



CYVYC: Strategies for Advancing Alternatives to Guardianship for Youth with IDD Across 11 State Teams

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CENTER ON
YOUTH VOICE
YOUTH CHOICE

- National resource center founded in Fall 2020 through a five-year grant from the Administration on Community Living
- Supports State Teams in promoting alternatives to guardianship for youth with intellectual or developmental disabilities
- Promotes youth leadership in all levels of its work
- <https://youth-voice.org>

CYVYC PROJECT PARTNERS

- Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI)
- Center for Public Representation (CPR)
- Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)
- Georgia Advocacy Office (GAO)
- Human Services Research Institute (HSRI)
- Experts from Harvard Law School Project on Disability



Center for Public Representation

GAO

GEORGIA
ADVOCACY
OFFICE



THE CYVYC PROJECT

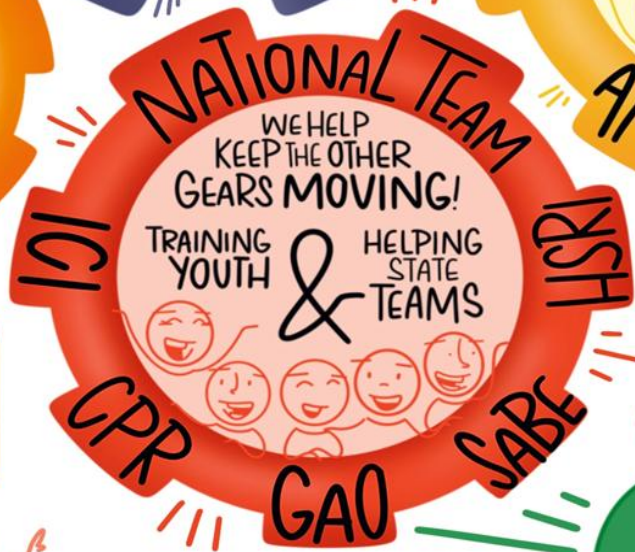
WHAT'S THE GOAL?



2020-2025



LIVING A LIFE OF CHOICE & SELF-DETERMINATION



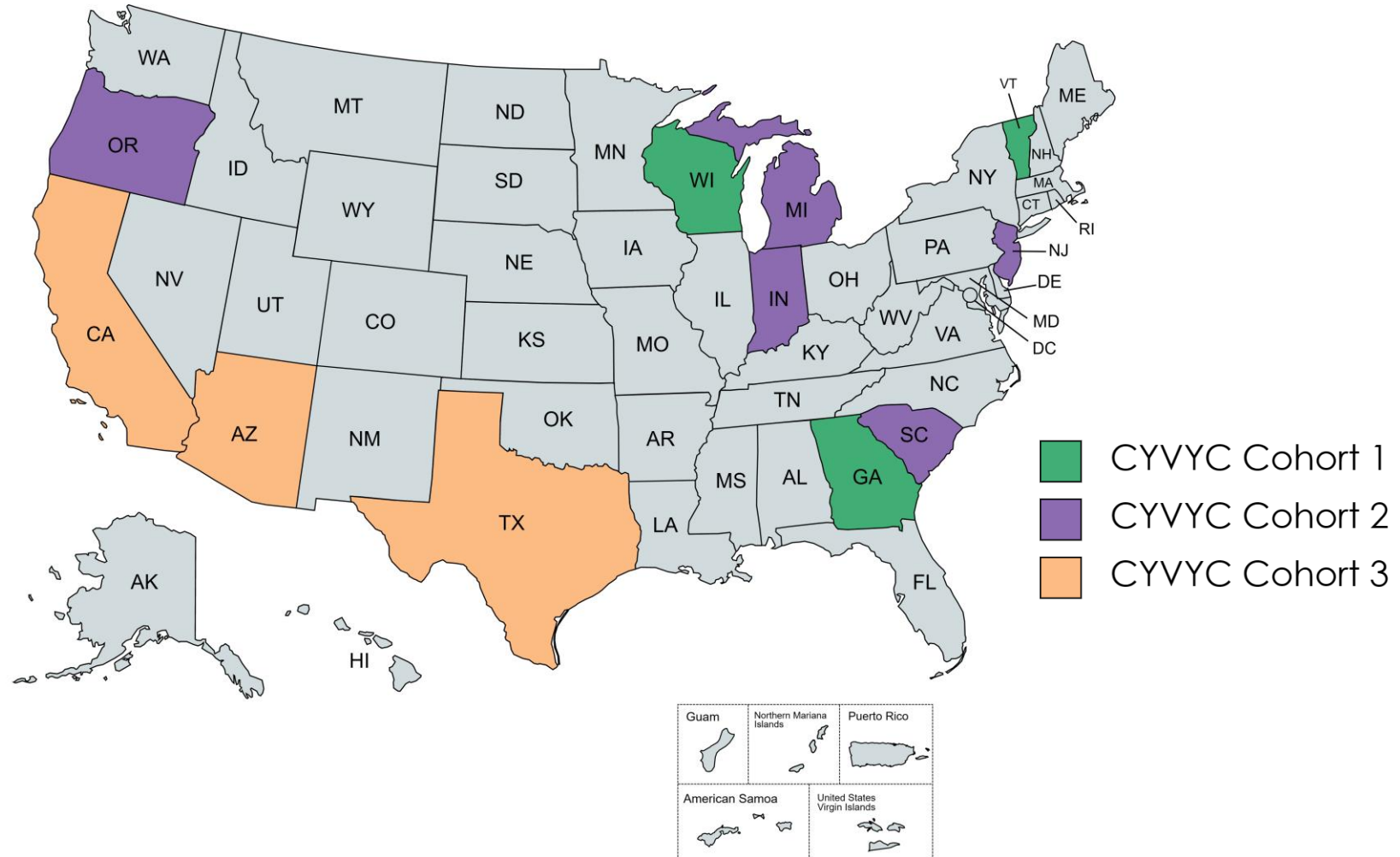
HOW DO ALL THE PIECES FIT TOGETHER...



