



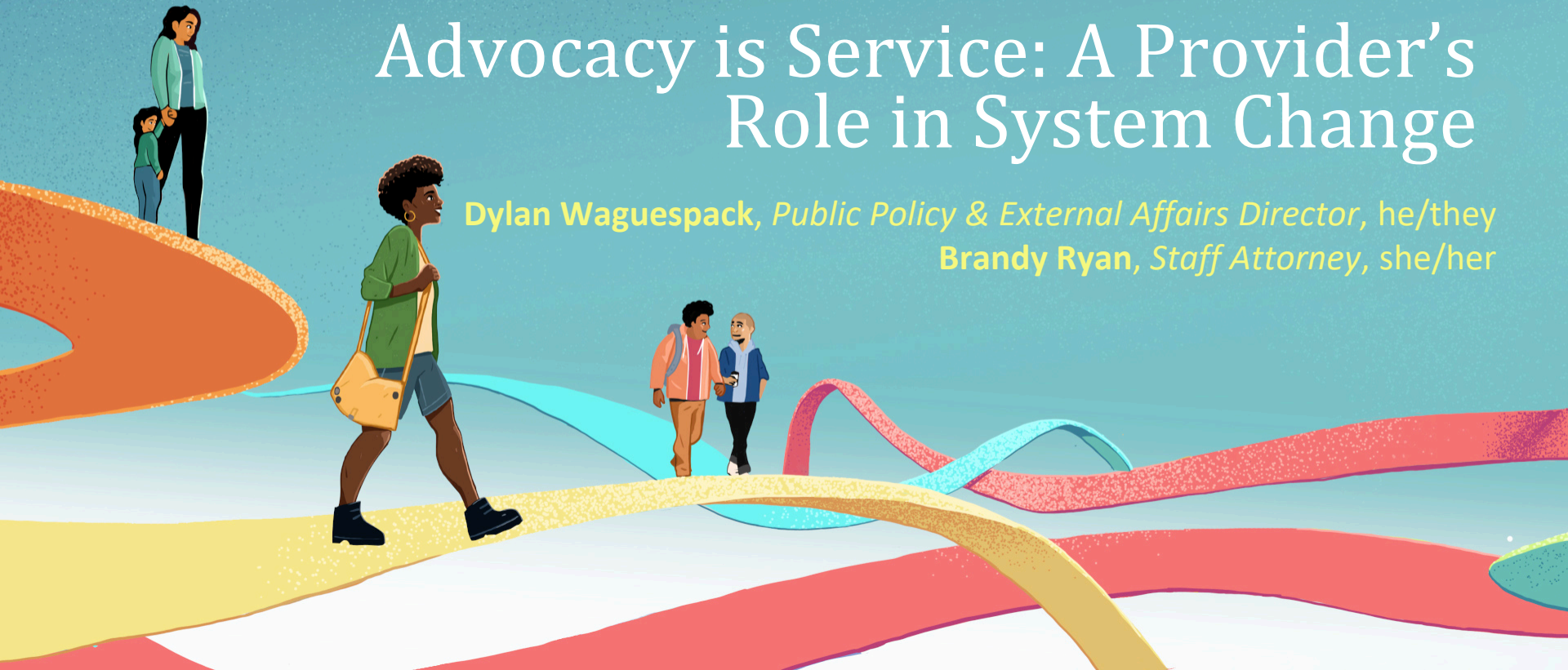
Family & Youth  
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**BRIGHTER FUTURES**  
STRENGTHENING PATHWAYS FOR YOUTH SUCCESS

# Advocacy is Service: A Provider's Role in System Change

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# Advocacy is Service

A Service Provider's Role in Creating Transformative System Change



in partnership with

NATIONAL LAW CENTER  
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

# About your presenters



**Dylan Waguespack** is the Public Policy and External Affairs Director at True Colors United. Previously, Waguespack served as Executive Director of Louisiana Progress, the progressive movement-building partnership where he started his career as an intern in 2011.

While there, he drafted and successfully lobbied for a number of bills to expand opportunity for children, youth, and families impacted by homelessness, including protection from eviction for survivors of domestic abuse, expanded eligibility for child care assistance for families experiencing homelessness, and in-state tuition and campus housing for current and former homeless and foster youth in postsecondary education.



**Brandy Ryan** is a Staff Attorney at the National Homelessness Law Center. She previously worked with the Law Center as an intern and postgrad fellow, working on housing policy in the Violence Against Women Act and several research projects and toolkits benefiting homeless youth.

Brandy graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in December 2018. Her work during law school focused on veterans and the specific legal challenges facing them even decades after their service, and her studies focused on civil rights and constitutional law. Brandy is originally from Louisiana, will never miss an opportunity to get Cajun food.



