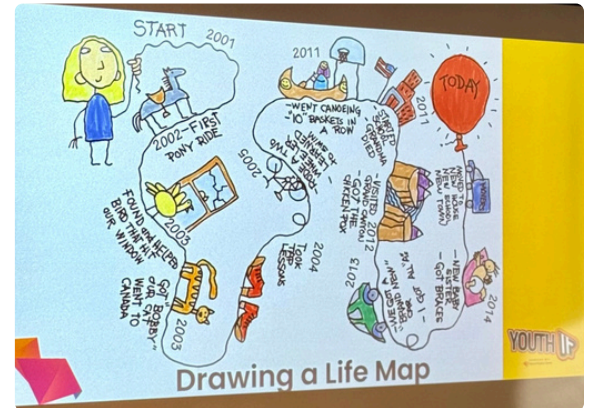
This workshop includes a practical toolkit with guidance on engaging members of Congress when they are in their home districts. Participants will learn how to plan impactful site visits, host effective meetings, and connect local priorities to national action. Comes with a pdf publication.

1h. Meeting & Communicating with Decision Makers

Develop confidence and skill in preparing for and leading effective meetings with elected officials and agency leaders.

1i. Strategic Storytelling

Learn how to craft powerful, authentic stories that blend lived experience (as a young person, service provider, or system), data, and vision that resonate with policymakers and the public to inspire action. Participants leave with a draft story/message and customizable templates.



A slide from our Leadership Professional Development Training series with the National Youth Advisory Council.

1j. Strategy Session: Building an Advocacy Strategy

Collaboratively design a practical, results-oriented advocacy strategy--from defining goals and identifying stakeholders to selecting tactics and measuring success. Can be customized for local, state, or federal advocacy contexts.

1k. Strategy Session: Developing Policy Goals

Facilitated session designed to help participants identify, prioritize, and frame clear policy goals that address root causes and advance systemic solutions. Can be tailored to focus on local, state, or federal policy priorities.

“They provided valuable insight that helped our Youth Action Board deepen our understanding of advocacy and ways to support young adults experiencing homelessness. We also gained a clearer understanding of the laws surrounding these issues.”

—Karismah McAfee, Delaware Youth Action Board Communications Manager

2. Core Youth Homelessness Services

2a. A Systems Approach to Youth & Young Adult Homelessness in America

Learn how young people rely on interconnected networks of support—and how systems can either strengthen or undermine their stability. This session draws from NN4Y’s systems-based recommendations and insights from What Works to End Youth Homelessness.

The team was intentional in creating a space for authentic dialogue. Their positivity and curiosity ensured all of our team members participated. I enjoy partnering with NN4Y because I know they are committed to creating sustainable change for vulnerable youth and are knowledgeable about resources and best practices across different communities.”

—Shelby Feliciano-Sabala, Chief Partnership Officer at Project Hope Alliance, Orange County, California

2b. The Intersection of Youth Homelessness + Human Trafficking

Explore how homelessness increases vulnerability to trafficking, and learn risk and protective factors, tools for screening and assessment, and strategies for prevention, response, and advocacy.

2c. Seeing the Whole Picture: A Systems Thinking Workshop

Learn to view youth homelessness as part of a broader ecosystem of policies, services, and community conditions. Participants use approachable systems-thinking tools to uncover patterns, feedback loops, and unintended consequences across sectors and identify leverage points where meaningful, lasting change is possible.



Trinady Maddock, Senior Policy Associate, and Darla Bardine, Executive Director, in Washington, DC.

2d. Trauma-Informed Care with Young People Experiencing Homelessness

This session provides an introduction to trauma-informed care tailored for youth experiencing homelessness, with a focus on how trauma is shaped by multiple systems such as housing, education, justice, and child welfare. Drawing from the Multi-System Trauma-Informed (MSTI) approach, participants learn practical ways to understand trauma responses, avoid re-traumatization, and create safer, more supportive environments that promote healing and stability across the continuum of services.

2e. Youth Homelessness 101

An introduction to youth homelessness beyond “rooflessness.” Explore the fluid ways youth experience homelessness, review federal and state definitions, and understand how policy shapes the emergency response. This plain-language overview will give participants a good understanding of how funding streams, stakeholders, and decision-making processes shape the system—and how to identify leverage points for change.

