



The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act and Foster Youth to Independence

Ohio foster care youth and alumni were deeply honored to co-architect with the National Center for Housing and Child Welfare to design two federal provisions:

- The **Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act** is youth-driven (in every sense), because the only reason it exists is that Ohio foster care youth and alumni volunteered their time, fundraised locally, and traveled to D.C. annually, from 2013-2020, with the goal of ending the Foster Care to Homeless Pipeline.
- The **Foster Youth to Independence** initiative, as established by HUD, provides on-demand housing vouchers to public housing authorities to prevent or end homelessness among young adults under age 25, with a history of foster care.

Both of these provisions were made possible because of the Three Days on the Hill and our ongoing collaboration with NCHCW.

Three Days on the Hill is an annual trip designed by ACTION Ohio to provide foster care youth and alumni with opportunities to further their leadership development. After participating in DC-based training and preparation, participants share their lived experience to educate for positive change. During solutions-focused meetings with federal legislators, participants deepen their knowledge about legislative processes.

These DC visits led to Ohio foster care youth literally writing and passing a federal law called the Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act. Their national petition to support this bill received over 55,000 signatures. The National Center for Housing and Child Welfare has been, and continues to be, a tireless ally of this ongoing work.

