

# AMPLIFY-NY

YOUTH POWER! aims to AMPLIFY-NY with Regional Youth Leadership Forums and supported leadership activities for young people with disabilities to speak up, build skills, and prepare to take on leadership roles. This initiative brings the opportunities to YOUth and amplifies the YP! network to give the next generation of leaders the tools and support they need for success. Parents and caregivers also have the opportunity to attend a series of workshops designed to assist them in continuing to help set the stage for young people with disabilities to Lead on.



**The Youth Leadership Forums and Foundation for Leadership workshops are FREE to attend.**

This initiative is funded from 2017-2021 through a grant with the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC).

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## **About the Youth Leadership Forums (YLFs)**

AMPLIFY-NY's Regional Youth Leadership Forums (YLF) are a safe, youth-friendly environment with plenty of fun activities to complement the wealth of knowledge being learned! **These 4-day, 3-night forums are FREE to attend** and include panel presentations, hands-on activities to sharpen leadership and advocacy skills, and supported leadership activities. Future leaders do not want to miss this opportunity to build leadership skills and become empowered with self-confidence and self-determination!

### **At the forums, young people will learn about and participate in:**

- Self-determination, self-advocacy, peer advocacy, and systems advocacy
- Leadership and communication skills
- Networking and strategic sharing
- Disability history, rights, culture, pride, etiquette, and self-awareness
- Disability disclosure and accommodations
- Financial literacy, wellness and self-care activities
- Resources to reach your goals, region specific resource fair and leadership luncheon
- Personal Leadership Planning
- Fun evening activities like game night or Karaoke!

### **Why Should YOUth Attend?**

- It's a unique opportunity; have the chance to attend and join a network of peers and alumni.
- Be connected with resources to meet your goals and advocacy activities that interests you.
- Event is FREE if accepted (includes meals, housing, and transportation assistance).
- In order to be selected youth must:
  - Be in the age range of 14-24 (Youth under 18 must have guardian approval).
  - Live in New York State.
  - Tell us about your leadership potential in your registration.

## About Foundations for Leadership(FFL): A CaregiverWorkshop Series

Young people and their parents/caregivers can greatly benefit from connecting with their peers in order to support their personal growth. Additionally, young people want to be heard by their caregivers and receive support as they grow into young leaders and become more self-sufficient.

**Foundations for Leadership** is for parents/caregivers of youth with developmental and other disabilities to further develop their skills and strategies for supporting for the young people in their care as they grow into self-advocates, secure leadership roles and transition into adulthood. Through this **FREE** workshop series that brings together both the family and youth perspective, we give caregivers the tools they need as a vital part of their transition team through teaching, modeling, and support.

**Coinciding with AMPLIFY-NY's YLFs**, parents/caregivers attend the workshop on the first and last days of a YLF and participate in both individual and joint sessions with youth participants. This provides parents/caregivers the opportunity to support their youth attending a new event and witness them graduate the forum with pride (if participating).

**FFL also offers workshops in the Community!** These 1-2 hour workshops support parents/caregivers in supporting their young person on specific topics such as 'readiness to join the world of work,' 'SSI and work,' and more. These workshops take place after a YLF has been held.

YOUTH POWER! has partnered with Families Together in New York State, INCLUDEnyc and Parent Network of Western New York to develop this opportunity.



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## Opportunities to Get Involved

**Planning Group:** Leading the way in planning these forums is a peer-run statewide planning group that meets virtually 1-2 times per month. Young people ages 14-24 are invited to join this group to help design YLFs across the state. If interested in joining this group, complete our form by visiting [www.YOUTHPOWERNY.org/AMPLIFYNYpg](http://www.YOUTHPOWERNY.org/AMPLIFYNYpg)

**Volunteer as a Small Group Coach:** YP! is seeking young peer leaders to lead small group activities throughout YLFs. Volunteers will be paired with experienced leaders and given the tools they need to ensure the event is a success. YP! is able to assist volunteers with lodging, meals, and transportation. To volunteer at an upcoming YLF, contact [AMPLIFYNY@YOUTHPOWERNY.org](mailto:AMPLIFYNY@YOUTHPOWERNY.org)

**Sustainability Task Force:** In order to help this initiative continue to thrive, the sustainability task force works to build partnerships, share resources, and raise funds. This group is made of all stakeholders including youth, parents/caregivers, members from state agencies, and individuals who are familiar with fundraising, local private foundations, and recruiting sponsorships. This group meets at least four times for year. To join, contact [AMPLIFYNY@YOUTHPOWERNY.org](mailto:AMPLIFYNY@YOUTHPOWERNY.org)