



Now Hiring: 2026 Peer Engagement Interns

Locations:

- One work-from-home position in Los Angeles;
- One work-from home position in San Francisco

Pay: \$26/hour; up to 20 hours/week

Employment Status: Non-exempt

Reports To: LA Policy & Engagement Manager

Time Period: Late August 2026 to February 2027

About This Opportunity

This isn't a typical internship. As a Peer Engagement Intern at NFYI, you won't just be observing — you'll be leading. Working alongside NFYI staff, you'll co-design and drive a community engagement project focused on the intersection of housing stability and mental/behavioral health, and how these factors impact the wellbeing and long-term success of foster youth.

This position is designed for young adults with recent lived experience in the foster care system. Our peer engagement model is most effective when interns share their experience and generational context of youth they'll be working alongside.

Your voice and your experience matter here. This program is built on the belief that the people closest to the problem are closest to the solution — and that foster youth lived expertise belongs at the center of efforts to change the systems that impact their lives.

What You'll Do

- Co-design and lead a peer engagement project focused on housing stability and mental/behavioral health for foster youth
- Engage and mobilize current and former foster youth while lifting the collective youth voice
- Facilitate listening sessions and community conversations with young people impacted by the child welfare system
- Conduct research and develop educational materials to support advocacy efforts
- Engage directly with youth advocates, decision makers, nonprofit partners, and child welfare stakeholders
- Develop local policy recommendations under the guidance of NFYI staff
- Create reports, presentations, and social media posts describing NFYI's work, impact, and policy recommendations
- Support NFYI with ongoing projects, campaigns and initiatives
- Help plan and participate in a public forum, bringing together LA or SF organizations, youth-serving agencies, healthcare providers, youth, and child welfare experts to explore real policy solutions.



What You'll Gain

- Hands-on experience in grassroots organizing and community engagement
- Skills in public speaking, facilitation, research, and civic engagement
- A deeper understanding of child welfare policy at the local and national level
- Mentorship from NFYI staff and connections to leaders across the child welfare sector
- Career readiness skills and a professional network to take with you beyond the internship
- The opportunity to create something real; your work that will be shared publicly and inform systems change

Who We're Looking For

You don't need a resume full of experience. You need lived experience, curiosity, and a drive to make things better for young people navigating foster care. We're looking for someone who is:

- A current or former foster youth (required)
- Based in Los Angeles or San Francisco (required)
- Between 18 and 30
- Interested in housing, mental health, child welfare policy, or community advocacy
- Comfortable — or willing to get comfortable — facilitating conversations and speaking in front of groups
- Organized, dependable, and able to work both independently and collaboratively
- Able to maintain confidentiality and communicate respectfully across diverse communities
- Strong written and verbal communicator with a willingness to seek out varied perspectives
- This position requires working both from a home office, with occasional travel to program events and meetings around LA County or San Francisco County
- Must be willing to use personal equipment, such as reliable internet service, cell phone and laptop/tablet

About NFYI

Founded in 2012, the National Foster Youth Institute empowers current and former foster youth to use their lived experiences to drive systemic change in child welfare. We connect young people with policymakers, build their leadership skills, and amplify their voices at every level of government. We believe that lasting reform happens when the people who have lived it help lead the way.

Please apply by submitting a cover letter and resume by July 31 [using the form at this link](#).