



2020 Virtual Statewide and Regional Youth Events

New York Youth Forward: Youth Voices for Change—It's Up to Us

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services and the Professional Development Program are pleased to announce the **2020 Virtual Statewide and Regional Youth Events**.

This year's theme is New York Youth Forward: Youth Voices for Change—It's Up to Us. This event will offer youth and adult partners opportunities to increase skills, knowledge, and abilities to engage in creating positive change in their communities.

We are seeking submissions from youth of a drawing, sketch, painting, or poem addressing foster care and/or youth issues and challenges. Selected works will be featured during the event! You can submit your submission to PDP-YST@albany.edu.

Things to note:

- This event will be offered via Webex. Please be sure that you register with a current email address to receive up-to-date event information and the link to join the event.
- We will be able to have participants send questions and comments to the host and will also accept comments and questions beforehand at PDP-YST@albany.edu.
- All sessions will be recorded.

STATEWIDE EVENT

Wednesday, November 18

Time: 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Registration open until Nov. 17

REGIONALLY FOCUSED EVENTS

Region 1 – Thurs., Dec. 3

Region 2 – Wed., Dec. 2

Region 3 – Fri., Dec. 11

Region 4 – Wed., Dec. 9

Region 5 – Tues., Dec. 8

Region 6 – Thurs., Dec. 10

*Questions about registration?
Contact your Youth Engagement
Specialist.*

This event is FREE! Do not wait to register for the Statewide Event and your Regional Event. Find your region on YouthInProgress.org.



**Office of Children
and Family Services**



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

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New York Youth Forward: Youth Voices for Change—It's Up to Us

STATEWIDE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

4:30 PM – 4:45 PM

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

- **Sheila Poole**, *Commissioner, NYS Office of Children and Family Services*
- **Lisa Gharthey Ogundimu**, *Deputy Commissioner, NYS Office of Children and Family Services*

4:45 PM – 5:30 PM

FEATURED SPEAKER

Sixto Cancel

Founder and CEO of **Think of Us**, an organization that asks young people in foster care for feedback, empowering them to impact the programs and policies that shape their lives. He aged out of the foster care system at 23, after completing college, and has committed himself to re-imagining and transforming both the aging out experience and the broader child welfare system.

5:30 PM – 5:40 PM

YOUTH EXPRESSIONS

5:40 PM – 6:20 PM

EXPERT PANEL

- **Cody Rivera**, *Former FosterClub All-Star and Board Member & Foster Care Alumni*
- **Selena Bermejo-Romero**, *Former NYS Youth Advisory Board Member, Former Intern at OCFS & Foster Care Alumni*
- **Sixto Cancel**, *Founder and CEO of Think of US*
- **Kristen Anne Conklin, Esq.**, *Executive Director, NYS Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children*

The Expert Panel will respond to questions/prompts from the moderator and pre-submitted questions.

6:20 PM – 6:30 PM

CLOSING SESSION

- Statewide Resource Sharing
- Closing Remarks
Nina Aledort, *Deputy Commissioner, NYS Office of Children and Family Services*
- Evaluations



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Registration Form

Complete the information below for each participant.
Please be sure to note if participant will be attending the
statewide event, specific regional event, or both.

Contact Information

Program Name (if applicable), Address:

Form
Completed by:

Email Address:

County:

☐ Please check if congregate viewing

Telephone:

Please check the
youth event(s) attending:

☐ Statewide – Nov. 18

☐ Region 1 – Dec. 3

☐ Region 2 – Dec. 2

☐ Region 3 – Dec. 11

☐ Region 4 – Dec. 9

☐ Region 5 – Dec. 8

☐ Region 6 – Dec. 10

Participant Name	Participant Email Address (only enter if viewing individually)	Notes (indicate if participant attendance will differ from what is selected above)

Submit this registration form by scanning and emailing to: mhurley@albany.edu



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New York Youth Forward— Youth Voices for Change-It's Up to Us

Writing and creating art in response to current events can be a powerful way to deal with fear and uncertainty, and it can also be a way to use your voice to effect change. Not to mention it is also a great way to pass the time while practicing social distancing. Do you have a creation that you are proud of that expresses yourself? We are seeking submissions that reflect your thoughts, fears, hopes and experiences in response to the corona virus pandemic, current social justice issues and/or the child welfare system.

Submission Guidelines

Write a poem, take a photo, draw, sketch, paint or in some way design a picture that shows us what this year's theme, "New York Youth Forward— Youth Voices for Change-It's Up to Us", means to you. We will accept work by writers and artists of all levels of skill and experience. Entries should be submitted as a Word document, PDF, PNG or JPEG. If you have created a piece of art, there is no need to send in the original copy, please take a photo of your work and submit the photo. Your submission may be shown during the statewide and/or regional youth events.

- In order to share your creativity, we will need to have a signed release form. If you are over the age of 18 you can sign and submit the attached release form. If you are under the age of 18 a parent, foster parent or legal guardian should sign the release.

Please note, if you are in a Voluntary Agency, the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard Contact is authorized.

**Submissions can be sent
to PDP-YST@albany.edu
The deadline for
submissions is Sunday,
October 4, 2020.**



**Have fun and we look
forward to seeing all your
amazing creations!**

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CONTRACT AND RELEASE

For good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged,

I _____ hereby consent and agree that the New York State Office of Children and Family Services or the Research Foundation of the State University of New York may use my picture or likeness, recordings of my voice, and/or pictures or likenesses of my property in the production indicated, or in any form or manner, for any legitimate purpose, and at any time or place they desire. I agree that I am to receive no further compensation other than already received for any further uses by said New York State Office of Children and Family Services or the Research Foundation of the State University of New York or its clients.

This agreement to be binding on my heirs, successors, and assigns, and represents the entire agreement between myself and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services or the Research Foundation of the State University of New York, regarding the matters here in agreed.

By: _____

Address: _____

Parent or guardian if not of legal age: _____

Date: _____

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