

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2025



**Advocates  
for Youth**

Young. Powerful. Taking Over.

During this challenging and disheartening political era, Advocates for Youth identified three strategies we believe can make a difference, help us to continue fighting for young people's bodily autonomy, and deepen the progressive youth movement.

Over the past year, Advocates has:

### Advanced

Continued to build a pipeline of diverse youth leaders in support of a progressive agenda that centers the most marginalized. Supported these youth activists to raise their voices and their stories to shift cultural attitudes and build empathy for those most impacted by sexual health disparities.

- Centered youth voices
- Drove digital activism
- Nurtured a pipeline of emerging youth leaders
- Expanded our base of progressive young people

### Neutralized

Circumvented restrictive policies and systems in order to meet young people's sexual health and rights. Advocates innovated by directly providing youth with education and services and helping youth activists reach their peers with mutual aid.

- Provided digital sex education through AMAZE to young people who aren't getting it in school
- Expanded Youth ASC, our nation-wide network of youth activists committed to ensuring access to abortion care
- Conducted large scale peer-to-peer campus distribution of condoms, emergency contraception and OTC birth control pills

### Defended

Defended recent gains in youth sexual health, rights and justice and pushed back against restrictive bills and initiatives at the local, state and national level.

- Conducted rapid response for teachers and school administrators facing attacks on LGBTQ sex education
- Supported youth activist campaigns at the state and local level
- Engaged in policy advocacy (local, state, national)

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Since our founding in 1980, Advocates for Youth has held fast to our core value that a youth-serving sexual and reproductive health organization must center racial justice and inclusion for all young people. Yet, in its first weeks in office, the Trump Administration made it irrefutably clear they do not share our values or respect our right to carry out our mission. Since then, the administration has gone to war on young people's health and rights: they have announced bans on DEI and discussions of gender, decimated the rights of survivors of sexual assault and transgender students, deemed peaceful protests domestic terrorism, ordered ICE raids and deportations, furthered attacks on K-12 education, and so much more.

At Advocates for Youth, we could not stand idly by. Instead we doubled down in partnership with, and support of young people. In January 2025, we notified the federal government that we were terminating work on our two federal grants and would no longer take any federal funding. We refused to adhere to the administration's racist, homophobic, and transphobic executive orders. Instead, we continued to stand with youth activists fighting for justice and to meet the needs of vulnerable youth.

We pivoted our programs and initiatives to be as effective as possible in this difficult political and cultural climate.

- We continued to recruit, train and support tens of thousands of youth activists, helping them to strengthen their organizing and leadership skills and mount campaigns that pushed back on the administration's anti-DEI, anti-trans, anti-youth initiatives.
- As many institutions began to capitulate to the administration's demands, abrogating their responsibility to young people, Advocates worked to directly provide millions of youth with honest sex education; supported youth activists on a thousand college campuses to distribute condoms, emergency contraception and over-the-counter birth control pills to their peers in need; worked with more than 1,500 young people to help them provide practical support for youth in need of abortion care; and trained 500 young activists to serve as abortion doulas.
- Staff provided training, resources and support to more than 20,000 educators to help them create inclusive and even affirming classrooms for their trans and gender expansive students and to withstand attempts from the conservative right to dismantle sex education, ban books with LGBTQ and Black history themes, and disrupt other school-based equity initiatives.
- We mobilized tens of thousands of young people to promote or defend policies that champion young people's rights to honest sex education and confidential sexual health services, including PrEP, contraception, HIV testing and care, and abortion care.
- And we worked in coalition with hundreds of other progressive non-profits to challenge the administration, fight for reproductive health, rights and justice, and defend democracy.

It has been a very difficult year. Much of what we hold dear has been challenged and even dismantled. But we are committed to fighting back and proud of the work that we have done in partnership with youth activists and their adult allies across the globe.

