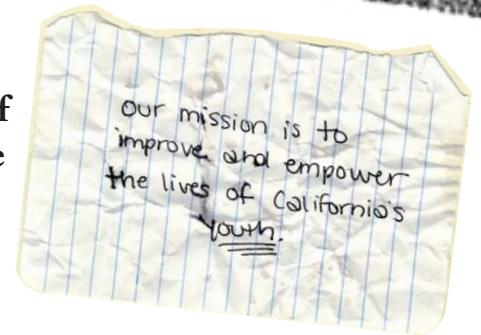




The California Coalition for Youth (CCY) is a statewide grassroots advocacy organization working with and on behalf of California's most disconnected and vulnerable youth. Here are some of our recent accomplishments!



Operated the California Youth Crisis Line since 1986

The California Youth Crisis Line (CYCL) operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week as the statewide emergency response system for youth (ages 12-24) and families. Professionally trained staff and volunteer counselors respond to more than 23,000 calls annually with crisis intervention counseling and resource referrals to service providers in the caller's local community. The CYCL has recently expanded to offer online chatting for those who aren't ready to pick up the phone and is looking at expanding to more technology based services in the future.

Published Policy Report on Serving Homeless Youth in California

In November 2009, we released a report titled *Too Big to Ignore: Youth Homelessness in California* in partnership with the John Burton Foundation. This report outlined a comprehensive policy agenda to reduce youth homelessness in California by including a series of policy recommendations designed to significantly reduce and prevent youth homelessness in California. The policy agenda was developed through extensive interviews with homeless youth service providers, policymakers, academics, public administrators, and policy experts.

Educational Display about Homeless Youth in the State Capitol (2008-2011)

We have displayed stories and information about the homeless youth population throughout California Outside the Governor of California's office in the California State Capitol. This graphic and engaging display is located in one of the busiest spots in the State Capitol, which on average has over 2,500 visitors daily.

Established California Statewide Runaway & Homeless Youth Month (2010)

For years, November has been recognized as Runaway and Homeless Youth Month at the national level, yet no concentrated effort had been made to organize the state around this awareness-raising event. In 2010, CCY worked with then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the State Legislature to legislatively establish the November as California Runaway & Homeless Youth Month for the first time ever. Events were organized throughout the state to support the campaign and we are in the process of planning 2011's events, as well.

Established Statewide Youth Advisory Board

As an organization that values youth empowerment, we would be nothing if we didn't live it, as well! For this reason, we have established a statewide youth advisory board. This is a group of young people that discuss issues that affect youth in California, including legislation and policy issues, and makes recommendations to the CCY Board of Directors. This gives young people who are typically not offered traditional leadership opportunities a chance to join

other young adults who want to work toward CCY's mission, which is to *improve & empower the lives of California's youth*. Not only does it give the young people an opportunity to advocate, but they are also introduced to legislation that could potentially directly impact them.

Published Policy Briefing on Emergency Youth Shelter Regulations (2011)

In March 2011, we released *California Emergency Youth Shelters: Ensuring Services to Better Protect and Serve Homeless Youth*, a policy brief that outlines the case for developing licensing regulations that specifically meet the needs of the state's emergency youth shelters. The brief explores the need for licensing regulations that take into account the functions of emergency youth shelters that differentiate them from children's residential group homes. The analysis focuses on the needs of runaway/throwaway and street youth, and the role that emergency shelters play in meeting those needs. At the crux of the brief is the assertion that a licensing category designed specifically for emergency youth shelters will ensure that services offered to runaway or homeless youth throughout California are accessible, consistent and safe, and will ultimately lead to the reduction of youth homelessness throughout the state.

Cosponsored SB 119 (Lowenthal) – Emergency Youth Shelter Regulations

In response to our Emergency Youth Shelter Regulations policy brief, we worked with Senator Alan Lowenthal to introduce legislation aimed at creating a uniform licensing standard for emergency youth shelters in California. This bill attempts to strike a balance by providing consistency across the state to license emergency youth shelters appropriately and ensure that federal funds are not jeopardized from the lack of uniformity with licensing or a clear policy directive from the state. The bill successfully moved through all committees in both the Senate and the Assembly with zero "no" votes and was headed the last committee needed before going to the floor for a vote, when staff from the Department of Social Services offered an alternative solution that did not require legislation. We are currently in the process of moving this issue forward through this alternative avenue.

Cosponsored SB 123 (Liu) –California Runaway, Homeless and Exploited Youth Act

This bill, authored by Senator Carol Liu, was introduced with the goal of making a meaningful difference in the lives of the over 200,000 unaccompanied minors who experience homelessness each year in California. Currently, the State has no clear and coordinated policy to reduce youth homelessness and this bill called upon the California Emergency Management Agency, in collaboration with the Senate Office of Research, to develop a statewide plan to address youth homelessness.

Member of Child Helpline International

Child Helpline International (CHI) is the global member network of child helplines (like CCY's California Youth Crisis Line) working to protect the rights of children. CHI's network consists of nearly 150 full and associate members in 133 countries worldwide. CHI's overall purpose is to strengthen existing child helpline members by offering them a platform to communicate, network and share their expertise with other child helplines and policy-makers.

Taking Action Conference

CCY's annual Taking Action Conference provides youth, youth service providers and advocates with the education, strategy and empowerment they need to create change in their communities and improve the lives of California's youth. In addition to providing high quality education workshops, the Taking Action Conference puts participants in the center of legislative activity at the State Capitol where conference attendees gain the opportunity to speak directly with elected officials about policy changes needed to better support youth.

Annual Youth Rallies & Legislative Visits at State Capitol

Every year since CCY coordinates and hosts a youth rally and legislative visits at the California State Capitol. This is an opportunity for youth from throughout the state, who have important things to tell their legislators, to come together as an influential group and as concerned citizens (and taxpayers, even) to tell their elected officials about what issues are facing youth in their communities and how legislation may be positively or negatively impacting their lives. It is one of our most powerful events for both the youth involved and the legislators with whom they meet.

Youth Voices Blog @ calyouth.org

Our Youth Voices blog provides youth who are involved with CCY with the opportunity to express their emotions, thoughts and concerns about what's affecting them in their world. Youth Voices currently has 30 active bloggers representing youth from your board of directors, Youth Advisory Committee and general membership. Recent posts include meditations, and even poetry, on hope, friendship, life lessons and more.