

# FOSTER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM®

## SUMMARY:

Since 2003, the FYI Program provides talented young adults who have spent their formative years in U.S. foster care the opportunity to intern in a congressional office on Capitol Hill. Throughout the program, CCAI also coordinates retreats, advocacy training, networking lunches, and meetings with policymakers and child welfare experts. The Foster Youth Interns also research policy recommendations based on their experiences in foster care and present their policy proposals to the U.S. Congress, White House, Department of Health & Human Services, and private sectors. Many of these policy recommendations have been passed into law. Moreover, the Foster Youth Interns leave Washington, D.C. with experience and skills that continue to bolster their careers and provide a foundation for them to become lifelong advocates for youth in foster care.

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## goals:

### 1 engagement

*Engaging and educating Members of Congress on the issues of foster care and adoption*

### 2 empowerment

*Empowering Foster Youth Interns to be advocates*



## impact:

- Create **direct engagement** opportunities for Members of Congress and their staff through hosting a Foster Youth Intern in their office
- Promote **platform for former foster youth** to advocate for foster children all across the nation
- Generate **national child welfare policy impact** based on policy recommendations from the Foster Youth Interns' lived experience on barriers that prevent children from being in a permanent family

