



2022-2023 Impact Report



Kentucky's Independent Voice for Kids

Champions for Children



Thank you to these donors and funders for their support. This list includes funding for fee-for-service provided by Kentucky Youth Advocates and the Bounce Coalition.

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PhRMA
Southeast/South-Central Educational Cooperative
TEACH Early Childhood National Center
WellCare of Kentucky
Lyn Zurborg and John Sparks

*Investments made October 2021 through September 2022

Financials

Fiscal Year October 1, 2021 -
September 30, 2022

Revenue

Contributions: \$543,242

Fee for service: \$537,901

Foundation and organizational grants: \$2,038,007

Program revenue: \$131,085


Other revenue: \$209


Total Revenue: \$3,250,444

Decrease in net assets: (\$172,560)

Expenses



 Program Expenses
\$2,877,517

 General/Administrative
\$425,759

 Fundraising
\$119,728

Total expenses: \$3,423,004

Final net assets: \$2,864,208

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From the

Executive Director



Advocates,

With the generous support of donors like you, over the past year Kentucky Youth Advocates has not only strengthened our reach across the Commonwealth but also our engagement with young people and families with lived experiences within the systems we are working to improve.

We've worked with Kentuckians of diverse backgrounds, including young adults with juvenile justice or institutional foster care experience, parents who have had a child welfare case, and high school students hoping to improve the health of their peers and communities.

The challenging climate of Frankfort and Washington only deepens our call to speak up for the most vulnerable as the independent voice for all Kentucky kids.

We hope you will continue to join us in our mission to make Kentucky the best place to be young.

With gratitude,
Dr. Terry Brooks





Legislative Wins



Senate Bill 48 increases transparency and accountability within child welfare cases by establishing a more independent Ombudsman's office.

Senate Bill 135 supports the health and well-being of new moms and their babies by promoting information and an assessment tool on postpartum depression and other related mental health disorders.

Senate Bill 162 strengthens data tracking of the Department of Juvenile Justice, access to mental health treatments for youth in detention, training of staff, and funds to support changes, among other things.

Senate Bill 229 continues efforts to prevent child maltreatment by closing gaps in child abuse reporting laws and strengthening how we support families at risk.

Senate Bill 21 ensures access to an ID for unaccompanied youth facing homelessness by allowing them to obtain the essential document without parental permission.

The updated **Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) regulations** will benefit families in poverty and kinship families by doubling the benefit amount, increasing eligibility levels, and mitigating the benefits cliff.

Social media posts from Kentucky Youth Advocates about the 2023 Kentucky General Assembly and policy priorities received:



During the session, Kentucky Youth Advocates secured more than **65 media mentions** by news outlets across the Commonwealth, helping lift up our support for good bills for kids and our concerns about harmful bill proposals.






CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY WEEK

at the Capitol

Nearly **1,000** advocates, including **200** youth, from across the state came together to rally on behalf of Kentucky kids during this year's Children's Advocacy Week.



We hosted **9 live virtual events**, including Q&A sessions with legislators, a data lunch-and-learn, policy information sessions for advocates to learn more about the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children policy priorities, and networking coffee breaks that offered advocates around the state space and time to connect with one another.



Youth Voice Informs the Residential Foster Care Analysis Report

In 2022, Kentucky Youth Advocates and True Up Kentucky, with the support of Casey Family Programs, conducted interviews with dozens of young adults to better understand their experience within institutional and residential foster care settings in Kentucky.

Key findings from the Residential Foster Care Analysis Report, which highlighted and lifted up the lived experiences of young people, included themes of systematic failures.

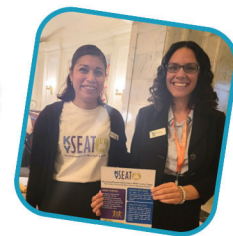
The findings encouraged participating youth to explore and propose policy and practice recommendations; this, in turn, became a springboard for even more youth-centered work around the foster care experience in Kentucky.

"As someone who aged out of the foster care system, I know how important it is to feel heard and understood. This report begins to share those experiences and our ideas for change," said Cynthia Schepers, Peer Coach Coordinator.

RESIDENTIAL FOSTER CARE ANALYSIS REPORT
Capturing Interviews of Youth
Experience and Recommendations



Gives Kentucky Parents a Voice ...and a Seat at the Table



Last year, the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) partnered with Kentucky Youth Advocates to launch an initiative that became KY SEAT (Kentucky System Experience At the Table), a diverse group of parents from across the state.

Unlike typical decision makers for policies and services that affect families, this group has something extra to contribute — personal lived expertise as parents who have interacted with DCBS.

With a mission to empower parents to advocate for themselves and for a child welfare system that accommodates families in an accountable, transparent, and supportive way, KY SEAT and its members have already made great strides in helping all Kentucky parents be seen, heard, protected, and supported.

“

"KY SEAT has impacted me not only in my advocacy journey but also my life. I struggled to advocate for my children, who experienced both family and sexual violence, and for myself as a domestic violence survivor. I thought KY SEAT would be another dead end, but it wasn't. For the first time, I wasn't alone. There were others like me who wanted reform. KY SEAT helped me find my purpose, feel hope, and believe in a better tomorrow for not only myself and my children, but all of those impacted by a very broken-down system." -KY SEAT member, Logan County

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Youth Expertise SHOWCASED IN KIDS COUNT

Youth expertise and experience were also lifted up in the 2022 Kentucky KIDS COUNT *County Data Book*.

For more than 30 years, this in-depth publication has enabled readers and leaders to determine which Kentucky communities are making progress and which areas in the state need additional resources and assistance. The most recent edition of the *County Data Book* shined a spotlight on Kentucky youth, lifting up their voices and thoughts about what Kentucky kids need to succeed and thrive.

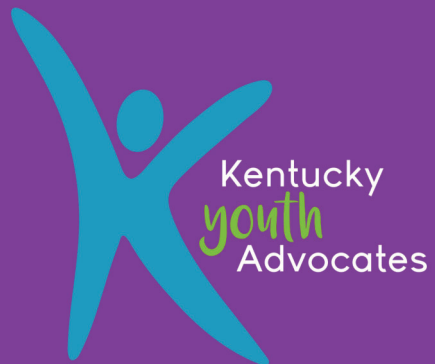
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"KYA has taught me how to narrow down problems to the root and address these situations with my state representatives and senators."
— Isaac Lewis, Health Youth Ambassador, Bullitt County

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Scan the QR code to [learn more](#) and to help us turn data into action.




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kyyouth.org

Kentucky Youth Advocates is the independent voice for Kentucky kids. We advocate for policies that give children the best possible opportunities for a brighter future and are making Kentucky the best place in America to be young.

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