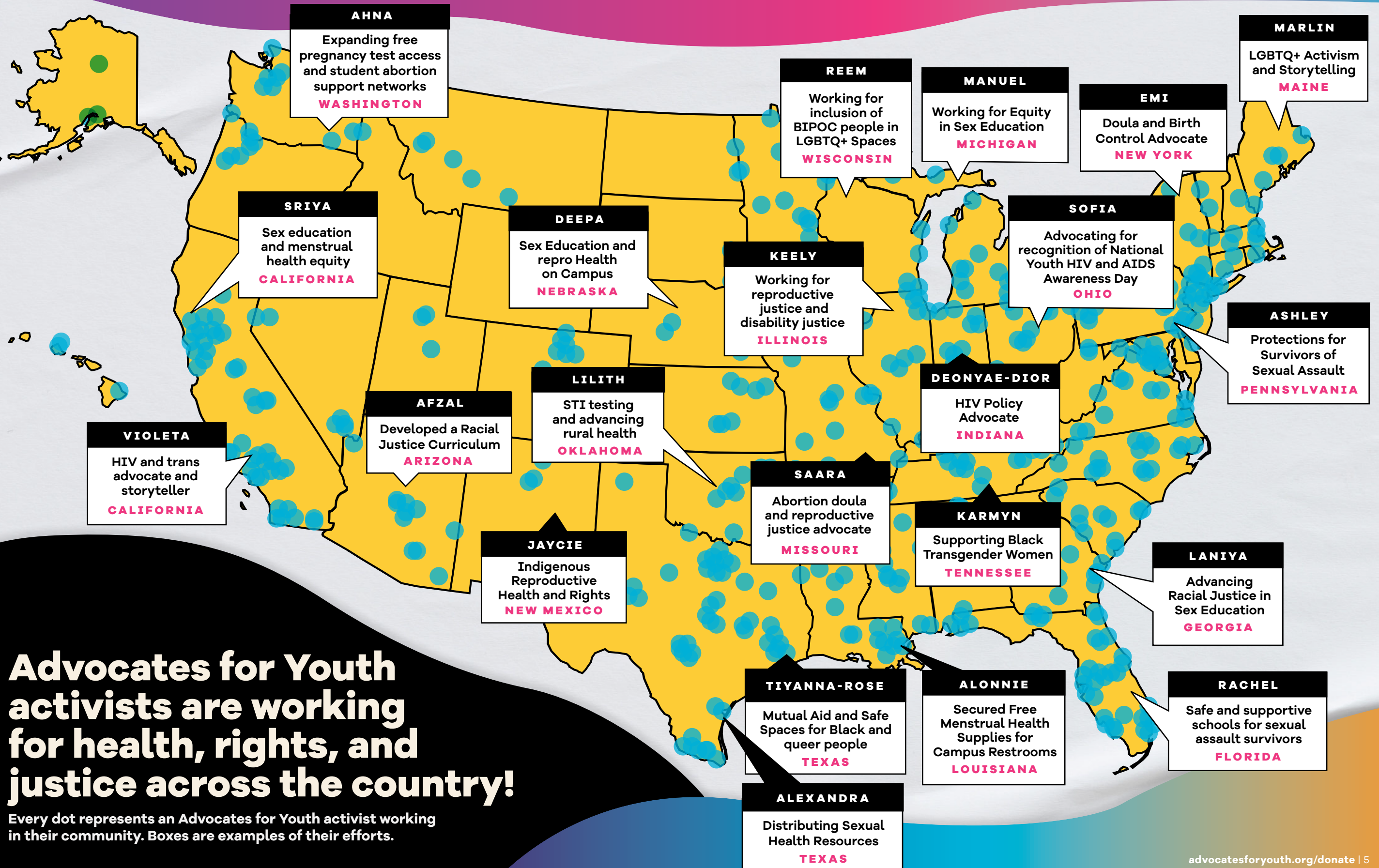
We continue to believe that racial justice is central to our mission to protect and expand young people's reproductive and sexual health and rights; that Black and Brown youth deserve to thrive free from systemic barriers; LGBTQ+ youth deserve to be safe, affirmed, and celebrated; transgender young people deserve not only care but also legal and societal recognition. We believe in migrants' rights to safety and health care. We believe in access to abortion care for all who need it. We are in solidarity with young people across the country and the world fighting for reproductive rights, racial justice, and bodily autonomy. We will not censor our voices.

**Young people have been relentless in their efforts to demand a more just and equitable world. We are proud to walk alongside them.**



# Advocates for Youth activists are working for health, rights, and justice across the country!

Every dot represents an Advocates for Youth activist working in their community. Boxes are examples of their efforts.



# LGBTQ+ Rights

In 2025, attacks on LGBTQ+ youth continued to escalate. The federal government sought to coerce schools into undoing protections for transgender students, states moved forward with bans on gender-affirming care, and teachers feared retaliation for creating inclusive classrooms. Advocates for Youth proudly stands with LGBTQ+ youth activists who fight for their rights in the face of bigotry, and with educators and health professionals seeking resources so they can effectively support all young people.

## Advocates partnered with the National Education Association, Planned Parenthood, and Subject to Climate to create “Everyone is Welcome Here” kits for classrooms nationwide.

The kits included totes, stickers, lanyards, bracelets, pins, badges, and more to visibly affirm the commitment of school staff to each students’ right to learn and thrive in a safe and welcoming school. **6500 kits were requested from educators all over the country, reaching more than 10+ million students.** Educators are looking for ways to support vulnerable students, and Advocates for Youth is proud to provide the support and resources they need to do so.

## In 2024 Advocates became the sponsor for Hope in a Box, a program to connect K-12 educators with LGBTQ-inclusive curricula, training, and mentorship.

Since taking on the project, **Advocates has provided over 250 educators with curriculum guides and reached over 500 educators with webinars on how to create inclusive classrooms and ensure classroom resources reflect the lives of LGBTQ people.** In October, we participated in the American Library Association’s Banned Books Week by spotlighting Hope in a Box and highlighting how unfettered access to books makes schools safer for all students.

## As government websites remove critical resources about sexual health and gender identity,

and the CDC announced it would not support analysis of questions about gender identity on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, **Advocates for Youth stepped in to push back, advocating for states and large school districts** to continue to ask the questions and providing technical assistance, advocacy tools, and access to research consultants to ensure the continued collection of this vital data that can help trans and gender expansive students get the support they deserve.

## In the face of hateful disinformation about trans youth in the media and continued anti-trans legislation at the state and federal level,

we continued to provide resources to educators and adult allies through the **Trans Affirming Schools Project (TASP) Resource Guide** and training series. The project provides school districts with resources, training, and tailored technical assistance to implement safe and affirming policies and programs for trans, non-binary, and gender-expansive youth (TNGE) – with a particular emphasis on meeting the needs of TNGE youth of color – and to help educators and administrators counter conservative attacks on their schools’ programming for TNGE students.

