

# YouthAction NYC



YouthAction NYC is a program of Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc. (CCC) that brings the perspectives of a diverse group of young people to the issues that most affect them and challenges them to make the city a better place for children, youth and families. YouthAction NYC prepares young people for civic engagement by involving them directly in public policy and community life, training a new generation of advocates to carry on CCC's mission of *Securing Every Child's Birthright*® to be healthy, housed, educated and safe.

YouthAction NYC is open to public and private high school students throughout New York City's five boroughs.

Become a  
Young Leader –  
Make New York City  
A Better Place

## YouthAction NYC Community Leadership Course

Each fall and spring, the YouthAction NYC Community Leadership Course (YCLC) introduces aspiring young leaders to government and advocacy by using the city's neighborhoods and City Hall as laboratories for learning. Through polling, field visits, small group activities and meetings with community leaders and elected officials, YCLC participants learn how to address issues that affect their lives and the lives of other New Yorkers. YouthAction NYC helps young people understand social problems, develop recommendations for change, and take action.

The YCLC course is offered free of charge to New York City high school students, many of whom receive community service credit for participating in the program. The YCLC meets weekly after school and covers such issues as: education; housing and homelessness; child health and mental health; juvenile justice and youth services; child welfare and child care; and the state and city's decision-making structure and budget process.

## YouthAction NYC Members

Graduates of the leadership course are invited to become YouthAction NYC Members to continue applying their advocacy and leadership skills in meaningful ways. YouthAction NYC Members meet weekly after school to research an issue area and collaboratively design and execute a strategic advocacy campaign. They work to resolve social problems through teamwork, negotiation, peer to peer contact, public education, and focused action with policy makers and service providers. Working alongside CCC staff and volunteers, the YouthAction NYC Members learn how to effectively address problems facing New York City's children and families.



“Youth Action taught me how to understand issues affecting my community and how to work as part of a team to get something done.”

– *Asia Ceasar*  
*Student, School of the Future*

## Researching

YouthAction NYC Members study issues affecting New York City children and families by reviewing literature, designing and conducting focus groups and surveys, identifying trends and developing recommendations for change. Recent research topics have included: programs serving homeless youth; the experience of girls in the juvenile justice system; and the gap between the education values of high school students and their everyday experiences.

## Advocating

YouthAction NYC Members meet in Albany with New York State Legislators and at City Hall with Councilmembers. They also testify before the City Council and speak at press conferences, urging lawmakers to make children a priority in city and state budgets, legislation and policy decisions.

## Peer Training

YouthAction NYC Members engage other youth by conducting peer trainings at youth programs and high schools across New York City. Through these trainings, YouthAction NYC Members teach their peers how to approach fact-based research and how to advocate for positive change for children.

## Interning

A limited number of paid summer internships are offered to participants of the YCLC and YouthAction NYC Members.

To learn more about YouthAction NYC, visit our website at [www.cccnewyork.org](http://www.cccnewyork.org) or call (212) 673-1800 x 11.



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OF NEW YORK, INC.

SECURING EVERY CHILD'S BIRTHRIGHT®  
Healthy • Housed • Educated • Safe

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