GREAT QUESTION!



CYVYC COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO 11 STATE TEAMS

- **Led by the Center for Public Representation**
 - <https://www.centerforpublicrep.org>
 - <https://supporteddecision.org>
- **Implementation**
 - State-wide action plans supported by individualized TA
 - Cross-state community of practice meetings
 - Amplifying state team's work nationally
- **Recommendations for Replication**
 - Adopt a multi-faceted approach, with youth at the helm
 - Evolve meeting structures
 - Meet teams where they are
 - Advance alternatives through multiple strategies

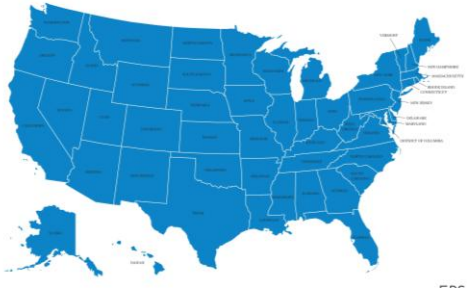


**PROMISING
PRACTICES**

MORE CYVYC ACTIVITIES



- **Youth Ambassadors**
 - 44 across 11 states, trained and supported by SABE
 - Youth stories



- **Research**
 - Briefs and promising practices
 - Interactive map of alternatives to guardianship

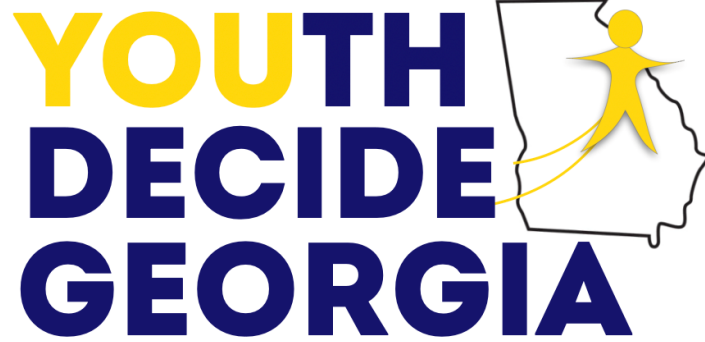


- **Knowledge Translation & Dissemination**
 - Youth curriculum
 - Videos & speakers series
 - <https://youth-voice.org>