## Through a partnership with the California Department of Education,

Advocates led and completed the Providing Relevant Inclusive Support that Matters for LGBTQ Students (PRISM) project to create six online sex education courses for California-certificated professionals. The goal of the project is to increase educators’ cultural competence on LGBTQ issues, foster acceptance, and implement strategies to promote a positive school environment for LGBTQ students. **All California school personnel are now required to take the six course series (over 300k teachers and 250k support staff), and Advocates for Youth is leading trainings throughout the implementation process.**

# DeOnyae-Dior

DeOnyae-Dior (she/her/ella), 22, is a member of Advocates’ **Trans Affirming Schools Project Advisory Committee and ECHO cohort.** She is the founder and President of Strength over Struggle, an organization that uplifts and empowers queer/trans/black/indigenous person of color communities, and is a college student in Indianapolis.

**“I share my lived experience as a trans person living with HIV to educate lawmakers and make policy recommendations. We’re in a time where folks like myself are being erased. So many parts of my identity are a form of resistance. Showing up with your full authentic self right now is activism, and that’s why it’s so important. Trans liberation is not just a dream - it’s about showing up for one another, telling our stories, and being visible. We’ve always existed and we aren’t going anywhere. Our joy is resistance!”**

# Abortion

Youth activists fought to expand abortion access in their communities, even as draconian laws took effect nationwide. Young people engaged in political and cultural activism and strengthened peer-to-peer training and practical support networks.

**Advocates for Youth's Youth Abortion Support Collective (YouthASC) is the only national network of young people working to connect peers to practical support,** including funding, transportation, emotional support and clinical or telehealth abortion care. Each member works in their community to create new, or when possible, to expand existing practical and emotional abortion support networks and to help other young people get the abortion care they need. **This year, Advocates trained YouthASC's 1500 members across all 50 states on topics** including money management in mutual aid, state abortion policies, birth justice, and more. In addition, **staff has trained 500 young people to become abortion doulas** and compiled the YouthASC Abortion Doula Facilitation Guide to assist youth activists to also train their peers to become doulas.

**In October 2025, Advocates organized its annual Abortion on Campus Week of Action.**

In partnership with We Testify, Abortion On Our Own Terms, Plan C, EUKI, Hey Jane, and Planned Parenthood Generation Action, **we recruited 170 students across 36 states and Washington, DC.** Participants implemented actions and shared abortion access resources and stories with tens of thousands of their peers. The week also included a digital mobilization component. We hosted an Instagram Live with We Testify featuring our Abortion Support Program Manager, Kaniya, for a powerful conversation about young people, abortion access, and the importance of storytelling.

**Advocates for Youth continued to build on the groundbreaking legacy of the 1 in 3 Campaign through its work with Youth Testify, a collaborative leadership opportunity for young people who have had abortions.**

Created by Advocates for Youth and We Testify, Youth Testify provides **training and support to equip young people ages 19-24 with the skills to share their abortion stories with their peers, the media, and legislators.** This program is necessary in order to shift the culture of stigma and center the voices and needs of young people in the fight for abortion access and reproductive justice. In June 2025, Advocates hosted an in-person storytelling retreat in which abortion storytellers came to DC to connect with one another and Advocates, and We Testify staff, learn about various forms of abortion storytelling, and practice sharing their stories.

**Advocates in partnership with Turnaway Project and Plan C Pills co-led the Your Voice is Your Power campaign,**

a student-led initiative to highlight what happens when people are denied abortion care. Advocates' activists led the design of the campaign, and forty-four student activists in **23 states** joined a digital organizing campaign and/or hosted pop-up events on campus, **reaching over 112,000 people with information and destigmatizing messages about the importance of abortion access.**

**Advocates for Youth is supporting activists organizing for medication abortion on campus in Massachusetts, New York and Washington to expand resources for students while reducing pressure on local brick and mortar clinics.**

In Massachusetts, Advocates worked with Collective Power and UMass Amherst students to create a **MA Campus Doula Collective Toolkit to provide guidance for student collectives across the country.** With support from the MA Dept of Public Health and with SouthPaw Insights, Advocates conducted a survey to gain a deeper understanding of the sexual and reproductive health experiences of students at twenty colleges. In New York, **Advocates held a retreat for members of the New York Student Advisory Board,** connecting them with WCLA-Choice to strategize around independent legislative work. In Washington, Advocates **supported student organizers at the University of Washington-Seattle to testify** in favor of medication abortion on campus at a WA Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development hearing.

## Kayla

Kayla (she/her), 20, is a college student in Massachusetts. She has been working with Advocates since she was 15 as an AMAZE ambassador, a KYIX organizer, and now a member of the **Massachusetts Advisory Board for Medication Abortion on Campus.**

**"I'm one of many students in Massachusetts battling our way to getting comprehensive resources for abortion care on our college campuses, including medication abortion. In this moment, many activists feel that we are fighting a losing battle. But the struggle is rarely ever linear. When it gets difficult and we feel as if we're trending downwards, that is how we know the work we're doing is more necessary than ever."**



# HIV Prevention, Treatment, & Destigmatization

Young people know what we need to beat the epidemic: education, prevention, treatment, and ending stigma around HIV and people living with HIV. In 2025, activists faced great challenges to their work - from massive cuts in funding to HIV research, to layoffs of health care professionals and educators, to the deletion of information about HIV from websites, to the atmosphere of misinformation and chaos created by HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

## Advocates continued its work on the #SaveHIVFunding campaign.

The House proposed an FY26 Labor-HHS Bill that would erase almost \$2 billion in critical HIV funding, including the national Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative, HIV treatment, CDC prevention, and access to PrEP. These cuts would disproportionately impact low-income, young people, and those in the U.S. South – stay healthy and virally suppressed. **Coalition partners have sent over 10,000 letters to Congress protesting these cuts.**

## Advocates coordinated a week of action during National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day (NYHAAD), led by the powerful voices of young people.

