

# YOUTH COMMUNICATION'S 22ND ANNUAL AWARDS FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

New York City youth only

**represent**  
THE VOICE OF YOUTH IN CARE

## \$11,000 in prizes for 10 winners

Youth Communication sponsors this award to promote a more positive image of New York City foster youth among agency staff, youth workers, and the general public. Ten young people will be awarded prize money at a ceremony in spring 2020. The prize money can be spent however the winner likes, although it is recommended that it be spent on education-related activities.

## General Rules

**Who Can Nominate a Young Person:** Entrants can be nominated by any adult (including teachers, mentors, agency staff, youth workers, religious leaders, foster parents, biological parents). The adult must write a letter of recommendation for the young person. Adults should nominate young people who have shown resilience, helped others, and achieved personal and academic success. Each nominator may nominate one young person.

**Who Is Eligible to Be Nominated:** Any current or former foster youth in the New York City foster care system who was born in 1999 or later. People born before 1999 are not eligible.

**Grand Prize winners from previous years are not eligible. Other previous winners may apply.**

**How the winners will be selected:** A judging committee will read all entries and choose the winners. The decision of the judges is final.

You must write two essays. The first essay must be no more than 1,000 words. The second essay must be no more than 500 words. If your essays are too long it will count against you. (A very short essay won't win either.)

**Essay #1** For many people nowadays, including youth in care and those who have aged out, "family" extends beyond the traditional mom, dad, and child to "chosen families." Chosen families are made up of friends, mentors, relatives, and anyone else you count on. Who is your chosen family? Who would you like it to be? How do you care for each other?

**Essay #2** Describe a time when you did something that you felt made a positive impact on someone else. Why was it important to the person you helped? To you? (This can include helping siblings, volunteering, or any other time when you went out of your way to help someone else.)

*Hint: A good essay will include a detailed description of your experience and, most important, reflection on how the experience changed your thinking or inspired you.*

Apply Online: [bit.ly/afy-2020](https://bit.ly/afy-2020)

or

Apply by mail

- 1) Complete form on reverse side
- 2) Get an adult to nominate you and write your letter of recommendation
- 3) Write both essays
- 4) Mail packet to:  
Virginia Vitzthum  
Represent-Awards for Youth in Foster Care  
242 W. 38<sup>th</sup> St., 6<sup>th</sup> fl.  
New York, NY 10018

## Deadline: March 2, 2020

Your complete entry, including the entry form, two essays, and adult recommendation letter, must be postmarked by March 2, 2020

*All entries become property of Youth Communication. Winning essays will be edited for brevity and clarity and printed in the program.*

Thank you to the Sunny and Abe Rosenberg Foundation, the Tin Man Fund, and the College Board for supporting this year's awards.



# AWARDS FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

New York City youth only

**Deadline:** March 2, 2020

Please print neatly or type

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Information About the Young Person Being Nominated**

Name		E-mail
Street Address	Apt. #	Telephone
Borough	State	Zip
Young Person's Agency		
Total Length of Time in Foster Care	Dates of Time in Foster Care (from _____ to _____)	
Current School Grade (if any)	Current School (if any)	
Date of Birth	Gender	

If you win, do you want your name to appear with your essay on our website and in the program? \_\_\_\_\_

**Information About the Adult Making the Nomination**

Name		E-mail
Agency	Title	
Agency Address	Room #	Telephone
City	State	Zip

How Do You Know the Young Person You're Nominating? (Note: Each young person must be nominated by an adult.)

**Note to nominators:** Do not write, rewrite, or type the essay for your nominee. Feel free to read a draft and ask them questions about their ideas, or make general suggestions, but do not do any of the writing for them. The essay must be the work of the young person. (We're not looking for a perfectly written essay. While we encourage the young person to get help with proofreading, spelling, and other minor mistakes, we will give much more weight to the ideas presented than to perfect spelling and grammar.) We can tell when a young person's essay has been reworked or written by an adult, and that will disqualify it.

Attached (Please Staple to This Form):

- Essay #1
- Essay #2
- Adult Letter of Recommendation

Questions?  
 Call **Virginia Vitzthum**  
 at 212-279-0708,  
 ext. 112

**Must be postmarked by March 2, 2020**

Submit entry form, essays, and letter of recommendation to:  
 Virginia Vitzthum  
 Represent-Awards for Youth in Foster Care  
 242 W. 38<sup>th</sup> St., 6<sup>th</sup> fl.  
 New York, NY 10018

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