



# Coming Together for the Better

The Shared Journey of California Youth Connection and Foster Youth in Action

For more than 10 years, California Youth Connection (CYC) and Foster Youth in Action (FYA) have shared a deep commitment and passion for improving the foster care system. After being founded by CYC in 2008, FYA will return to its roots later this summer, as the two organizations merge, signaling a new day for the future of foster care.

Here's a look at our shared journey over the years.

## 2008

California Youth Connection (CYC) Founds Foster Youth in Action (FYA).

## 2017

FYA and CYC worked together to develop a foster youth-led organizing framework and foster power organizing curriculum that would be used as the foundation for building power across the FYA Network.

## 2020

*February.* FYA Staff and Board of Directors conducted an organizational assessment about the future of FYA - including a Network-wide listening tour and survey. FYA Board of Directors votes to explore partners for potential merger.

*July.* FYA announced their plans for to explore merger and began meeting 1:1 with FYA Members to hear directly who and what qualities they wanted in an organizational partner. CYC was mentioned by FYA Members as a potential partner.

*August.* FYA presents at CYC's Statewide Membership Council. FYA Merger Work Group established to explore merger. Work Group included CYC's SME Co-Chair.

*December.* During FYA's Leaders for Change, FYA Members facilitated a day-long engagement session with FYA Network to explore their priorities and inform the merger process, including a presentation from CYC.

## 2009

In partnership with CYC, FYA holds the first Leaders for Change Conference during CYC's Summer Leadership and Policy Conference in California. FYA Members came from across the country to learn from CYC Members.

## 2018

Together, FYA and CYC launched the Foster Power Curriculum and hosted the very first Foster Power Event in Los Angeles, Oakland, and across the FYA Network for years to come.

## 2021

*January.* CYC Board participated in a checkpoint process, including exploring budgetary impacts of a possible merger. Board determined that merger should be further explored.

*April.* Legal options for merger and/or acquisition determined with legal counsel; CYC presented options to MEC, merger supported; FYA presented options to EC; merger approved for submission to the Board.

*June 5.* CYC SME Meeting and Board vote completed, merger approved.

## JULY 2021

Merger becomes official. FYA will remain a national network, operating from within CYC. The respective brands and programming will all remain.

As two of the largest youth-led organizations, with 20+ years' experience, an established national network, and some of the strongest leadership development + advocacy programs available for current and former foster youth, CYC and FYA will have the power to do so much more together.