3. Community Strategies Services

3a. Energize Your YAB: Facilitating Meetings & Discussions

Build facilitation skills through Tuckman's stages of group development and learn to run meetings that keep youth and adults engaged, collaborative, and moving toward shared goals.

3b. Engaging Stakeholders for Systems Change

Tools for convening, and aligning partners across housing, education, workforce, justice, and community sectors to sustain coordinated, long-term systems-change efforts.

NN4Y was extremely beneficial in bringing together the youth voice to address homelessness in our county! The collaborative efforts in bringing together partners to support youth homelessness has been extremely significant.

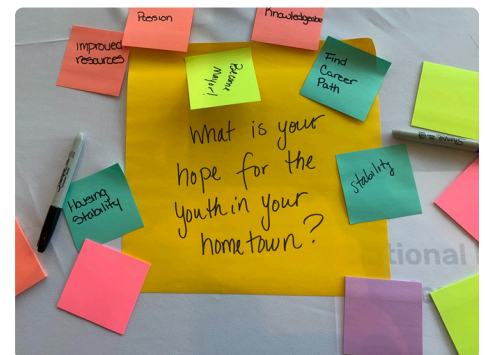
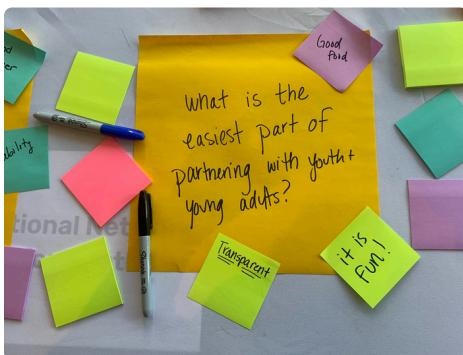
—CoC Staff, Lancaster, PA



Youth Action Board (YAB) Leaders from Delaware, Oklahoma, and Utah as the National Summit on Youth Homelessness.

3c. Launch Lab: Accelerate Your Project with a 30/60/90 Day Work Plan

Accelerate progress with a 30/60/90 day plan that turns ideas into action. Ideal for launching new work or getting stalled projects moving. You and your collaborators will build a focused plan with clear priorities and accountability structures that drive results. Full-day workshop with virtual coaching.



Sarah Billings, Director of Community Strategies, before presenting at the Runaway and Homeless Youth National Grantee Training.

3d. Launching & Sustaining a Youth Action Board (YAB)

Practical guidance for establishing and strengthening a YAB, including recruitment, compensation, leadership pathways, and connecting youth voice directly to decision-making tables.

3. Community Strategies Services

Our Premier Training

3e. Partnering with Youth to Change Systems

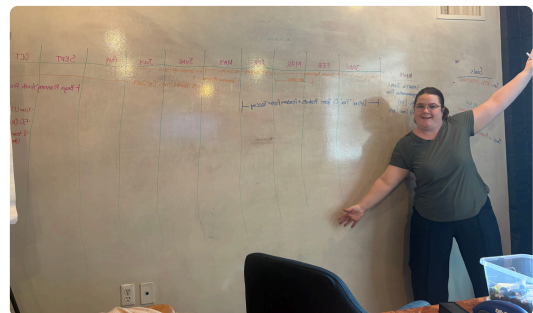
Our premier training on authentic youth–adult partnership, this session helps providers move from youth participation that checks a box to true collaboration. Participants learn practical tools for power-sharing and co-creation with youth, address barriers like adultism and tokenization, and build inclusive spaces where young people meaningfully shape decisions, programs, and systems.

“NN4Y made it possible for me to become the first young person with lived experience to ever be on our Continuum of Care’s steering committee. They changed my life.”

—Juno Rigard, Lancaster YAB President



A YALC Cohort in Missouri.



Barbara Huggins, Senior Community Strategies Associate, at a YALC Planning Retreat.

3f. Project Management Basics for Advocacy & Systems Work

Learn step-by-step tools to turn ideas into action—set goals, build work plans, assign responsibilities, and track progress on advocacy or systems-change projects.

