Who are we?
- The Boston Youth Action Board was started in 2016 as part of the YHDP application process.
- We currently have 20 to 25 active members, ages 18 to 25.

How we operate
- We have an annual budget from the city of $75,000 plus an additional grant of $20,000.
- YAB general meetings happen twice a month and are held at a local drop-in center. Meeting participants are paid $10 cash per meeting, up to 15 people per meeting.
- Facilitation and leadership comes from three YAB Directors (some with lived experience), and seven young adult facilitators. The facilitators take on leadership roles, operational support, and special projects. The pay structure for the team is as independent consultants.
- For outreach and communication we use Facebook Messenger, email, text messages, and a Google Groups mailing list to reach everyone at once.

What makes us unique
- Our YAB members are fierce and have important expertise. They feel empowered by this work. Youth and young adults have carved out space for themselves, and don’t back down when they believe something is important.

Our 3 Biggest Successes
- Our Truths and Values documents are respected and upheld in our community by our partners.
- YAB members have been involved in every aspect of Boston’s YHDP planning process, from the top down.
- We won an award from True Colors United for being a leading example in ending youth homelessness.

Our 3 Biggest Challenges
- Securing food for our meetings and a consistent space to meet. We approach community partners for contributions.
- Keeping core members involved long-term. It seems like at every project end/beginning, we have a turnover of general YAB membership.
- When we have a particularly large YAB group, we don’t always have enough facilitation capacity or budget. It is difficult when a YAB member who has been invested is the 16th person that day, and we can’t pay them.

The Gab on YABs page for more community fact sheets and topic spotlights!