



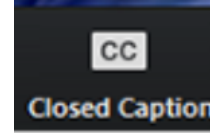
Empowering Youth Engagement:

Insights from RAISE Mini-Projects

July 21, 2025

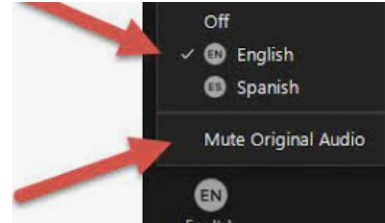
Using Closed Captioning

- To start using CC, click the caption button



Uso de la interpretación de idiomas

- Hagan clic en el icono de interpretación
- Seleccionen "Spanish"
- Después de seleccionar "español", hagan clic "Mute Original Audio"



Using ASL

To pin the interpreter, hover over the video of the participant you want to pin and click ...From the menu, click Pin.



The [National RAISE Center](#) provides technical assistance to support youth and young adults with disabilities and their families during transition

- Webinars
- E-newsletters
- Resources
- Summits

Empowering Youth Engagement: Insights from RAISE Mini-Grant Recipients

RAISE mini-grant recipients share their experiences co-creating resources with youth leaders with disabilities, strengthening engagement, fostering innovation, and building lasting partnerships





The Federation for Children with Special Needs



FCSN's Youth Advisory Board



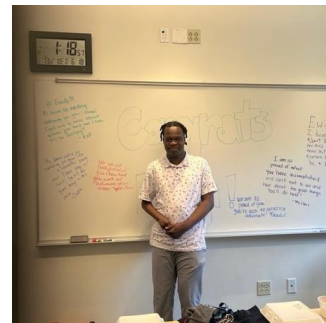
Andrew



Arlene



Austin



Ewidji



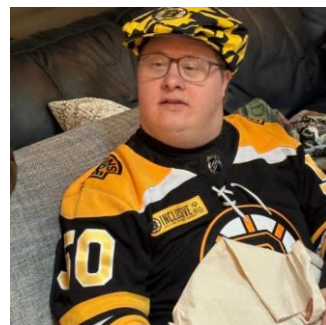
Garnet



Kamisha



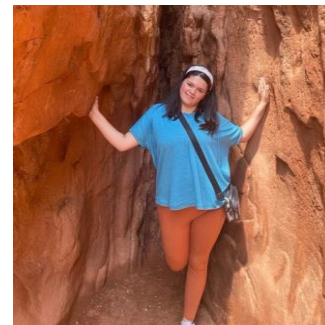
Matty



Ned



Olivia



Tatiana

About the Youth Advisory Board

- Started in August 2024
- 10 members from across MA with different life experiences
- Current members between 20-32 years old
- \$50 stipend/month
- What they do:
 - Panel about transition topics with FCSN & other organizations
 - Play a key role in organizing & staffing FCSN conferences and events
 - Create content
 - Facilitate social events for other youth
 - Provide feedback on FCSN's work



Project Decision Process

- Proposed a webinar where YAB members would give testimonies on a topic of their choice
- Presented the YAB with 4 topics:
 - What I wish I knew before transition
 - Seeking employment as a person with a disability
 - Community building and friendship
 - Transportation
- Through ranked-choice voting, the YAB chose to do their webinar about **Transportation**



Making the Webinar

- Each YAB member had several 1-on-1 meetings to prepare their testimony and coordinate topics to be covered
- In a YAB meeting, members shared their topics and draft testimonies, received helpful feedback from Sean Spence (YETI)
- Testimonies recorded over Zoom meetings
- Video edited, captioned, uploaded to FCSN's YouTube channel
- Companion article to promote the webinar coming out this summer in FCSN's Newsline!
- Mini-grant has gone toward sustaining stipends & in-person planning/bonding

Topics Covered

- Navigating public transportation with different disabilities
- Driving as a hearing-impaired person
- Accessible rideshare services, pros and cons
- The challenges of unreliable transportation as a person with many commitments
- Journey to becoming more independent with transportation
- Travel training
- City walkability and accessing everyday needs
- Ideas for the future of transportation access
- And more!



Watch the webinar here!



