Young Adult Advocate Program (YAAP)



JBAY.ORG

John Burton Advocates for Youth



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Presentation Agenda

Introduction to JBAY 01

Overview of John Burton Advocates for Youth and our core mission.

YAA Program Overview 02

Overview of the JBAY YAA Program and what the program has to offer.

YAA Participant 03

Firsthand experience and insights from a current YAA participant.

YAA Program Eligibility and Application 04

Detailed overview of Eligibility and Application.

YAA Program Expectations 05

Detailed overview of expectations for program application and participation.

Q&A Session 06

Dedicated time for participant questions and next steps.

Introduction to JBAY

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About JBAY

John Burton Advocates for Youth improves the quality of life for youth who have experienced foster care or homelessness.

Priority Focus Areas

- Education & Career
- Housing
- Economic Mobility

Strategic Approach

- Policy Advocacy
- Research
- Technical Assistance & Training

Before We Start

ANNOUNCEMENT

- Last week, JBAY hosted a **Virtual Information Session** on the **John Burton Scholarship for Capital Fellows**
- Visit JBAY's website to learn about the John Burton Scholarship, which provides supplementary financial support to three Capital Fellows with foster care experience.

More information can be found on the JBAY website.

JOHN BURTON SCHOLARSHIP FOR CAPITAL FELLOWS
jbay.org/jb-scholarship/

Why the Young Adult Advocate Program is Important

Systems work better when the people most affected have a seat at the table. The Young Adult Advocate Program creates that pathway.

The Young Adult Advocate Program also provides an opportunity for young people to explore a career in advocacy and gain professional skills and experience.



Young Adult Advocate Program: Overview

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What This Program Provides

The Young Adult Advocate Program offers paid advocacy experience, mentorship, and leadership training for young adults with experience in foster care or homelessness.



What This Program Provides

Learn

- **Mentorship** from JBAY policy experts
- **Job shadowing** and exposure to nonprofit advocacy
- **Professional development** workshops
- **Training** in public speaking, communications, policy analysis, and advocacy



What This Program Provides

Influence

- **Complete** a collaborative policy capstone project
- **Conduct** research informed by lived experience
- **Develop** recommendations for policymakers and practitioners
- **Present** findings and strategic storytelling to local, state, and national stakeholders



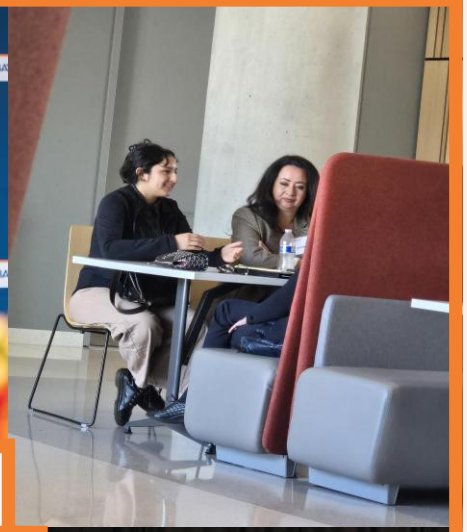


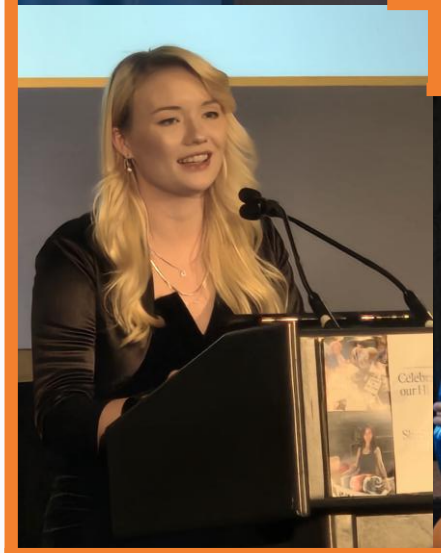
What This Program Provides

Lead

- **Testify** before the California Legislature at committee hearings
- **Engage** with the media by authoring op-eds and speaking at press conferences, rallies, public events
- **Participate** in policy workgroups, advisory bodies, and coalitions
- **Support** the development of youth-centered resources, trainings, and outreach materials









Young Adult Advocate Program: Current Participant Perspective

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Serena Bracy

JBAY Young Adult Advocate

Serena Bracy is an Animal Science and Management Major with a Minor in Education, in her 4th year at UC Davis. With firsthand experience navigating the child welfare system and newfound passion in policy, she is committed to amplifying the voices of foster youth and expand access to higher education resources.