Throughout the week, youth hosted impactful IG Live conversations that spotlighted the realities of HIV stigma—especially its impact on young Black Trans Women. They also created and shared bold social media content amplifying the goals of NYHAAD and the importance of youth leadership in ending the epidemic. Young leaders hosted drag shows and participated in a powerful visual panel that uplifted their experiences and visions for change. Additionally, partners across our network helped expand the reach of our message by sharing our NYHAAD Toolkit, making this year’s campaign one of our most visible and engaging yet.

## Advocates founded Engaging Communities around HIV Organizing (ECHO),

one of the only cohorts of young activists living with HIV. **In 2025, ECHO activists continued their work to tell their stories, share information about HIV, and fight for youth inclusion in HIV policy.**

## Advocates works directly with CommuniTea leaders in 10 communities to lead campaigns to reach other Black young women with HIV information and destigmatization campaigns,

as well as to provide ongoing training about HIV, community engagement and advocacy, and leadership. Advocates also utilized our social media and email outreach network to provide non-stigmatizing, youth-friendly information about HIV prevention, treatment, and care. **In 2025 Advocates CommuniTea leaders hosted interactive, educational campus events at HBCUs including Spelman College, Howard University, and Florida A&M.**

**“I joined CommuniTea because I wanted to focus on Black women’s health and fight the racist, misogynist oppression we experience. The opportunity to collaborate with others working for Black women’s health and get mentorship and collaboration is unique and deeply important to me. Too often, my peers can rattle off facts about sexual health and STIs, but it’s disconnected from their real lives and what they want. I’m working to destigmatize sexuality and get people talking about sex. The only way we’re going to end the HIV and STI epidemic is through honesty and real conversations. Activism is the only way we see the needle move - without it there is no progress.”**

## Payton

Payton (she/her) is a 21 year old college student at an HBCU in Georgia. She is also President of the Planned Parenthood Generation Action at her school and a member of Advocates’ **CommuniTea** youth activist cohort.

# Sexual Assault Prevention

Know Your IX activists continued to organize to defend promised but years-delayed Title IX protections, even in the face of the Trump administration's extensive efforts to roll back student survivors' and LGBTQ students' Title IX rights.

**In September, Know Your IX teamed up with the National Women's Law Center** to create a sign on letter to Secretary of Education Linda McMahon demanding stronger civil rights protections for survivors of sexual violence, **pregnant and parenting students, and LGBTQ+ young** people. Over the past few months Secretary McMahon has made moves to dismantle civil rights protections and break promises to survivors of sexual violence. The letter already has more than 300 signatures.


**Advocates and Know Your IX submitted two organizational comments opposing the Trump administration's efforts to sneakily fast track rolling back Title IX protections at institutions receiving grants from the Department of Energy.**

The changes would have ended restrictions on sex-, race-, and disability-based discrimination in DOE-funded programs, disallowing schools to take proactive steps to help overcome the effects of discrimination that have resulted in the underrepresentation of women and girls in certain educational fields. The changes would have also jeopardized opportunities for all students to have equitable access to playing sports.

**After Know Your IX and Advocates for Youth joined students, advocates, and educators in collectively submitting over 21,000 public comments opposing the changes, the Department withdrew its proposed rule!**

## Esther

Esther (she/her), originally from El Salvador, is a student in Massachusetts. Esther is a residential advisor and an activism with the **Condom Collective** and the **Massachusetts Abortion Advisory Board**.



**"I work to ensure that survivors of sexual assault on my campus have their needs met. I help students and the administration understand and follow Title IX regulations. The Trump Title IX rule has led to schools becoming lax in their work to prevent sexual assault and bring justice to survivors, and I'm pushing back on that."**

# Contraception and Adolescent Sexual Health Services

Anti-contraception activists waged a “quiet war” on contraception in 2025. Birth control didn’t make huge headlines, but the attacks were there: from the defunding of the Title X family planning program, to the cuts to funding for Medicaid and Planned Parenthood in the 2026 federal budget, to the Supreme Court’s decision that allows states to prevent Medicaid recipients from accessing health care at Planned Parenthood. Youth activists fought back by working to make sure condoms, birth control pills, and emergency contraception are available to young people through peer-to-peer distribution programs on campuses and in communities.

Advocates continued its longstanding Condom Collective program, where students on 1,000 campuses distributed over 1 million condoms and sexual health education to their peers.

Advocates continued its partnership with the American Society for Emergency Contraception and six makers of emergency contraception pills entitled The EC Access Network.

The program provides students on over 500 campuses across the country, with an emphasis on those states with abortion bans or restrictions, over 130,000 doses of emergency contraception to distribute on their campuses.

In a pilot program through partnership with Perrigo, the maker of the first over-the-counter birth control pill, Opill,

students on ten college campuses received Opill in bulk to distribute on campus and advocate for campus vending machines to improve birth control access.

Additionally, through the Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Education Project (ARSHEP), Advocates continued training clinicians to better serve young people and young people to debunk myths on contraception.

ARSHEP – Advocates’ Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Education Project, is a set of on-line training modules designed to train clinicians to better serve their adolescent patients. Staff piloted a set of new modules, designed in partnership with young people, and trained over 100 healthcare providers this year.

Advocates also launched the Busybodies Club, an on-line and in person campaign to fight misinformation and disinformation. The first module debunked disinformation regarding birth control and reached more than 400,000 young people in three months time.

“I worked for two years to get an emergency contraception vending machine on campus. Throughout this process, Advocates helped to connect me with free and bulk distribution organizations for condoms/opill/ec, helped me find vending machine distributors, and develop the skills to effectively make change on my campus at the Youth Activist Institute. Advocates is doing THE WORK to get young people in rooms with decisionmakers -- to hear about our organizing work, have conversations with young people, and be reminded of the barriers young people face.”

