



ADVISORY BOARD OVERVIEW

What is...



What is FVU?

People with lived experience in the child welfare system deserve to be part of efforts to change the system. Family Voices United's work is dedicated to ensuring those with first-hand experience are given the opportunity to be involved in reform, be apart of the decision making and their expertise is seen as essential to all work in the child welfare space.

What is the Lived Experience Advisory Board?

The board is comprised of 16 people, with equal numbers of young leaders, parents, kinship caregivers and foster/resource/adoptive parents. The board provides consultation to Casey Family Programs' Knowledge Management (KM) on briefs and other publications. Consultation ranges from brainstorming topics to explore further, co-designing products from the beginning, and providing feedback on draft briefs.

How can I be involved?

Board members are selected by the FVU partners. Please reach out to FosterClub, Generations United, or Children's Trust Fund Alliance if you're interested. Board members serve an 18-month term, starting in either September or March.

Is there compensation?

Yes! Members receive a \$300 per month stipend as long as they are active (more info below). Members are credited by name in publications and may be quoted. FVU also provides opportunities for leadership skills development.



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What is expected of members?

Members are expected to be active over the 24 months of their term. Active is defined as: (1) signing up for a new project at least every 4 months. (2) Participating in all project meetings/calls. (3) Attend at least 18 of 24 monthly team meetings. With each new cohort, we poll members to determine the best day and time for meetings.

What do you mean about signing up for projects?

Understanding that all members have other commitments, scheduling challenges and differing levels of interest in project, FVU intentionally created a large group with the expectation that 4 – 6 members will be available for each project.

What happens in the monthly calls?

The full board meets monthly to learn from each other, get updates on projects, and for a deep dive into a topic they bring to the staff.

What else do I need to know?

In addition to this advisory board, there are other opportunities to engage with FVU. FVU regularly polls people with lived experience with child welfare on topics such as what would have kept your family out of child welfare, race equity, and supporting kinship caregivers. Results are compiled into papers for policy makers and stakeholders. Board members are expected to be ambassadors for this work, sharing with their networks and on social media.