# Objectives



1. Grow participants' competency in nonprofit advocacy strategies and compliance with federal laws regarding lobbying
2. Increase knowledge and understanding of common policy barriers on the state and federal level to youth success with particular emphasis on policies impacting LGBTQ+ youth
3. Provide participants with concrete tools they can continue to access after the training for advocacy planning



# Small Group Activity #1



Discussion:  
Let's identify some barriers.



# The State Index

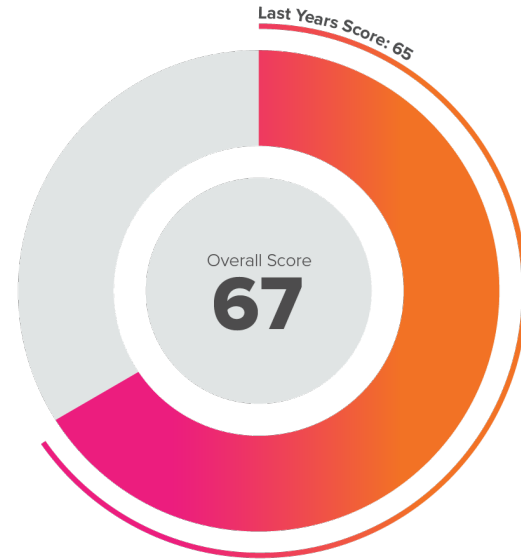


- A grade for every state based on 60+ metrics tracking laws, policies, and institutions that youth experiencing homelessness interact with.
- Updated annually to show progress and to keep up to date with best practices.

# The State Index Evaluates



1. Laws & Policies
2. Systems
3. Environment





# How to use the State Index website



# Nonprofit Advocacy



# **Discussion:**

What is advocacy?  
How is it different  
than lobbying?



# What is advocacy?



*Advocacy can take many forms. In simple terms, it means making the case for your cause or mission. When we talk about advocacy for nonprofits, we usually mean making your case in a way that will change public policy to help your cause. That means reaching audiences in a position to help make those changes. Advocacy could be any one of a number of things from research and public education to lobbying elected officials and voter engagement. These activities are especially important when you want to make sure that underrepresented and vulnerable communities have a voice in decisions that affect them.*



*-- Bolder Advocacy*



# What is lobbying?



Lobbying is a type of advocacy which attempts to influence legislators to support or oppose a particular piece of legislation, and is **allowed for non -profits within certain parameters.**

## DIRECT LOBBYING

- Communication to an elected official expressing a view on a specific piece of legislation.

## GRASSROOTS LOBBYING

- An attempt to influence specific legislation by encouraging the public to contact legislators about that legislation.



# Can nonprofits use public funds to support lobbying activities?



While there may be certain public funds that are unrestricted related to lobbying activities, **nonprofits receiving FYSB funding to support youth homelessness programs or other initiatives may not use FYSB funding in support of lobbying activities on the federal, state, or local level.**

# Examples of Advocacy vs Lobbying



Advocacy	Lobbying
Setting up a meeting with a legislator to discuss challenges youth experiencing homelessness face in accessing education.	Setting up a meeting with a legislator to urge them to vote for a bill that reduces educational barriers for youth experiencing homelessness.
Tweeting about LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness at much higher rates than their straight, cis peers.	Tweeting at your congressional representative to ask them to support existing federal legislation meant to address LGBTQ+ youth homelessness.

# Small Group Activity #2





# Reading Policy



- I'm curious about whether it's legal to prepare jambalaya for public consumption at a tailgate. Let's look!
- Let's look at the policies for some of the issues from our small groups.

# Writing Policy



- Let's say someone died from eating my jambalaya and we need to change the policy so it doesn't happen again.

- [LA template](#)

# Direct Advocacy: Who and When?



- Think about personal or geographic relationships and how to target decision-makers with whom you share things in common.
- Who is in your community who has the power to impact your work? Who do you think should be hearing directly from youth with lived experience of homelessness?
- Be polite, respectful, and say thank you!

# Meeting with Key Decision -Makers



- Call and ask!
- Timing matters
- Prepare leave-behind materials that concisely repeat your key points

# Who should I bring?



- Someone with lived experience.
- Someone from their area with a relevant story.
- Someone who knows politics and the players.
- **Note: Bring brief, written information to put in their hands.**

# Don't forget!



- Stay on message!
- Share a personal story.
- Be polite and assertive, but not aggressive.
- Gauge where they are on your issue and try to move them along.



# Questions?



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# Thank You!

**Please complete the evaluation for this session.**

Click on the link in the Chat, then select:

Day One

Workshop

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