## Beau

Beau (they/them), 22, is a senior in college in Massachusetts. They are a member of Advocates’ Free the Pill Youth Council and lead a Doula Project. They have successfully advocated for a campus health vending machine and expanded abortion transportation access at their rural college following pharmacy closures and the Dobbs decision. They testified to the FDA advocating for an OTC birth control option, speaking to the challenges they saw navigating peers in high school to Title X clinics, and their rural campus.

# amaze

More info.  
Less weird.

## It's AMAZE-ing!

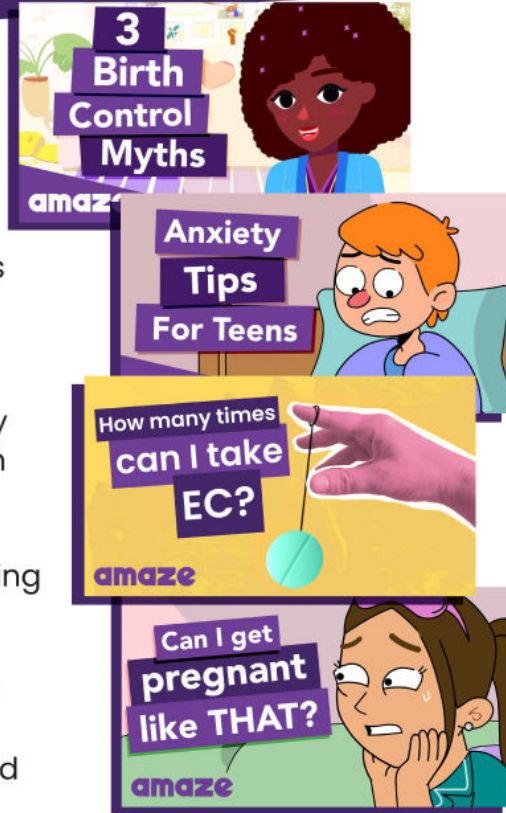
Advocates for Youth is the lead partner on AMAZE, a collection of short, animated videos and other resources designed to provide adolescents around the globe with medically accurate, age-appropriate, affirming, and honest sex education they can access directly online—regardless of where they live or what school they attend. In 2025, AMAZE released dozens of new videos on topics such as emergency contraception, anxiety and panic attacks, friendship red flags, swimming on your period, U=U, and several videos for boys about combatting the manosphere.

AMAZE is free and always will be! From YouTube views to classroom viewings to direct downloads, more than 100 million young people have viewed AMAZE content around the world.

## AMAZE is Global and Accessible!

Our various AMAZE accounts on YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, X, and Facebook have over **537,000** followers, including YouTube channels and social media accounts tailored specifically for Latin America and the Africa region, which together have nearly **200,000** followers. People without reliable internet access can request direct downloads of AMAZE content, and any partner around the globe can edit and tailor our videos to their needs.

AMAZE International supports approximately **77** partnerships annually and has adapted more than **2,000** videos in collaboration with partner organizations in more than **70** languages. AMAZE added more than **30** new partners in 2025 alone, including Ministries of Education, public television networks, and international NGOs. AMAZE works closely with partners to ensure videos are not just translated, but culturally appropriate and fully adapted to country context.



original videos  
around the globe

in **74** languages  
and dialects!

# 2,301

 registrants for AMAZE  
SexEdCon 2025

The highest attendance ever at an Advocates virtual event!



**5** upcoming videos about **The Manosphere** in partnership with *Equimundo* and *Futures Without Violence*. These videos will help boys see through the harmful messaging about masculinity so they can make informed decisions about their health.

# \$600,000+

total awarded through  
20 sub-grants for organizations  
around the world adapting and  
disseminating AMAZE videos.

**10** new made-for-TikTok  
videos in the Latin  
America region



# MORE THAN 100 MILLION VIEWS AROUND THE WORLD!



MORE THAN **300** HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

have been trained in how to use AMAZE to help address young people's questions. Some play the videos in their waiting rooms, or write "prescriptions" to watch specific AMAZE videos at home.

# Racial Justice and Equity

**Advocates founded the Young Women of Color for Reproductive Justice Collective,** a network of over 1000 young women of color through which activists work to protect reproductive health and rights, end abuses in the carceral system, and advocate for the inclusion of young womxn of color in creating solutions to address the impact of reproductive oppression. For example, YWOC member **Sriya continued her successful campaign to destigmatize menstruation** and make menstrual health products available to students in California; **Jamellah hosted several STI testing events in her community;** and **Ramya advocated for emergency contraception on campus.**

**Members of the Muslim Youth Leadership Council (MyLC), a group of Muslim-identifying people ages 17-24 from across the country,** helped create safer spaces for LGBTQ+ Muslims at queer conferences; strengthening programming for queer and trans people of color and ensuring Muslim refugee inclusion in programming. MyLC also partnered with Progressive coalitions to bring Muslim youth perspectives to their programming by coordinating Muslim youth working groups and bringing gender diverse Muslim histories and stories into their community spaces. MyLC members created a safer sex resource designed for Muslim young people. The impact has been clear. **Muslim students have reported feeling more visible, more supported, and less alone.**

This year saw escalating racist attacks from the Trump Administration in the form of Islamophobia, attacks on migrants, and bans on programs that build diversity, equity, and inclusion. The United States is an unsafe place for many young people simply because of who they are. But Advocates' youth activists and their allies are fighting every day for justice. Advocates for Youth works to help build youth-serving professionals' capacity to address bias, and our youth activists are working to ensure safety and equity for all young people.

