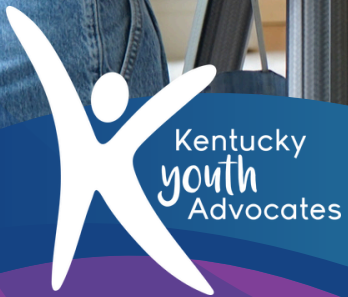




Young advocates, Cayden and Zach, are interviewed by KET at a KYA event.



Kentucky
youth
Advocates

2025 - 2026

Impact Report

ADVOCATES AND FRIENDS,



As I retire from KYA, it would be easy to look back – and I would do so with a spirit of enthusiasm. KYA has been the professional call of my life, and I have been honored to work alongside so many brilliant colleagues, committed partners, and courageous political leaders during the last two decades.

I look back at Kentucky's track record on kids since 2005 and respectfully would assert that we can see progress – real progress – in literally every sector. And yet looking back neither challenges nor inspires me like looking ahead.

KYA has a buoyant future, led by a new generation of imaginative leaders with Dr. Shannon Moody at the helm. As the independent voice for Kentucky's kids, KYA is positioned to be a catalyst for elected officials and on-the-ground colleagues to create a blizzard of good for our Commonwealth's kids.

KYA will continue its efforts to improve the daily realities of children in each of our 120 counties. And when that happens – and it will – then ... at last ... Kentucky will indeed be the best place in America to be young.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jay Brook'.



Introducing our new executive director, Dr. Shannon Moody!

Dr. Moody, currently KYA's Chief Policy & Strategy Officer, brings extensive experience within the child policy sphere, working closely with advocates, individuals with lived experience, and lawmakers and other decisionmakers.



Serving as the Lobbyists for **Kentucky Kids**

As the “**Kid Lobbyists**” in Frankfort, KYA advocates for our youngest and most vulnerable in the halls of the Capitol and in the media every legislative session and beyond.



Through data-driven advocacy and authentic storytelling, we speak up on proposals that are good for kids and speak out on ideas that pose a threat to child well-being.

While advocacy is vital, direct lobbying of elected officials is a necessity to ensure real progress in Frankfort.

Your support allows KYA to remain as **THE independent voice** and to serve as **THE lobbyists for kids** – without it, our legacy of wins would not be possible.



Legislative Wins

House Bill 6 strengthens quality and access to child care, especially for children with special needs.



Founded By



House Bill 102 addresses sexual misconduct in schools.

Senate Bill 122 holds parents accountable in ways that minimize the impact of incarceration on children.



During the session, KYA secured nearly **80 media mentions** and **296,450 views** and **10,955 interactions** on social media.



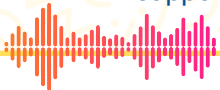
Children's Advocacy Day

During this year's Children's Advocacy Day (CAD), more than **350 advocates from across Kentucky** convened in Frankfort to elevate issues impacting children and families.

The day featured three engaging events at the Capitol, including a Town Hall with state legislators, a youth-led Pep Rally, and an interactive Policy and Play session that fostered meaningful dialogue between young people and policymakers.

Additionally, a group of 50 young people gathered the night before CAD for a mock committee activity and immersive storytelling workshop to build their skills before engaging with elected officials.

These efforts **elevated youth advocacy** by connecting advocates and young people directly with legislators, strengthening relationships, and advancing policies that support Kentucky kids and families.



5 media outlets covered CAD, reaching an estimated **100,000 Kentuckians**. Social media engagement was also strong in the weeks surrounding the day at the Capitol with nearly **46,500 impressions**.





Kentucky Eviction Data Dashboard: Turning Insight Into Action

Eviction is a critical issue impacting families and communities across Kentucky. To support more informed, data-driven responses, KYA launched the Kentucky Eviction Data Dashboard. This interactive tool displays eviction filings and trends across the state from 2022-2024.

The dashboard was developed to help policymakers, advocates, and community members understand the scope of eviction in Kentucky and its impact on kids and families.



SCAN HERE
OR GO TO
kyyouth.org/evictionsky/

Elevating Youth Voice for Change



Elevating youth voice is essential to creating policies that reflect the real needs and experiences of young people.

This commitment was put into action through the “Elevating the Voices of Youth Advocates” initiative, a cohort-based partnership with three organizations in Louisville that engaged 50 young people from diverse backgrounds in advocacy training and direct engagement with decision-makers.

Participants built practical skills through trainings, workshops, and a mock legislative committee experience, and applied what they learned at Children’s Advocacy Day at the Capitol, where they met with legislators and advocated for policies.

The initiative strengthened participants’ confidence and sense of agency, with one adult leader noting, *“My young people left feeling confident and encouraged that their voices matter... watching them come out of their shells and speak up was a personal joy.”*

This strategic effort engaged young people not just as subjects of advocacy, but as architects and leaders of systemic change.

*Initiative supported by the
Jewish Heritage Fund*





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Financials

Fiscal Year October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025

Contributions: \$658,939

Fee for service: \$575,181

Government grants: \$90,000

Foundation and organizational grants: \$1,824,303

Contributions of nonfinancial assets: \$9,667

Program revenue: \$149,515

Other revenue: \$59,072


Total revenue:
\$3,366,677


Decrease in net assets:
(\$623,627)


Total expenses:
\$3,990,304

Final net assets:
\$1,748,169

Expenses

 **Program Expenses**
\$3,306,620

 **General/Administrative**
\$476,997

 **Fundraising**
\$206,687

Champions for Children

Thank you to these donors and funders for their generous support.

\$100,000+

Aetna Better Health of Kentucky
CareQuest Institute for Oral Health
Casey Family Programs
Commonwealth of Kentucky
Gheens Foundation
Frank and Paula Harshaw
Jewish Heritage Fund
Kosair for Kids
U.S. Department for Health and Human Services

\$20,000-\$99,999

3LS Ventures
American Heart Association
Annie E. Casey Foundation
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James Graham Brown Foundation
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\$5,000-\$19,999

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\$1,000-\$4,999

Attend Behavior
Baldwin Consulting
BCI Broadcast Group - WDRB
Bellarmine University
Children's Alliance of Kentucky
CHNK Behavioral Health
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UnitedHealthcare
University of Louisville Research Foundation
Volunteers of America Mid-States
Western Kentucky University
YMCA of Greater Louisville









Kentucky Youth Advocates is the independent voice for Kentucky kids. We advocate for policies that give children the best possible opportunities for a brighter future and are making Kentucky the best place in America to be young.

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