<https://youtu.be/JeTJBXhzYkc?si=4FSgRIQo0pzo16u3>

*Transition to Post Secondary Life
Experiences
Entitlement to Eligibility
Always Presuming Competence*



LIAC - RAISE TRANSITION VIDEO

- Goal: To highlight individuals who worked hard to have successful transitions from school to post secondary life
- Highlight their stories through video format to create an encouraging resource for those who are beginning or in the middle of their transitioning from high school to post secondary experiences
- We targeted young adults, working with four folks who were all at different points of their transition
- An abbreviated 9 minute version was shown at the conference in Denver back in April, with a full 20 minute video posted to the LIAC YouTube page and distributed widely
- Each participant is currently working at jobs that they enjoy, and were excited and willing to celebrate their stories





“We Want to be Heard” Voices of Whitmer High School

**When youth voice is heard:
Real Change Happens**



Meet Michael and Amy



This isn't just a
conversation, it's a
**blueprint for
change!**

We Want to be Heard – Part 1

We Want to be Heard – Part 2

We Want to be Heard – Part 3

Contact Information

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- michaeluheryeti@gmail.com




Youth Point of View Mini-Grant Presentation


A Youth Point of View member wanted a flyer that he could share in his High Schol with other students and staff about Self-Advocacy. This has been shared with schools across ND.



Tips for Advocacy




01 Focus On Your Goals
-Do you have goals in your life that you would like to achieve?
-What are your goals for the future?



02 Always Do Your Best
-Doing your best in everything you do is more fulfilling and shows that you want to be successful

03 Take Time For Rest
-It's important to rest your mind and your body to stay healthy

04 Put Yourself Out There & Get Involved
-Try new things
-Being involved is a great way to make new friends and help others




05 Communicate With Your Teachers
-Proper communication is important to excel in your school work

06 Take Notes
-Actively participate in your classes
-Taking notes and staying up to date on your task leads to better outcomes

07 Don't Procrastinate
-Waiting until the end will only increase your stress and cause you to be less successful

info@pathfinder-nd.org pathfinder-nd.org 701.637.7500

YOUTH **POV** PATHFINDER SERVICES OF ND  **RAISE**



Youth Point of View Mini-Grant Presentation

YOUTH COMMUNICATION IDEAS
How to make sure your voice is heard

- 1 Be Positive**
Being positive can change the direction of a conversation in a good way.
- 2 Always Show Respect**
Be kind to those you are communicating with to help the mood of the conversation.
- 3 Be Clear**
Being clear with your words helps to ensure there is no misunderstanding.
- 4 Don't Accuse**
Ask for clarification if you don't understand what the other person is talking about.
- 5 Don't be Afraid to Ask for Help**
Ask someone you trust for help and support if you need different ideas communicating your needs.
- 6 Practice, Practice, Practice**
Practicing helps you learn and grow your communication skills.

info@pathfinder-nd.org pathfinder-nd.org 701-837-7500

YOUTH **POV** PATHFINDER SERVICES OF ND **RAISE**

Youth POV has been working on a Communication webinar, they decided to create a one-page flyer to accompany that webinar.



