

Where's the Action?

Who are we?

- We started up in 2018 in Columbus, OH with support from YHDP.
- We currently have around eight members, ages 18 to 24. We are a racially mixed group that includes former foster youth, youth with lived experience of juvenile justice, and parenting youth.



How we operate

- Currently, we are funded by the City of Columbus, the Attorney General's office, and philanthropic foundations. Each YAB member is paid \$15/hour. Funding also covers transportation and food for our meetings.
- We meet at the library twice a month. Once a month, there is also an Executive YAB meeting, with up to six members who help with planning and facilitation.
- The YAB makes decisions by voting or consensus, depending on the topic. One YAB member sits on the Continuum of Care.

Our 3 Biggest Successes

- The YAB is fully involved in our community's efforts to end youth homelessness, including reviewing proposals and providing technical assistance.
- We've been able to connect YAB members with housing opportunities and...
- maintain funding to pay for the YAB.

The [Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program](#) (YHDP) is an initiative of the Department of Housing and Urban Development that supports coordinated local efforts to end youth homelessness. Each YHDP community forms a Youth Action Board (YAB) that brings youth and young adults to the forefront of planning and implementation. In addition to YHDP-funded communities, other communities too have worked to incorporate youth and young adults into their planning. In the fall of 2019, TAC worked with consultant Lauren Leonardis to survey YABs in different areas and at different stages of development, capturing a snapshot of how these vital groups are functioning. Visit TAC's [Gab on YABs page](#) for more community fact sheets and topic spotlights!

The Gab on YABs

meet the Columbus Youth Action Board

Our 3 Biggest Challenges

- It is sometimes a challenge for YAB members to contribute in meetings.
- We can't always offer YAB members services they may need.
- Transportation is an ongoing issue.

What makes us unique

- Our bylaws define diversity so that we can work on this intentionally in our recruitment efforts via youth-serving partners.