SLIDE DECK

Georgia's Youth Ambassadors for Supported Decision-Making



Dana Lloyd
Georgia Advocacy Office
Darien Todd
Georgia State University



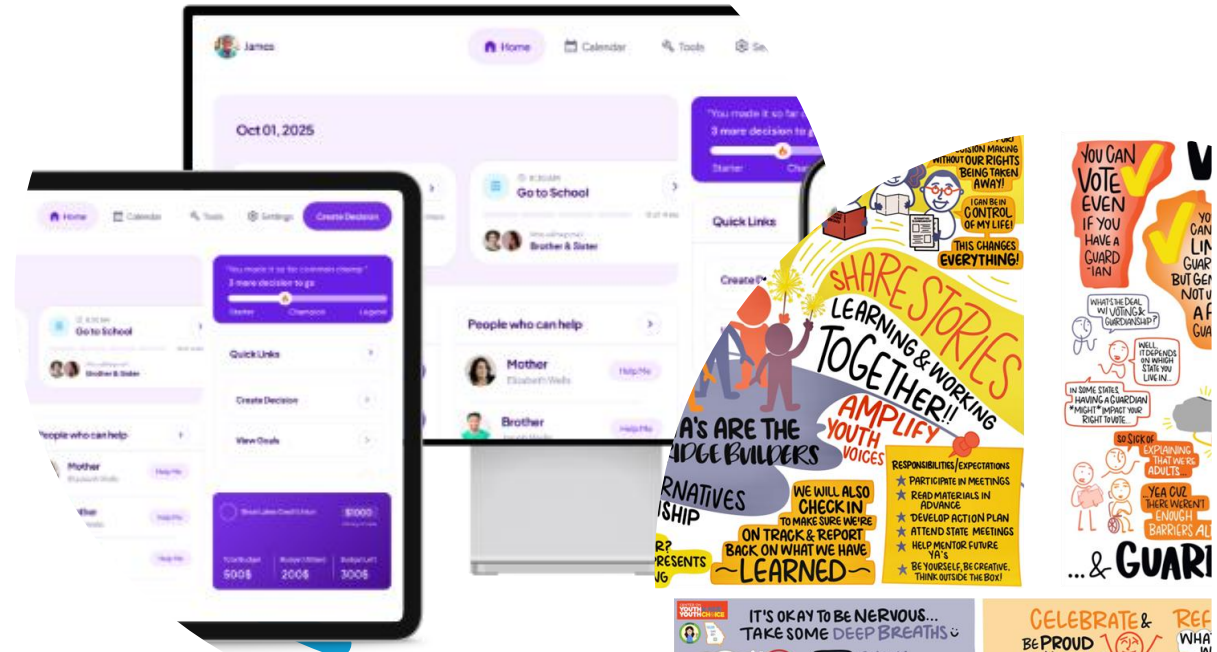
DECIDE
DIRECT
ENLIST
CHOOSE
INFORM
DETERMINE
EXPERIENCE



★ CYVYC Year 1 ★ Youth DECIDE Year 2

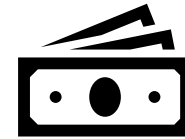
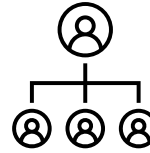
Promising Practices

- Retreat and Rewards
- Mentors
- Graphics
- Youth Produced Resources



Replication

- Engage Youth from the start
- Ensure Support is available
 - Organizational Support
 - Financial Support
 - Individualized/Mentorship Support
 - Collaborative Support
- Embrace Tech and Innovation





The Power of Youth Leadership

- Why is youth leadership important in advancing alternatives to guardianship?
- What did you learn or what skills did you gain by being the youth co-lead?
- Why was mentoring so important in our project?

Bonus: Peer
Mentorship
and Support

Family Community of
Practice

Legal Community of
Practice

Educators Community of
Practice-Coming Soon



Lessons Learned from the Technical Assistance to Support Alternatives to Guardianship carried out by the Center for Youth Voice and Youth Choice

Valerie Bradley
Human Services Research Institute

American Association on Intellectual
and Developmental Disabilities
Chicago , IL

Evaluation Activities

- Interviews with Community of Practice state team members for each of the 3 cohorts
- Yearly interviews with Youth Ambassadors from each state
- Interviews with project partners during first two grant years
- Interviews with members of the project advisory committee
- Survey of members of the project's National Coalition
- Review of project website



Logic Model for Evaluation

- Inputs – Are resources sufficient to carry out grant activities?
- Activities – Are activities carried out as planned? What were challenges? Course changes?
- Outputs – Do products comport with project aims? Are they disseminated
- Short-term outcomes – Does the Youth Ambassador training prepare them to advocate for alternatives to guardianship, do people in the field find the products useful
- Intermediate outcomes -- Have sustainable policies and practices been put into place in the COP states?
- Long-term outcomes – Does the number of young people under guardianship decline



Lessons Learned



- The project raised the bar regarding how to support young people with disabilities as leaders and change agents
- Youth advocates with disabilities should not be underestimated but bring generational energy and creativity
- Young Ambassadors were the best spokespeople for guardianship reform
- Partners and state teams learned together about how to better support youth and to be allies
- There is a hunger among various constituencies in the IDD field regarding guardianship, Supported Decision Making and guardianship alternatives

Lessons Learned



- Making change regarding alternatives to guardianship; takes teamwork, time, trust, and commitment
- The accomplishments of the project would be enhanced had the Center been able to provide more financial resources to state teams to support their work and the work of the Youth Ambassadors
- To keep the momentum toward guardianship reform moving, the following actions should be taken:
 - Train more Youth Ambassadors
 - Provide an ongoing source of resources on Supported Decision Making for various constituencies and in plain language
 - Conduct research to show the impact of alternatives to guardianship;
 - Continue to showcase the ongoing work of the state teams through the Center's website.