Young Adult Advocate Program: Eligibility

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Eligibility

Core Eligibility Criteria

- Ages 18 - 27
- Experienced foster care or homelessness at age 13 or older
- Located in the Sacramento area
- Interested in learning about or advocating for policy change

The Program

- 14-month term with the option to extend to a full two years
- Compensated $26 per hour plus reimbursement for travel and meal expenses
- JBAY YAAs are independent contractors (will receive a 1099 form for filing taxes)*
- Offered opportunities that vary from month to month, based on YAAs' availability and interest. Due to the legislative cycle, some months will have multiple opportunities, while other months may have fewer activities.

*JBAY provides free tax filing assistance to JBAY YAAs

Young Adult Advocate Program: Role Expectations

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Role Expectations

Mandatory Activities

- Two in-person orientations in Sacramento
- Monthly group meetings to stay up to date on JBAY's policy work and build professional development skills
- Monthly one-on-one check-ins with JBAY staff to support learning needs, address challenges, and reflect on progress
- Periodic collaborative capstone project meetings
- Learn about the legislative proposals JBAY is sponsoring

Optional Activities

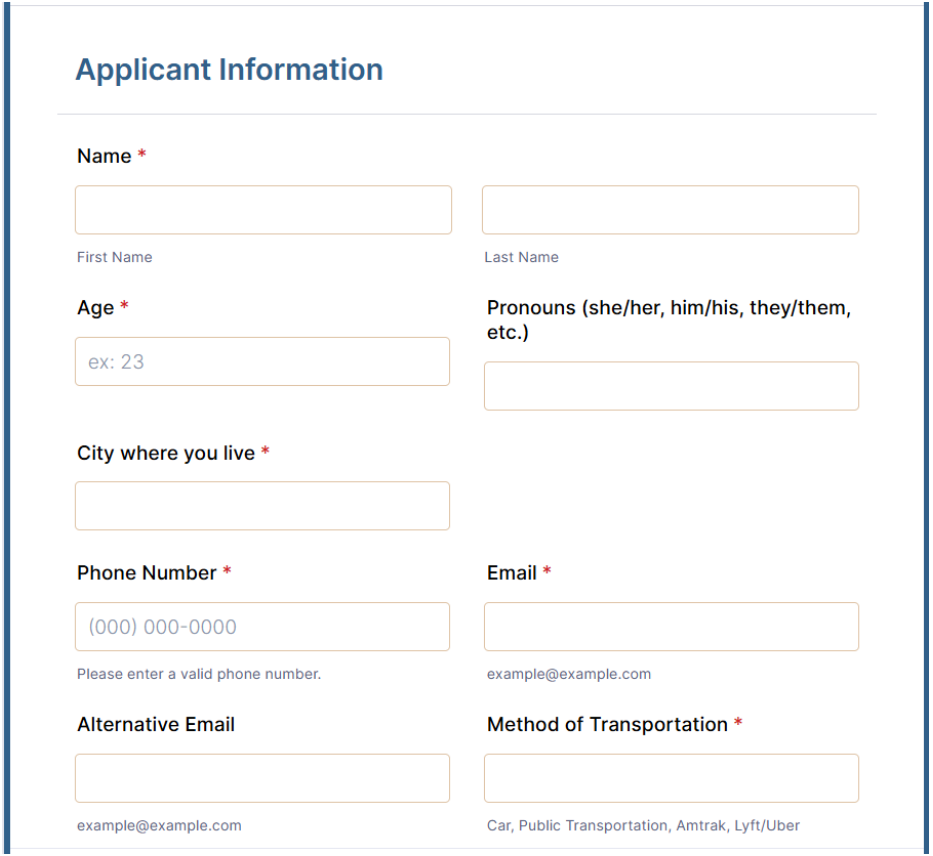
Depends on Interest, Readiness and Availability

- For YAAs who engage in legislative advocacy:
  - Be prepared to discuss lived experience using strategic storytelling as a means to educate stakeholders.
  - Attend events at the State Capitol, in district offices, or via Zoom. This includes meeting with elected officials and providing testimony at hearings.
- Engage with the public through participation in workgroups, presenting at conferences or webinars, and information tabling.

Young Adult Advocate Program: Application

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Navigating the Application



Applicant Information

Name *

First Name

Last Name

Age *

ex: 23

Pronouns (she/her, him/his, they/them, etc.)

City where you live *

Phone Number *

(000) 000-0000

Please enter a valid phone number.