3g. Systems Mapping: Finding the Levers for Change

A hands-on workshop using NN4Y’s systems-mapping approach to diagnose root causes, illuminate structural barriers, and identify leverage points for shifting outcomes. (4 hours)

4. Advanced Strategy Facilitation

4a. Centering Youth in Systems Change

Design processes that embed youth leadership into governance, decision-making, and evaluation across all levels of systems work.

“NN4Y helped educate me about where exactly the funding even is, why it can be so restrictive, and how to use it ... With more youth equipped to lead, we can be the change we wish to see.”

—Harlowe Clementine, St. Louis YAB Member

4b. Community Needs Assessment

Guide communities through participatory assessments that identify gaps, strengths, and opportunities from multiple perspectives—including youth voice.

4c. Development of Shared Goals

Bring together diverse stakeholders to co-create a common agenda for preventing and ending youth homelessness at the community or state level.

4d. Large Group Facilitation

Interactive facilitation for organizations, communities, or statewide networks—supporting collaborative decision-making and collective ownership of change.



Darla Bardine
Executive Director



Sarah Billings
Director of Community
Strategies



Yorri Berry
Director of Youth
Partnerships



Barbara Huggins
Senior Community
Strategies Associate

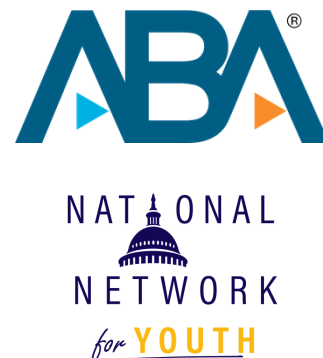


Trinady Maddock
Senior Policy Associate

5. Special Programs

5a. Identifying Legal Resources for Youth Experiencing Homelessness (in partnership with the ABA)

Youth experiencing homelessness often face legal barriers such as credit issues, identity theft, criminal records, or custody challenges. In this session, NN4Y and the ABA guide participants through identifying local legal resources, building pro bono partnerships, and connecting youth to support that protects their rights and expands access to housing, education, and opportunity. 90 minutes + preparation with local legal partners.



5b. Youth Action Leadership Certificate (YALC) Program

NN4Y's signature leadership development program for young people with lived experience of homelessness and their allies. Through a series of interactive modules, participants build skills in storytelling, facilitation, project management, advocacy, and systems change leadership.

- **Cohort-based learning:** Small group sessions that foster peer connections and mentorship.
- **Flexible delivery:** Weekly virtual workshops with office hours, resources, and tools.
- **Practical outcomes:** Participants design and lead real-world advocacy or systems-change projects.
- **Professional growth:** Certificates can be used for career development or organizational staff training.

There are two ways to Access the Youth Action Leadership Certificate (YALC) Program:

1. **Community Cohort:** Communities can contract with NN4Y to run a customized cohort for their youth leaders either in person or virtually.
2. **Open Enrollment:** Individuals can join one of NN4Y's national virtual cohorts offered throughout the year.

NN4Y's signature leadership development program for young people with lived experience of homelessness and their allies. Through a series of interactive modules, participants build skills in storytelling, facilitation, project management, advocacy, and systems change leadership.

- A youth leadership pipeline
- Training for YAB members
- State development for youth-serving organizations

[**Learn More About YALC and Sign Up Today!**](#)



Deliverables You Can Expect

Depending on your engagement, you may receive:

- ✓ Systems maps
- ✓ Youth engagement plans
- ✓ Written policy agendas or advocacy strategies
- ✓ 30/60/90 day implementation plans
- ✓ Templates and toolkits
- ✓ Meeting facilitation guides
- ✓ Messaging frameworks
- ✓ Earmark application guidance
- ✓ Technical assistance plans
- ✓ Post-session summaries and next steps

What Makes NN4Y Different



We are national leaders in youth homelessness policy and systems change.



We tailor every engagement to local conditions and priorities.



We provide practical, actionable tools—not just training.



We help communities build sustainable systems that prevent youth homelessness, not just respond to it.



Our services are developed and delivered alongside youth with lived experience and/or community-based providers.

Get Started

[Complete the Interest Form](#)



Contact NN4Y Training & Consulting Services: training@nn4youth.org