



## CAYEN's 2021 Policy Priorities

The California Youth Empowerment Network (CAYEN) is a statewide board made of transitional age youth (TAY). CAYEN's personal experience, education, and employment give voice to the challenges and successes of TAY. CAYEN advocates for systemic change to create equity and access to supports and services through behavioral health public policy.

As CAYEN advocates to improve the mental wellness of TAY in California, CAYEN will advocate for change with the following priorities:

1. Policies that address the complex and nuanced needs of people of different faiths, ethnicities, gender identities, sexual orientations, and cultures;
2. Inclusive and culturally adapted mental health services within schools and community supports and services;
3. Relevant mental health education is incorporated into education curriculum;
4. Mental health services accessible for all TAY;
5. Systemic issues related to racism and discrimination, such as police brutality, which negatively impacts mental wellness;
6. Civil rights and oppressive systems that criminalize the mental wellness of vulnerable youth;
7. Incarcerated youth to access to mental health supports and services;
8. Access to free online mental health services for TAY;
9. Financial supports, services and opportunities that bring stability to at-risk youth;
10. Accommodations and mental health supports for students affected by COVID and the stay at home orders.