

Creating a
better
tomorrow
by making
children and youth
our priority
today!

YAIO

**Youth Advocacy
and Involvement Office**
N.C. Department of Administration

The Office

The Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office (YAIO) is an advocacy agency in the N.C. Department of Administration. The office offers a blend of programs and services for children, youth and young adults on a statewide basis. In addition, the office provides staff support to four councils.

Mission Statement

The Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office (YAIO), under the leadership of advisory councils and in cooperation with public and private agencies, serves as an advocate for the children and youth of North Carolina.

This agency seeks to enhance the quality of the lives of children and youth through individual and class advocacy intervention and by offering opportunities for leadership development and experiential education.

Councils

The N.C. Internship Council

N.C. Internship Council is the governing body of the State Government Internship Program. The council determines the appropriateness of proposals for student intern projects, determines the number of interns to be placed per project, as well as screens applications and selects interns.

State Youth Council (SYC)

SYC is comprised of teenagers from local youth councils across North Carolina. SYC provides opportunities for young people to be involved in local projects, participate in government, develop leadership skills and represent youth in civic activities.

Programs sponsored by SYC include Youth Legislative Assembly, quarterly leadership conferences and other opportunities for youth to network with their peers, as well as a mini-grant program that allows youth to allocate funds for local youth projects.

N.C. Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

The YAC provides support and advice to the State Youth Council (SYC) and local youth councils. YAC is composed of adults and high school students appointed by the governor and SYC.

The council receives public and private gifts and donations for the N.C. Youth Endowment Fund, a public/private partnership trust fund for youth programs. It also administers the distribution of mini-grants to youth programs and promotes the development of experiential education programs for high school students.

Governor's Advocacy Council on Children & Youth (GACCY)

GACCY is a voice for children and youth of North Carolina. The council works on their behalf to identify unmet needs, review existing programs, and provide recommendations and information to the governor, the legislature and the public. Much of this work is done through case and class advocacy, research, publications, public forums, special projects and monitoring state government agencies and legislation.

Programs

Mini-Grant Program

The Mini-Grant Program gives youth an opportunity to develop program ideas, write grant proposals and implement defined program objectives in their communities.

With an annual appropriation from the N.C. General Assembly, the Youth Advisory Council is able to award grants averaging \$500 for a wide range of youth-directed projects. Grant applications are received in the fall of each year.

N.C. State Government Internship Program

The N.C. State Government Internship Program provides a unique combination of learning, working, theory and practice. The program enables college students to assert initiative and creativity through hands-on involvement and problem solving.

Paid internships are available for 10 weeks each summer for undergraduates, graduate students and those in professional schools. Applicants must be North Carolina residents attending a college, university, technical institution or community college in or outside the state to qualify for the program. Students and projects are screened and selected by the N.C. Internship Council.

Interested students should contact their academic advisor, career placement or cooperative education office, or visit the [YAIO website](#).

N.C. Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)

N.C. SADD assists young people in their schools and communities in planning and implementing peer prevention programs to combat alcohol and other drug use, drinking and driving, and other destructive behaviors.

The program coordinates SADD chapters in middle schools, high schools and colleges. Presentations, training sessions and special events are held, including an annual statewide conference.

N.C. Youth Legislative Assembly (YLA)

YLA is a mock legislative session where high school students voice their opinions, draft legislation and vote on issues concerning local, state and national government. The three-day session is patterned after the N.C. General Assembly. A final report which summarizes the legislative recommendations is distributed to the governor, legislators and other interested individuals.

This unique educational experience is open to all North Carolina students, grades 9-12, who are interested in learning more about government and the legislative process and using their writing and debating skills.

Advocacy

Case Advocacy

Assistance is given to families by assessing the services they need in their communities; intervening with state and local agencies; and helping parents, family members and other concerned citizens become better advocates for their own children and children in their community.

Assistance is available through this agency to families regarding a variety of issues including, but not limited to, foster care, adoption, abuse/neglect, juvenile justice, education and troubled youth. We attempt to inform child advocates and the general public about children and youth legislation and other relevant issues through a newsletter and the "Youth Rights and Responsibilities" booklet.

Class Advocacy

YAIO attempts to effect positive change for children and youth by addressing unmet needs through monitoring legislation, policies, programs and special projects.

If you would like to be on the email distribution list for the following activities please contact Stephanie Nantz

Stephanie.Nantz@doa.nc.gov:

-  Mini-Grant Program
-  State Government Internship
-  Newsletter
-  SADD
-  YLA

Child Advocacy:

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Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office N.C. Department of Administration

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