**Through our Racial Justice in Sex Education project,** Advocates worked with a cohort of high school and college students of color dedicated to advocating for racial justice in K-12 sex education. RJYAC promotes racial equity in sexual health education and beyond to ensure that curricula are inclusive, accurate, and culturally responsive. **The Racial Justice in Sex Education Project also developed two new educational modules and featured RJYAC members as keynote speakers at major conferences reaching thousands of education professionals.**



## Sabene

Sabene (she/they) is a 20 year old college student and member of the **Muslim Youth Leadership Council.** She serves as president of the Planned Parenthood Gen Action and Every Campus a Refuge chapters on her campus.

**“As a Muslim I’m conscious of the stigma that Muslim queer people and Muslim women face. The Muslim Youth Leadership Council is such a great, affirming space. It’s welcoming when it should be. It’s challenging when it should be. It’s so good to know that I’m not alone in being Muslim and progressive, advocating for reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ people, and pushing back on racism within Muslim spaces. I’m working to build welcoming spaces on my campus and ensure everyone has the resources they need.”**



**“I’m really proud of how my organization Repro Justice 956 has started to feel like a movement that will outlive me. It’s rooted in our identity, and is not a reactive movement, we’re here for the long run. We use storytelling and reflection on our upbringings as queer children of Mexican immigrants and first generation Americans to dream beyond borders. Activism is how we build what comes after the storm. It’s what keeps us rooted in our culture, grounded with one another, and hopeful for our futures.”**

# Carolina

Carolina (she/they) is a student leader, artist, and trained community organizer, and a college student in Texas. She is a member of the **Texas Youth Activist Alliance** and the founder of Repro Justice 956, Laredo’s first queer and youth-led reproductive justice network.

## Sex Education

Far right activists continue to use disinformation campaigns to attack sex education. We know that ultimately it is young people who bear the consequences of this denial of lifesaving information. Advocates for Youth continues our work to ensure all young people have access to inclusive, quality sex education that helps them reach the future they want.

**Advocates worked with school districts across the country to provide rapid response assistance when sex education came under attack.**  
Advocates provides media analysis, an outreach plan, and support to school administrators and teachers to protect sex education in these communities.

**Advocates partnered with the National Education Association, Planned Parenthood, and Subject to Climate to create “Everyone is Welcome Here” kits for classrooms nationwide.**  
The kits included totes, stickers, lanyards, bracelets, pins, badges, and more to visibly affirm the commitment of school staff to each students’ right to learn and thrive in a safe and welcoming school. **Educators from across the country claimed the 1,000 available kits in just 15 minutes, and since then an additional 5,500 educators have requested these resources.** Educators are looking for ways to support vulnerable students, and Advocates for Youth is proud to provide the support and resources they need to do so.

**Years of sex education advocacy in FL** helped join forces with partners in that state to defeat two bills that would have required minors to obtain parental consent in order to access STI treatment – even after being diagnosed. **The bills’ defeat was a huge win for youth across Florida** and a testament to the power of organizing and coalition-building.

**Young people fought in their communities for sex education.**  
In Minnesota, Advocates’ youth activists led Sex Educate Us, a successful multi-year campaign to update sexual health education standards in Minnesota that resulted in **new legislation that expands access to comprehensive and trans-inclusive sex education in the state**, and organized to oppose bills that would have rolled back health standards. In California, after Advocates’ youth activists led a successful campaign to ensure and expand information about menstrual hygiene in sex education, **the Know Your Period bill moved into its implementation phase.** Advocates also worked in coalition with partners in MI to urge the MI State Board of Education to pass new updated sex education standards that are LGBTQ inclusive.

**Staff spearheaded the launch of PRISM (Providing Relevant, Inclusive Support that Matters for LGBTQ+ Students)**  
California’s new asynchronous LGBTQ+ cultural competency training for educators in grades 7–12. In response to the Safe and Supportive Schools Act of 2023, this training was developed through a collaborative, community-centered process. **We worked with a 20 member advisory group to create six online workshops** for all California school staff to increase their cultural competence related to LGBTQ students.



# Anaia

Anaia is a member of the **Racial Justice in Sex Education Youth Advisory Council** and a recent public health education graduate from North Carolina. Anaia has been directly exposed to the impacts of gentrification on minority communities, particularly in accessing healthcare. This has ignited her passion for advocating for underserved populations, focusing on STD/HIV prevention and enhancing community health within the Black community.

**"I focus on activism centered around racial justice and health equity. I serve on a national youth advisory group and work to improve inclusive public health programming. I also support sexual health equity by researching STI prevention and creating accessible, culturally relevant education for young people. I'm really proud of the e-learning module I created during my Spring 2025 internship with Advocates for Youth. The e-learning module combined evidence based sexual health education with culturally relevant design, and it felt good to build something that can genuinely help young people make informed decisions when it comes to their sexual health."**

## Focus on Innovation

Sexual and reproductive health misinformation is rife on social media. Many young people receive the bulk of their information about sexual and reproductive health online, including from influencers who have little to no expertise on the topic. This misinformation has been documented to impact young people's reproductive health decision-making.

**This year, Advocates for Youth launched the Busybodies Club, a project to fight disinformation campaigns, eliminate confusion and provide honest sexual health information for young people.** Through digital and in-person activations, Busybodies provides training and resources so young people can make informed decisions about their sexual health. The Busybodies Club website offers an easy-to-understand library of sex ed information and a calendar of virtual trainings and has reached nearly 400,000 people on social media and 350 attendees at trainings focused on debunking contraception. The project will expand to focus on HIV, abortion, and transgender youth in 2026.



