

# 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) is a statewide member network that strengthens services and support for youth and families. We share a vision of Texas where all youth and young adults are valued, their strengths are recognized, and they have access to the resources and support they need to succeed.

## MESSAGE FROM FEDORA GALASSO, TNOYS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



For over 40 years, TNOYS has worked to improve outcomes for the millions of young Texans who face situations like abuse, neglect, homelessness, and juvenile justice involvement. In 2022 we were proud to deepen and expand our work across policy, practice, and partnership, creating a tangible impact that will help young people to thrive and achieve their dreams.

As I reflect on the past year, it is the stories of our diverse partners that truly stand out. Hundreds of youth, young adults, members, and stakeholders joined TNOYS in 2022 to influence statewide and national policy change, cutting-edge professional development, and new programs to amplify youth and young adult voices. United with our partners, TNOYS' strategic priorities guided many significant milestones.



**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** TNOYS continued to embed DEI across the organization as part of efforts to understand and dismantle inequities in systems. We made sure the voices of youth and providers were at the forefront of all TNOYS programming in 2022. We're proud to move forward in 2023 with a team and board of directors that comprises over 50% BIPOC/ LGBTQ+ individuals.



**Youth Voice and Youth-Adult Partnership:** TNOYS was proud to solidify our youth engagement roadmap, a stepped approach to engage young people and invest in them as leaders. In addition to expanding opportunities, we launched our new Texas Emerging Leaders Board as the final stage of the roadmap.



**Cross-Systems Collaboration:** Powerful change can happen when we center youth, young adults, and providers in work that impacts them. From training to advocacy, TNOYS offered numerous opportunities this year for youth, young adults, and providers to collaborate on solutions in youth services.



**Research and Performance-Driven Programming:** TNOYS has always made it a priority to bring the latest evidence-based, youth-focused programming to providers and young people. This year, we launched dozens of trainings and hosted two statewide conferences, connecting providers across our seven systems with cutting-edge, youth-focused professional development.

I am excited to share TNOYS' Annual Report, which is a snapshot of all we have achieved with our members and partners. As always, we are especially grateful to the outstanding organizations that make up our member network. Thank you for the important work that you do. We look forward to continuing to deepen and expand our efforts together in 2023.

## POLICY

In 2022, TNOYS listened to and learned from community members across the state, amplified their voices, and reflected their needs in our [88th Texas Legislative Session policy agenda](#).

With support from Episcopal Health Foundation, Journey to Success Campaign, Reissa Foundation and others, TNOYS brought hundreds of stakeholders into our work to build solutions across systems that serve young people. Dozens of YYA and professionals joined TNOYS' 12-session listening tour to share their ideas for policy change. Additionally, TNOYS relaunched our Statewide Collaborative on Youth Homelessness with Youth Homelessness Demonstration programs (YHDPs), professionals, and YYA represented. Across all our work this year, TNOYS served as experts to shape state and federal policy changes for youth experiencing homelessness, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CSEY) survivors, youth transitioning out of the foster care system, and many other vulnerable young people.

### *Looking ahead*

TNOYS will advocate for youth-focused, cross-systems policy change during the 88th Texas Legislative Session.



**160+**  
YYA and providers attended listening sessions

**260+**  
professionals joined TNOYS committees and workgroups

**70**  
youth voices amplified in policy change

statewide and national partners engaged



## PRACTICE

TNOYS connected thousands of providers to cutting-edge professional development in 2022. Professional and youth presenters led over 120 engaging workshops at our two statewide conferences, and TNOYS hosted 28 additional training opportunities throughout the year.

Additionally, dozens of organizations grew their impact through TNOYS resources and technical assistance. TNOYS listened to and learned from youth and providers to develop an assessment on trauma-informed care and community voice and many other materials. Finally, TNOYS consulted with 20 organizations seeking our expertise as a cross-systems, statewide network. We are grateful to the Texas Education Agency, the Office of the Texas Governor Child Sex Trafficking Team, Mission Capital, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and many other partners who helped us equip providers with critical skills and resources this year.

### *Looking ahead*

2023 will be a big year for TNOYS professional development, with new trainings and the 40th year of our Annual Conference on Services to Youth and Families in June. We invite providers across Texas to join us!



