



Multi-Agency Alliance for Children

Georgia EmpowerMEnt

Initiatives Director: Sarah Bess Hudson | shudson@maac4kids.org

Empower Who? Empower ME!

EmpowerMEnt is a youth leadership and advocacy group for young people 14+ currently experiencing or who have experienced foster care. EmpowerMEnt advocates learn and practice individual and group leadership, advocacy skills and identify local, state and national practice and policy change needs.



EmpowerMEnt Priorities

- Improved educational stability, learning opportunities and access to services
- Continued monitoring of access to Medicaid benefits up to 26th birthday
- Improved statewide access and support to driver's license and driver's insurance
- Continued efforts to improve relationships with case manager
- Monitoring of implementation of 2013 Juvenile Justice Reform legislation
- Monitoring of implementation of CB21 (extension of foster care) policy and practice

**"Nothing About Us,
Without Us"**



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Program Overview



What is Georgia Youth Opportunities Initiative?

The Georgia Youth Opportunities Initiative (GYOI) is part of the national Jim Casey youth Opportunities Initiative and Annie E. Casey Foundation.



A True Partnership

GYOI works collaboratively with young people who have experienced care, other child welfare organizations, and the Division of Family and Children Services to improve outcomes for young people transitioning from care.



Practice Principles and Focus Areas:

GYOI works on improving outcomes in the areas of permanency, housing, education and employment, and supports for young parents. At the center of the work is youth voice and utilizing a race, ethnic, equity and inclusion framework.



Serving a Great Need

>26,000

Young people in Georgia, 14-26, have experienced foster care.

