Unaccompanied, homeless youth have little to no relationship with their parents. Many of these youth are homeless because they were either kicked out of their home or had to leave due to fear for their own safety. Being young is hard enough, but without parents in their lives these youth cannot obtain any of the documents, like an ID, they need to establish a life for themselves.

Homelessness can look many different ways, from doubling up with friends and family to living in a hotel or shelter to living on the streets. No matter what homelessness looks like for a family, the youth all lack a fixed address and face significant barriers to accessing essential documents.

Black and system involved youth are disproportionately impacted by homelessness. Nationally, Black families make up 54% of families experiencing homelessness, and Black youth ages 16-24 are 83% more likely to experience homelessness than any other race. Additionally, 33% of homeless youth have been involved in the foster care system and 50% have been involved in the juvenile justice system.

By updating Kentucky’s homeless ID law, we can set youth experiencing homelessness towards a path of finding stability where they live, how they earn, and as a vital member of the Commonwealth at minimal costs to the state.

**Blueprint for Kentucky’s Children Policy Solution:**

Update Kentucky’s homeless ID law to allow unaccompanied homeless youth to get an ID without parental permission

kyyouth.org/blueprintky/