Email *

example@example.com

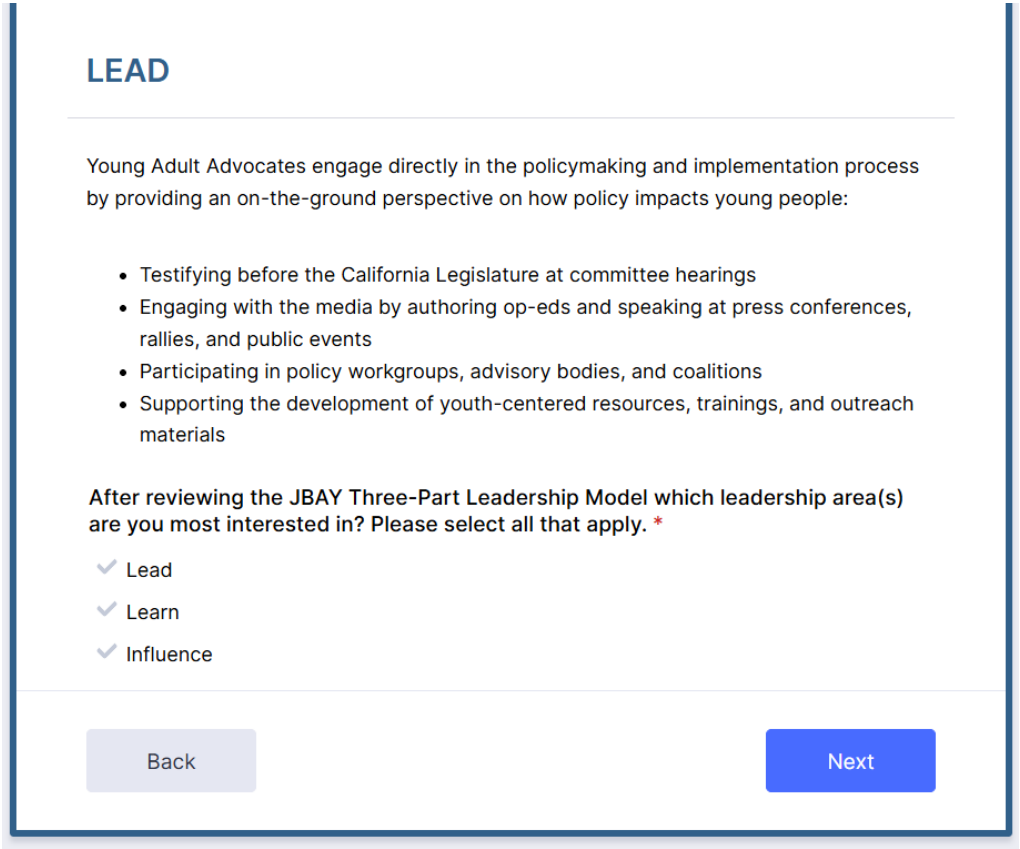
Alternative Email

example@example.com

Method of Transportation *

Car, Public Transportation, Amtrak, Lyft/Uber

Navigating the Application



Navigating the Application

Short Answer Questions

Please share a thoughtful response (50–250 words) describing what most interests you about becoming a Young Adult Advocate. *

Type here...

0/250

Please share a brief description of your current or recent employment history including any volunteer experience. This can include self-employment (e.g., caregiver, Lyft, Uber, Instacart, etc.) *

Type here...

0/250

Do you have any experience with advocacy?

Advocacy can take many forms, such as:

- Participating in a youth advisory board or committee
- Attending grassroots events like protests or rallies
- Testifying at legislative hearings or local government meetings (e.g., city council, county board of supervisors, homeless continuum of care, public housing authority)
- Advocating on behalf of individuals, including yourself

If you have experience with advocacy, please describe in the box below. If not, please enter "N/A."

Navigating the Application

JBAY advocates on a variety of issues related to experiencing the foster care system or homelessness. Please indicate which of the following apply to you (select all that apply). *

- [x] I was in the foster care system at any point
- [x] I was in the foster care system after the age of 13
- [x] I was in extended foster care/AB12 when I was 18,19, and/or 20 years old (a "nonminor dependent")
- [x] I am currently enrolled in community college
- [x] I am currently enrolled in a university
- [x] I attended college in the past
- [x] I experienced homelessness while enrolled in the K-12 system
- [x] I experienced homelessness after high school
- [x] I experienced the juvenile justice system
- [ ] None of these apply

Please indicate below whether you are currently or were previously in any of the following housing programs (select all that apply): *