This year, Advocates convened a cohort of trans youth activists from across Advocates' programs to serve as advisors to our Trans Affirming Schools project. **The day-long convening created an educational space for trans youth to learn, support each other, and make plans to align their activist work with Advocates' Trans Affirming School Project (or TASP).** In the face of rampant transphobia in the media and government, the preconference session provided a space for transgender youth activists of color between the ages of 17-24 years old to build connections and strategize for the year to come.

**The Adolescent Sexual Health Services Division completed a landscape review / feasibility study that demonstrated that a new Community Health Worker training certificate in adolescent and young adult health could open up a new career pathway for young people,** address workforce shortages in health centers and social service agencies and address high rates of sexual health disparities by engaging young people with lived experience as outreach workers and educators. Johns Hopkins and the Maryland Department of Health will co-sponsor a pilot of this project in 2026.





**“My activism is primarily rooted in trying to bridge the gap in educational inequity, particularly for queer students. I work to elevate the voices of queer youth of color and make sure we have inclusive sex education. With the current administration cutting funding for HIV and repressing queer voices, youth activism work is more important than ever.”**

## Cailey

Cailey (they/she) is a member of **Youth Resource** and a 17 year old student in Pennsylvania.



## Hazel

Hazel (she/her), age 20, is a member of **Young Women of Color for Reproductive Justice** and a college student in Pennsylvania. Hazel works to support the health and rights of very marginalized young people including the incarcerated and those with educational challenges.

**“Activism starts with hearing people’s perspectives and listening to their stories. It starts with trying to meet the needs of people in our communities. The political environment may be different now, but that doesn’t mean we can stop fighting. Small actions can change lives.”**



# Ramirez

“When I was a youth activist with ECHO (Engaging Communities around HIV Organizing), Advocates supported me by offering me training and support, and putting me in a position to utilize my skillset to better advocate for my community.

I even went to the Biden White House to advocate for trans rights and sex education in schools. Now, I’m building my own organization, hoping to keep learning from experts and use my own experience to help combat the HIV epidemic.

I joined Advocates’ Board of Directors so I could be part of the effort to support youth activists and share the importance of sexual health, sex education, gender equality, and more.

Advocates supports young people by giving them a platform and amplifying youth voices. We believe in supporting young people with leadership opportunities, mentorship, allyship, and youth-adult partnership. We do everything in our power to ensure young people are seen, heard, and represented. Regardless of the political climate, Advocates goes above and beyond to provide support and work with young people to fight for what they need. Advocates does everything within our power to ensure youth are seen, heard, and represented.

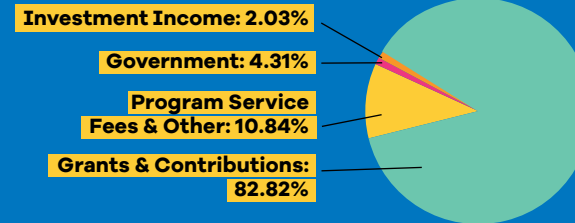
This year, Advocates sent back government funding when the Trump Administration added racist, homophobic, and transphobic requirements. We stay true to our principles, and young people in Advocates programs feel the support. Young people are never going to stop fighting for their rights, no matter how hard it gets. But having a champion and a support system makes it so much easier. I hope you will consider becoming a part of that support system by donating to Advocates for Youth.”

# OUR FINANCIALS

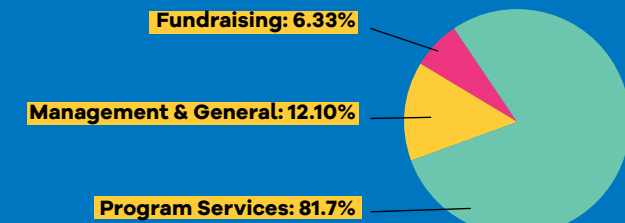
FISCAL YEAR 2025 | APRIL 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025

Advocates received new revenue totaling **\$8,401,820** for use in FY2025 and future fiscal years. Expenses in FY2025 totaled **\$9,997,638**, which were covered by revenue received in FY2025 and by multi-year grants received in prior fiscal years. The decrease in net assets reflects the completion of several multi-year grants received in previous fiscal years.

REVENUE: \$8,401,820



EXPENSES: \$9,997,638



NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF FISCAL YEAR: \$10,168,021.

NET ASSETS END OF FISCAL YEAR: \$8,572,203.

NOTE: The financial data have been summarized from the financial records of Advocates for Youth. A complete copy of the audit and/or Form 990 for the year ended March 31, 2025, prepared by Advocates’ independent public accountant, is available upon request.

# OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS

## ABORTION ON CAMPUS AND YOUTH ABORTION SUPPORT COLLECTIVE

These programs harness the power of storytelling, grassroots organizing, leadership development, policy advocacy, and practical support to safeguard access to abortion care.

## ENGAGING COMMUNITIES AROUND HIV ORGANIZING (ECHO)

Through ECHO, Advocates recruits, trains and supports a cohort of young people living with HIV to serve as leaders in the fight to end HIV stigma and criminalization.

## FREE THE PILL

The Free the Pill youth council is a cohort of youth organizers working to build public support for the #FreeThePill campaign, a national effort to bring a birth control pill over the counter, covered by insurance, and without age restrictions.

## KNOW YOUR IX

Know Your IX is a survivor- and youth-led project that aims to empower young people to end sexual and dating violence in their schools.