A SPAN Project*

Mini-grant project presentation
July 21, 2025

Project Goals



BUILD COMMUNITY

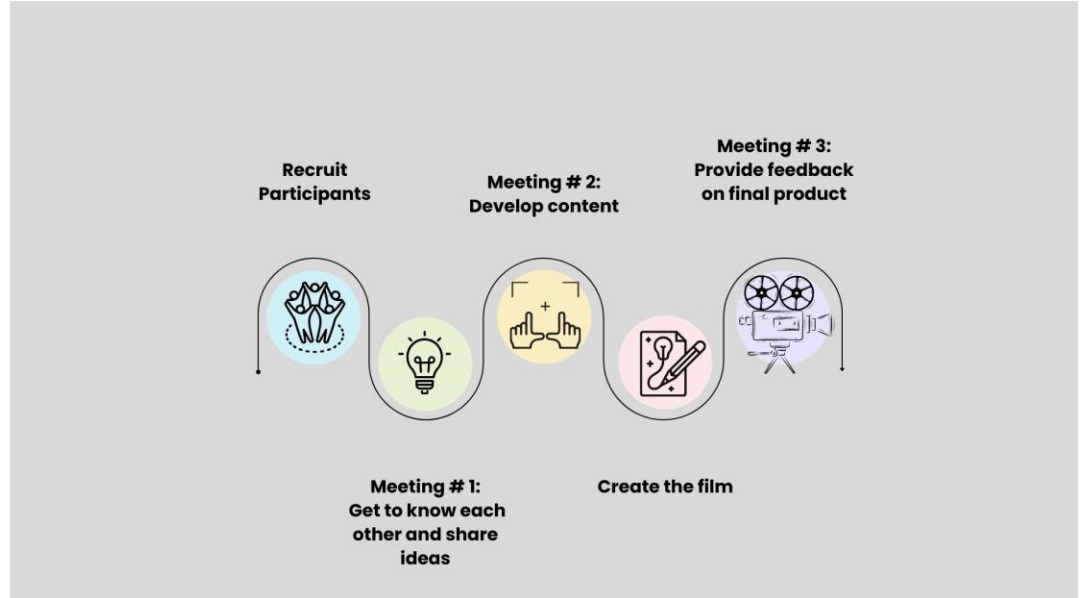


**DEVELOP SELF-
ADVOCACY SKILLS**

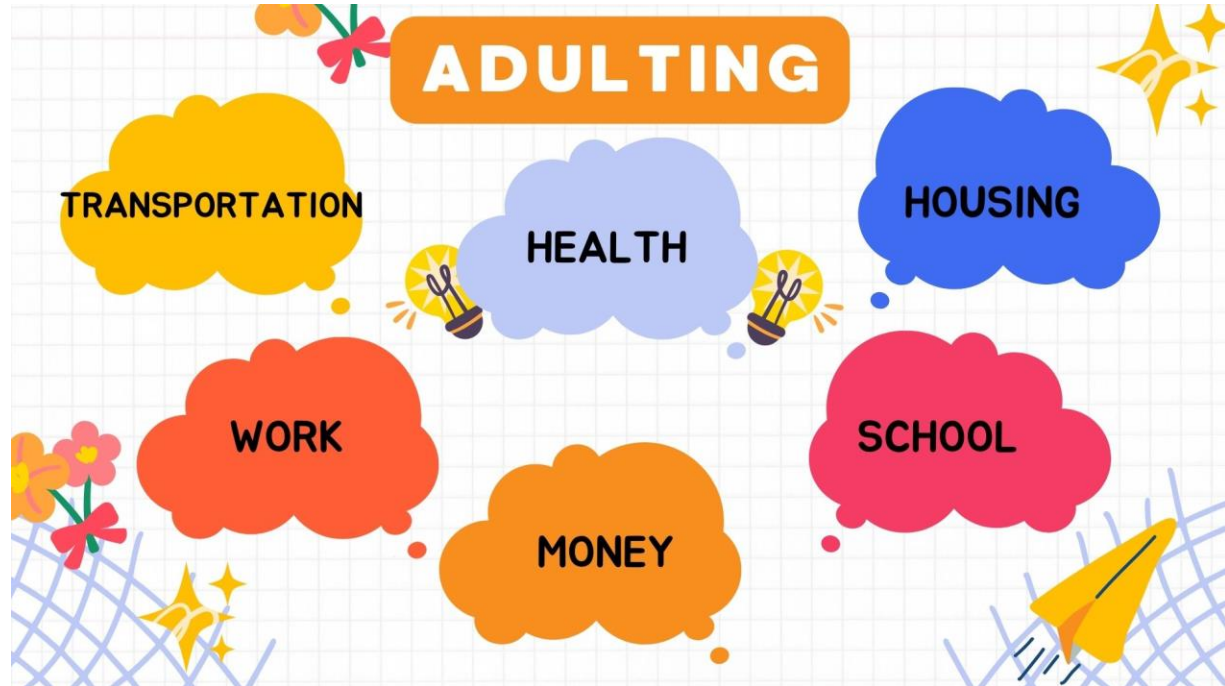


**CO-CREATE YOUTH-
FRIENDLY RESOURCE**

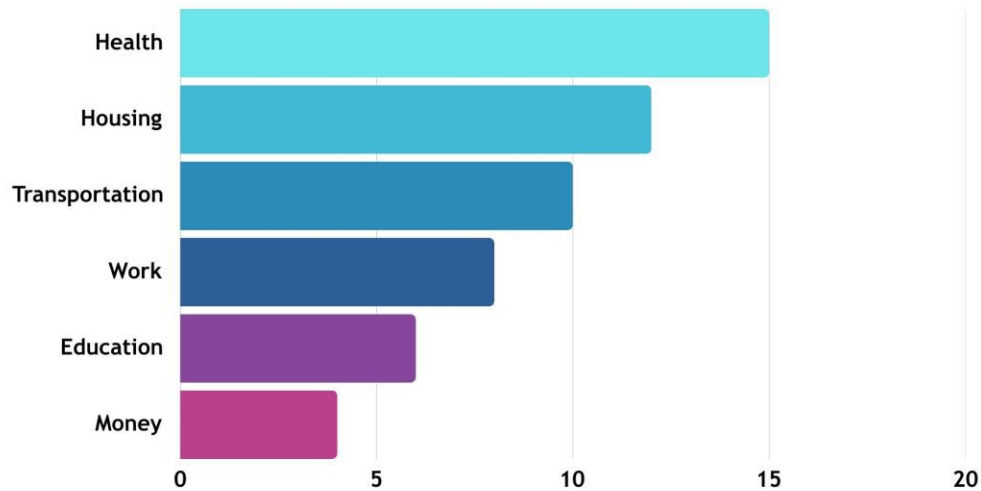
Project Timeline



Topic Identification



Topic Ranking



Topic Brainstorm



Mentimeter

Brainstorm: Topic #1: HEALTH

19 responses

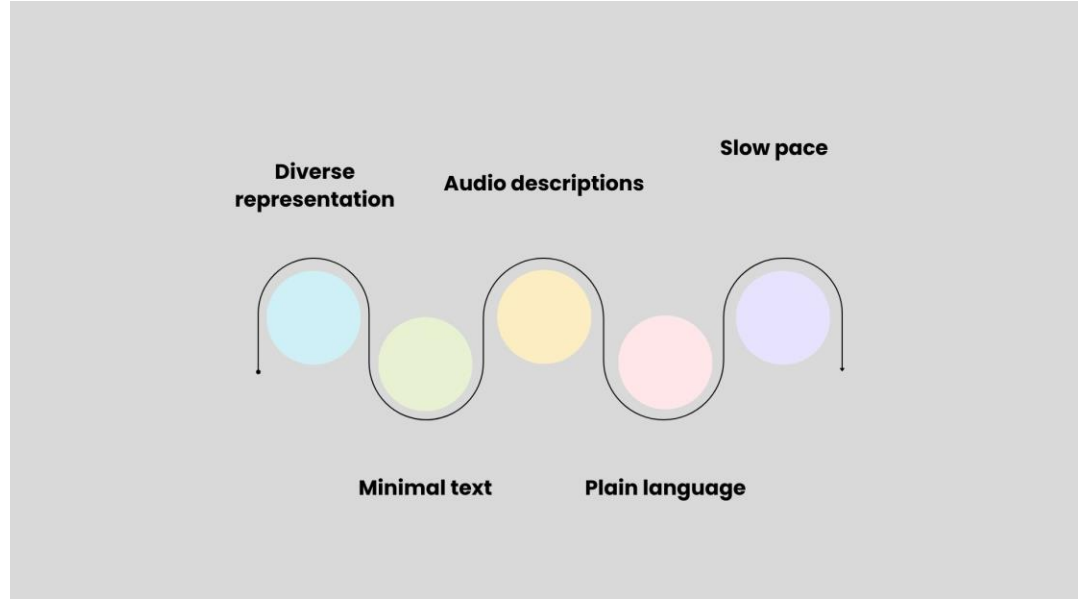
How to meet personal care/basic needs	Having someone to talk to if you need too	PCA crisis, hiring PAs
what to do if PAs cancel	reproductive health	Gynecology and reproductive health
Making sure you take time to do things you enjoy	Health insurance	Sexuality and relationships
Leaving time for time with family	Bathroom needs	benefits like SSI/medicaid and determining eligibility

The image shows a screenshot of a Mentimeter brainstorming session. The title is 'Brainstorm: Topic #1: HEALTH' with 19 responses. The responses are displayed in a grid of 12 blue rounded rectangles, arranged in 4 rows and 3 columns. The responses cover various aspects of healthcare and personal care, including personal care needs, support, PCA crisis, PAs, reproductive health, gynecology, sexuality, health insurance, family time, bathroom needs, and benefits like SSI/medicaid.

Content Development



Film Creation



Final Product

[Self-care for youth with disabilities](#)

Gratitude and Testimonials

Thank you to the following young people who participated:

Emily Ingalls, Noah Cohen, Opal Besaw, Joe Delgado, Hannah Gallivan, Lexia Stanley

"I loved going to the meetings! They were fun and it was good to be a part of it."

"It means a lot to me that you decided to take on this project. Transition is a really hard time in one's life, and I feel like a lot of students fall through the cracks."



