

Good morning,

Please see below/attached for information and resources related to your work with older youth.

- NYTD Council Opportunity for Youth <https://www.payab.pitt.edu/files/NYTDCouncilFlyer.pdf>
- 2026 PSRFA Scholarship Program (application attached)
- Additional Resources/Opportunities for Youth

2026 PSRFA Scholarship Program:

The Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association (PSRFA) is currently accepting applications for our **2026 PSRFA Scholarship Program**, designed to support **resource youth who are graduating high school seniors** and planning to continue their education.

Scholarship Eligibility:

Youth may apply if they meet the following criteria:

- They are currently in the care of a **resource family** (foster, adoptive, or kinship)
- They are a **high school senior during the 2025–2026 school year**
- They plan to pursue **college, university, trade, or technical education**
- Their resource parent/family is an **active PSRFA member (\$25/year)**
 - Not a member? No problem! **Click here to become a member:** [\[Membership | Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association\]](#)

Important Deadline:

All applications must be submitted by April 21, 2026

How to Apply:

- Visit our website: www.psrfa.org
- Click on the Education tab \$B"*B PSRFA Scholarships
- Download, print, and complete the 2026 Scholarship Application

You can also go straight to the application here to download and print:

[\[The PSRFA Scholarship | Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association\]](#)

At PSRFA, our mission is *Families Helping Families*, and this scholarship program is one way we invest in the future of youth who have experienced foster care.

If you have any eligible youth or families, we strongly encourage you to share this opportunity and support them in applying.

If you have any questions or would like additional materials, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at MGeesaman@psrfa.org.

Thank you for all that you do to support youth across Pennsylvania.

Warmly,

Melissa

Melissa Geesaman

Executive Director, Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association (PSRFA)

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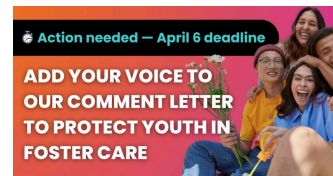
Phone/Fax: 1-800-951-5151

Additional Resources/Opportunities for Youth:

Take Action: Protect LGBTQ+ Youth in Foster Care

Family Equality is gathering input to shape a movement-wide sign-on letter opposing the proposed rescission of the HHS/ACF Designated Placement Rule—an important protection for LGBTQ+ youth in foster care. Caregivers, child welfare professionals, individuals with lived experience, and organizations are especially encouraged to share perspectives through [Family Equality's short submission portal here](#), which includes an FAQ and overview of the issue. Input is collected through March 30. Organizations may also choose to be acknowledged in the final letter.

Public comments can also be submitted [directly to the Federal Register through April 6.](#)



New Family Support Video



This 5-minute animated video highlights how powerful family support can be for the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ youth. It shows how small actions can make a big difference in helping young people feel safe, valued, and supported. The video also shares simple examples of helpful behaviors and a few things to avoid. Watch created with families in mind, it can also be used by educators, providers, and community members who want to better support LGBTQ+ youth. [Watch now](#)

Participants Needed for a Study on Black Young Adults' Experiences with Depression

A research study at Montclair State University is recruiting Black young adults to share their lived experiences with depression and mental health services. With suicide rates rising among Black youth and mental health needs often overlooked, this study seeks to center the voices and stories of Black young adults beyond statistics. Participants will take part in a confidential, 80 minute semi structured interview via Zoom to discuss their experiences with depression and accessing care. Eligible participants identify as Black, are 18–25 or older, have personal experience with depression, and are willing to share their story. Participants will receive a \$50 Amazon e gift card. For more information, contact Melody Benedict at benedictm@montclair.edu.

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED
Voluntary, Anonymous, and Confidential
A Study on Black Young Adults' Experiences with Depression

Our Mission:
• To explore the lived experiences of Black young adults and their interactions with mental health services

Participants:
• Black young adults (18-25 years of age)
• Identify as Black (of African descent)
• Have personal experience with depression or anxiety
• Willing to share their story in a confidential interview and receive a \$50 Amazon e gift card

Study Goals:
• This research will help us understand the experiences Black young adults and better understand the ways they access mental health services
• We want to learn more about the experiences of Black young adults and how they access mental health services

Contact Us:
Melody Benedict
Assistant Professor of Social Work
Assistant Professor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Compensation:
In appreciation of your time, you will receive a \$50 gift card.

Privacy:
This study has been approved by the Montclair State University Institutional Review Board (IRB) #2020-001.

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

Have a great weekend.

Thank you,