



YOTO's Five Advocacy Priorities

2023 & 2024 Advocacy Platform

WHY ADVOCACY?

Youth On Their Own both delivers direct social services and advocates for just and equitable public policies that will help change conditions that give rise to the need for our services and/or improve the long-term success of YOTO youth.

ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Most of YOTO's advocacy activities are intended to raise public awareness about systems-level challenges impacting the lives of YOTO youth and/or YOTO as an organization. Occasionally, when approved by the board, YOTO may take a formal position on a piece of legislation.

FUNDING FOR K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION

Nearly all of YOTO's high school youth attend public school. Schools are not only where youth learn, but also where they eat, access social networks, and access community resources. *YOTO advocates for a thriving, well-funded K-12 public school system.*

ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Accessible education/trade pathways for YOTO alumni are essential for long-term self-sufficiency. *YOTO advocates for opportunities for all YOTO youth to access post-secondary education.*

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Only 64% of unhoused youth will finish high school compared to the national average of 84%. Housing affordability has declined significantly as home and rent prices have increased. *YOTO advocates for stable, affordable housing options for YOTO youth and their host families.*

ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS

Access to basic needs is a significant barrier to youth succeeding in school. Youth experiencing hunger are more likely to be absent from school, and one in five menstruating youth miss school due to lack of period products. *YOTO advocates for increased access to food, period products, and other basic needs for YOTO youth.*

TAX INCENTIVES FOR YOTO DONORS

YOTO receives significant annual revenue through the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit, as well as other gift methods with tax benefits (federal tax deductions, IRA qualified charitable distributions, etc). These vital resources are central to YOTO's financial stability and execution of our mission. *YOTO advocates for state and federal tax incentives for charitable contributions.*