Missouri Youth Voices Of Independent & Collective Education



*A SPAN Project**



Purposes	Examples
Learn to lead and advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leading MyVoice meetings• Deciding group actions• Presenting to youth and professionals• Learning from national organizations (RAISE, YETI)
Help Missouri youth find their voices and become strong leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presenting at Missouri's statewide Transition Training Institute• Presenting at regional transition network (RTN) events• Volunteering as MPACT mentors
Help MPACT improve its youth programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating content for MPACT (Student-Led IEP video project)• Providing feedback on MPACT training materials



Parent Training and Information Center of Nebraska

PTI Nebraska

Informed Parents = Improved Outcomes for Children with Disabilities

Youth Point of View Project

- Worked with 11 students in a Life and Career Readiness Class who receive special education services
- This Class focused on preparing students for life after high school, including employability skills, self-advocacy, and various independent living skills like money management and budgeting

Youth Point of View Project

- Preparing for Work
 - Learn about your disability
 - Describe your strengths
 - Describe your specific needs/challenges
 - Disclose information about your disability

Youth Point of View Project

- Preparing for Work
 - Researching what appropriate and reasonable accommodations can be provided in the workplace based on your specific needs
 - Helpful Resource = Job Accommodation Network (JAN)

Youth Point of View Project

- Developed “In My Shoes” Youth Point of View on Workplace Accommodations Handout



Youth Point of View Project

In My Shoes - Youth Point of View on Workplace Accommodations



Advocating for yourself is one of the most important skills you can learn! Speaking up about your needs in the workplace helps make sure you get the support you need to succeed. The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) can help you explore different accommodations you can have in the workplace that fits your unique needs.

Our voice on why JAN is a great resource!

- It has a lot of different disabilities on the website. You can learn a lot from it -Skylar G.
- People can find helpful ways to start a job -Zane
- You can learn new ways to help make yourself be independent -Savanah
- It is useful and it works wonders -Collin
- I learned about the rights at work -Anon

After learning about our disabilities and/or health conditions, we explored the JAN website and discovered some helpful workplace accommodations for us. Check out the great examples we found that fit our specific needs!



What is the Job Accommodation Network (JAN)?

JAN is the leading source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on job accommodations. JAN's resources help people with disabilities understand workplace accommodations. If you or your child/young adult needs support at work due to a disability or health condition, JAN can help!

Visit JAN to find:

Practical ideas and creative solutions to help employees with disabilities succeed at work

Private, no-cost guidance for employees, parents, and employers

Information on disability rights in the workplace, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and how it protects workers with disabilities

Help for employers on how to create more inclusive work environments for all employees

How to Access JAN?

-Visit the website: ask-jan.org

-Call: 1-800-526-7234

Youth Point of View Project

Workplace Accommodations To Help Us Succeed

<input type="checkbox"/> Color contrast overlays to increase legibility of a paper document <input type="checkbox"/> E-Book reader that reads [information] for you -Asher M.	<input type="checkbox"/> Flexible schedule to work optimally during hours of increased attentiveness <input type="checkbox"/> Job restructuring to modify the essential functions of a job by changing when or how they are done <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor or coach <input type="checkbox"/> Breaks <input type="checkbox"/> Task check sheets -Skylar G.	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear, written instructions <input type="checkbox"/> Checklist of what to do <input type="checkbox"/> Task separation to help manage and understand tasks better <input type="checkbox"/> Be patient and communicate slowly about what I need to do -Stanley
<input type="checkbox"/> Smart watch to help manage time <input type="checkbox"/> Google Play apps to help with attentiveness and concentration -Collin	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra time for projects and tasks <input type="checkbox"/> Explaining and demonstrating to me what to do -Anthony P.	<input type="checkbox"/> Color coded manuals, outlines, and maps for easy access to information and to improve efficiencies <input type="checkbox"/> Reading pen to help me figure out how to pronounce the words and understand the meaning -Savannah
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 1 communication so I know what to do <input type="checkbox"/> Positive feedback so I won't stress over big tasks -Marcel C.	<input type="checkbox"/> Checklist to keep on track <input type="checkbox"/> A schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Task flowchart to help with multi-tasking, remembering, and concentrating -Trevor	<input type="checkbox"/> Teamwork <input type="checkbox"/> Set a time limit to show up on the schedule to complete a task that is given -Anon
<input type="checkbox"/> Color code system for organization <input type="checkbox"/> Noise-cancelling headphones to block out distracting noises <input type="checkbox"/> Reminders -Zane		

Final Thoughts From Your In My Shoes Youth with Disabilities!

- Each person with [a disability] is unique and has their own strengths and challenges - Skylar G.
- Ask for help whenever [you] need help -Stefon
- What works for one person may not work for another -Savannah
- Being different can help you to be true to yourself. Not everyone has to be the same and it's ok to be different -Savannah
- Being different isn't bad, it's just unique! -Zane

**THANK YOU for your
time today!!!**

Keep Advocating On!



Thank You
for joining us for this webinar!

Please complete our survey

**For more information,
please contact us at:
raisecenter.org**