- [x] THP-NMD for current foster youth age 18-20 (The Transitional Housing Placement for Non-Minor Dependents)
- [ ] THP-Plus for former foster youth age 18-24 (The Transitional Housing Program-Plus)
- [x] FYI/FUP Housing Voucher for former foster youth age 18-24 (Foster Youth to Independence or Family Unification Program)
- [x] None of these apply

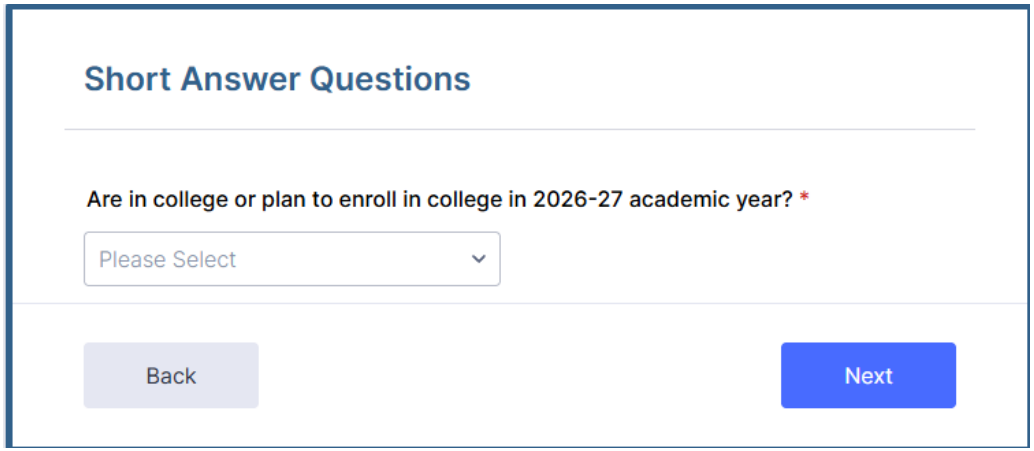
Have you ever received the Foster Youth Tax Credit? *

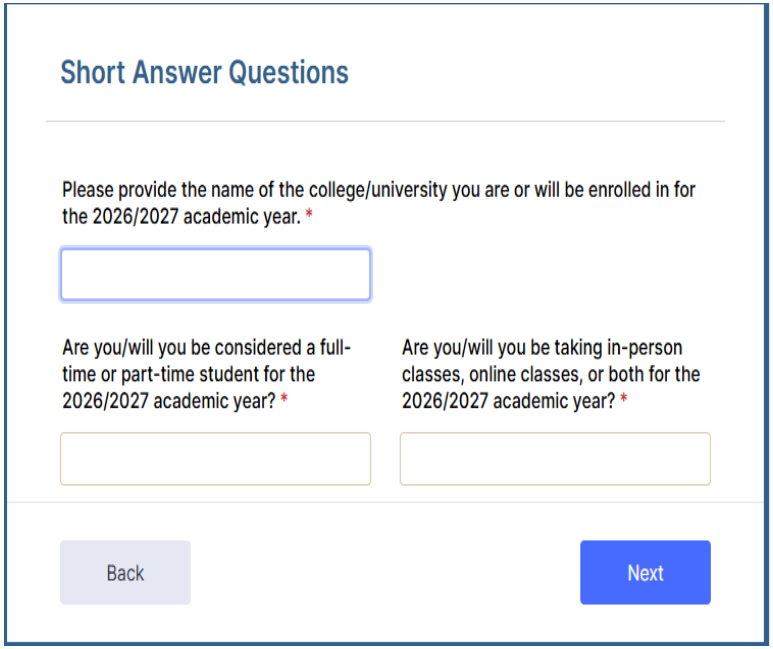
- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Unsure

Have you claimed a CalKIDS Scholarship? *

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Unsure

Navigating the Application





Navigating the Application

Short Answer Questions

This opportunity includes both virtual and in-person engagement. Are you able to travel to or within Sacramento for in-person events (all travel costs are paid by JBAY)? *

- Yes
- No

Where did you hear about the opportunity? *

Please provide one professional reference. Include their full name, email address, and phone number.

Thank you.

Name *

First Name

Last Name

Email *

example@example.com

Phone Number *

(000) 000-0000

Please enter a valid phone number.

If you have a resume you would like to share, please upload here.

Browse Files

Drag and drop files here

(Optional)

Next Steps & Key Dates

Action Items for Applicants

Check Your Email: JBAY will send webinar slides & additional support contact details.

Visit Website: Access resources and details at **JBAY.ORG**.

Application Deadline

Now – October 15

Questions & Answers

Thank you for participating! We are here to support your exploration of advocacy.

cody@jbay.org

JBAY.ORG