**2,800+**  
professionals trained in critical tools and skills to serve Texas YYA

**8**  
cutting-edge, proprietary trainings codeveloped with YYA

**18**  
external events hosted to train over 1,800+ YYA and professionals

**60**  
workshops facilitated or co-facilitated by YYA



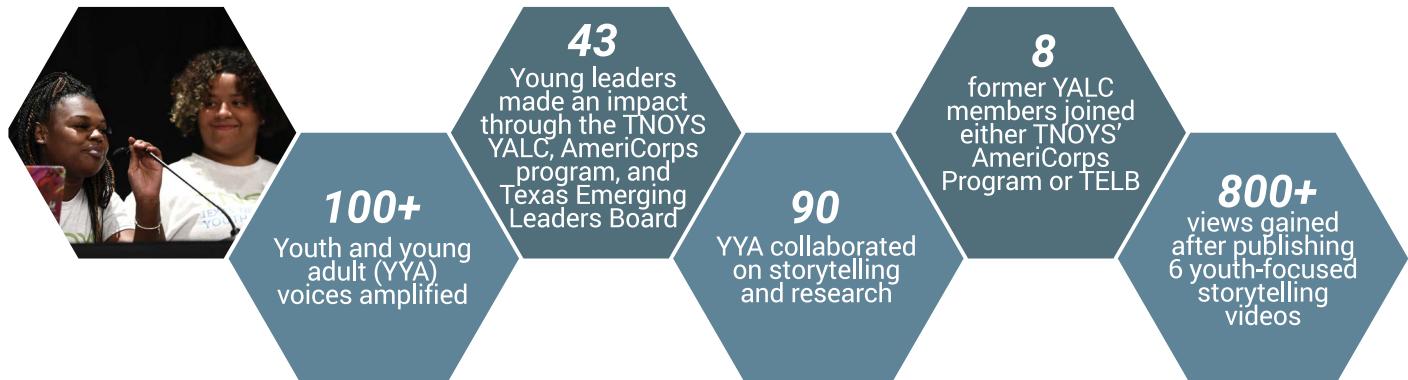
## PARTNERSHIPS

In 2022, TNOYS' [youth engagement programming](#) engaged over 100 youth and young adult partners with lived expertise. With support from Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission, North Texas Communities Foundation, and other partners, 90 YYA participated in Our Youth Voices: Listening Sessions and Storytelling program to share their stories and lived expertise, and ultimately contribute to community solutions. Videos featuring YYA are available on [TNOYS' YouTube page](#).

TNOYS also invested in youth as leaders through three work-based learning programs. The Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC) gave 24 YYA the opportunity to lead trainings, conduct research, and more. Additionally, TNOYS' AmeriCorps program, funded by OneStar Foundation, connected seven young people with full-time employment at TNOYS member organizations. Finally, TNOYS teamed up with Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions and Young Invincibles on the Texas Emerging Leaders Board (TELB), a new program and the final stage of our [youth engagement roadmap](#).

### *Looking ahead*

TNOYS is excited to relaunch PEAKS— our flagship experiential learning camp for youth in the foster care system— with new enhancements to popular programming and new additions for youth.



## STRENGTHENING YOUTH SERVICES THROUGH OUR MEMBER NETWORK

TNOYS' work would not be possible without the expertise of our diverse statewide member network. In 2022, we were proud to deepen our impact with new programming for members to build skills, effect change, and get connected with key stakeholders. TNOYS launched three members-only committees on prevention and early intervention, systems-change/ policy advocacy, and helping YYA with the transition out of systems and into adulthood, ultimately engaging over 80 members. Additionally, TNOYS connected our members with multiple opportunities for training, networking, and funding, including mini-grants to help keep youth safe from COVID-19 through our partnership with Texas A&M University Health and the Texas Department of State Health Services.

### *Looking ahead*

2023 brings many exciting opportunities for members to collaborate with TNOYS. We also look forward to celebrating our members at TNOYS' 40-year anniversary Gala, coming up in June 2023.



## SPOTLIGHT ON TNOYS YOUNG ADULT PARTNER: TIARA KIRKSEY

**"Today I was offered a full time position as a youth coordinator, but it all started here at TNOYS. YALC taught me how to be open-minded and guided me out of my shell, leading me to pursue social work full time. I want to thank the entire TNOYS staff for creating life-changing opportunities for youth."**



Tiara Kirksey,  
22, TNOYS  
Texas  
Emerging  
Leaders Board  
Member (TELB)

After experiencing systems-involvement as a teenager, Tiara knew she wanted to use her voice to help others who had been in her shoes. An online search led Tiara to the Young Adult Leadership Council: TNOYS' flagship, paid leadership development program. She promptly applied and was accepted.

Tiara showed incredible growth as a YALC member, taking the lead on policy advocacy, youth-led trainings, and more. Her milestones include speaking at the Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Program Summit, where hundreds of education professionals heard her powerful testimony about experiencing homelessness while in high school.

Though Tiara has graduated from the YALC, her journey is just beginning. She has taken the next step along TNOYS' youth engagement roadmap as a member of the Texas Emerging Leaders Board while juggling a new job. Tiara credits TNOYS with not only igniting her passion, but connecting her to skills and newfound confidence to put her dream into practice. As Tiara explains, "being a part of the YALC and TNOYS helped me with my confidence and made me realize the passion that I have for working with youth. {YALC} birthed the leader in me. It changed my course in life, because I felt a purpose to help those like me."

## SPOTLIGHT ON TNOYS MEMBER ORGANIZATION: CONNECTIONS INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY SERVICES

In 2022, TNOYS was excited to see many of our members in-person after two years of COVID-19 restrictions and virtual programming. Connections Individual and Family Services was just one member that took advantage of new opportunities to strengthen their services and have a voice in TNOYS' work.

Chief Communications Officer Megan Dupree explained that Connections has long valued TNOYS membership because the quality and volume of opportunities helps them be more innovative and remain current with industry standards. Connections took advantage of many membership benefits in 2022, including professional development at TNOYS' Annual Conference, the chance to have a say in TNOYS' policy advocacy, events to learn from YYA partners, and a \$5,000 mini-grant to help keep youth and young adults safe from COVID-19.

**"Staff at Connections understand that statewide collaboration is critical for broad-based change. The approach adopted by TNOYS follows current research and pushes change through policy, practice, and partnership. This comprehensive approach to action is critical for true change to occur."**

**Megan Dupree, Chief Communications Officer at Connections Individual and Family Services**

Connections looks forward to a wide range of opportunities with TNOYS in 2023. Members and stakeholders can learn about upcoming opportunities at [tnoys.org/events](http://tnoys.org/events).