## MUSLIM YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (MyLC)

MyLC is a group of Muslim-identifying people from across the country, working locally and nationally as activists, organizers, writers, leaders and more to promote LGBTQ rights, immigrant rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights for Muslims.

## STUDENT ORGANIZERS

The Student Organizing Team is a cohort of high school and college students who serve as youth activists leading the reproductive justice movement at the local, state, and national level.

## THE RACIAL JUSTICE IN SEX ED YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (RJYAC)

The Racial Justice in Sex Ed Youth Advisory Council (RJYAC) is a dynamic cohort of high school and college students of color dedicated to advocating for racial justice in K-12 sex education.

## YWOC

The Young Womxn of Color for Reproductive Justice Leadership Council (YWOC) is a council of 14-24 year old young women and nonbinary organizers of color who are working to educate, empower, and fight back against issues impacting their community through a reproductive justice lens.

## YOUTH ACTIVIST ALLIANCE LEADERS

Youth Activist Alliance Leaders are youth organizers who run local or state-level grassroots campaigns for change in youth sexual health and rights and reproductive justice.

## YOUTHRESOURCE AND TRANSGENDER AFFIRMING SCHOOLS PROJECT

These programs are designed by and for LGBTQ+ young people of color to build advocacy and organizing skills.

**\$0.00**

accepted with racist and transphobic requirements from Federal Government

**100 YOUNG PEOPLE**

from across the country trained at Advocates' annual Youth Activist Institute and 5000 trained through virtual webinars



**400,000**

young people reached with info to combat misinformation through The Busybodies Club



**21,000 COMMENTS**

on Trump changes to Title IX rule, leading to its withdrawal



**10 CAMPUSES**

received free Opill through a promising pilot program

**5 million**

young people reached with 3Rs sex education lessons



CommuniTEA members led

**15 POWERFUL EVENTS**

across communities and HBCU campuses, centering the voices and experiences of young Black women in the fight against HIV.



An online resource library with over

**250 books**

to help build LGBTQ+ inclusive classrooms



**40**

National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NYHAAD) Ambassadors,

including youth, organized more than **50 EVENTS** nationwide in recognition of World AIDS Day and NYHAAD, mobilizing peers, raising awareness, and building community through youth-led action.



**1 informative**

skills-building **Youth Policy Playbook** to guide young people as they fight for change



**6,500**

**"Everyone is Welcome Here" LGBTQ+ inclusive classroom kits distributed through partnership with the NEA**

**500**

young people trained to become abortion doulas

**1 million**

condoms distributed on 1000 campuses through the Condom Collective



Explosion in AMAZE TikTok growth, **FROM 740K VIEWS TO 3.7MIL**



**1**

first-of-its-kind convening of trans youth activists working to build connections and strategize



**39,000**

EC packets of pills provided to students to distribute on 500 campuses nationwide



**100+ MILLION**

AMAZE video views, **2000 video adaptations in 74 languages.**



Advocates for Youth partners with young people and their adult allies to champion youth rights to bodily autonomy and build power to transform policies, programs and systems to secure sexual health and equity for all youth.

Advocates strives to achieve the following strategic goals:

### GOAL I



**Shift the cultural paradigm** toward normalization of youth sexual development and young people's rights to live free from oppression and to exercise their agency and bodily autonomy.

### GOAL II



**Drive youth sexual health policy** at the local, state and federal levels, including U.S. foreign policy, toward strategies that are grounded in equity and inclusion, and are evidence-informed, youth-centered, and rights-based.

### GOAL III



**Engage youth as activists and leaders**, centering those most impacted by sexual health disparities and building power to transform, dismantle, and rebuild policies, programs, and systems in support of bodily autonomy and youth sexual health, rights, and equity.

### GOAL IV



**Strengthen youth sexual health programs and services** by partnering with youth-serving agencies, community-based organizations, healthcare providers and schools to build their capacity to provide evidence-informed, rights-based services grounded in the values of equity and inclusion.

### GOAL V



**Partner with youth-led and youth-serving organizations**, United Nations agencies and governments around the world to champion community initiatives, systems, policies, and programs that advance youth sexual health, rights and justice.



### VISION

Advocates for Youth envisions a society in which all young people are valued, respected and treated with dignity; sexuality is accepted as a healthy part of being human; and youth sexual development is normalized and embraced. In such a world, all youth and young adults are celebrated for who they are and afforded honest, affirming, inclusive sex education; access to confidential, universal sexual health services; and the economic, educational, and social power to exercise their bodily autonomy and make informed decisions regarding their health and well-being.

### VALUES

#### ADVOCATES' RIGHTS, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY PHILOSOPHY UNDERPINS ALL OF THE ORGANIZATION'S WORK:

**RIGHTS:** Youth have the inalienable right to honest, inclusive sex education; confidential, universal sexual health services; and the economic, political and social power that supports their agency, bodily autonomy, and self-determination.

**RESPECT:** Youth are due respect. They are leading the fight for equity and justice. Young people must be meaningfully involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of systems, policies and programs that affect their health and well-being.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Society has the responsibility to examine and dismantle systems of oppression that drive sexual health disparities and other inequities and to instead champion community initiatives, programs, policies, and systems that ensure equity and justice for all young people, their families and communities.

[WWW.ADVOCATESFORYOUTH.ORG/DONATE](http://WWW.ADVOCATESFORYOUTH.ORG/DONATE)

**Advocates  
for Youth**

Rights. Respect. Responsibility.

1325 G STREET NW, SUITE 980  
WASHINGTON DC, 20005 USA



**CHARITY NAVIGATOR**

Four Star Charity