

# What is AMP?

AMP is a youth-driven, statewide group that seeks to unleash the full potential for personal growth among foster and adoptive children in Iowa. AMP offers leadership opportunities, service learning projects, speaking opportunities, and educational/vocational assistance. AMP also provides the life skills youth need to become self-sufficient, independent adults.

Summarized by the motto, “Nothing about us, without us,” AMP is a youth engagement program. AMP involves young people as advocates for themselves and as a voice for system-level improvements in child welfare policies and practices. When supported through productive partnerships with adults, youth can be authoritative advocates for making foster care more responsive and effective.

# Who are AMP Youth?

AMP members are ages 13 and up who have been involved in foster care, adoption, or other out-of-home placements.



# What do AMP Youth Do?

- Train to become advocates for themselves and others.
- Participate in valuable leadership opportunities.
- Develop their voices by telling their own stories.
- Educate legislators, foster parents, the public, child welfare professionals, and juvenile court representatives about foster care and adoption from the youth perspective.
- Build youth/adult partnerships in the community that create opportunities for service learning.
- Encourage others to open their homes to teens in foster care or wish to adopt.
- Provide understanding, support, and encouragement to one another.
- Gain the life skills necessary to become healthy, independent adults.
- Present education/vocational options to assist themselves and others to become successful, productive adults.

# What do AMP Youth Hope to Accomplish?

Help foster youth to become independent adults who can successfully educate others about the child welfare system and take an active role in making life better for themselves and others in state care.

# How You Can Help

**Allow us to speak at your next event.**

AMP youth have a compelling story to share. Please consider having them speak at your next luncheon, meeting, or event.

**Share a skill, talent, or hobby.**

The majority of youth who reach adulthood while in foster care do not get the chance to develop critical life skills that enable others their age to succeed. Please consider sharing your skills and knowledge with our young people. You can help them build a resume, fill out a car loan or college application, or understand personal finances, to name a few.

**Donate a service or a product.**

Teens leaving foster care have many needs that other teens coming of age are provided by their biological families. Furnishings, sheets, blankets, personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies, towels, kitchen supplies, and more are all items these youth will need to live independently.

**Make a cash donation.**

Visit [www.ampiowa.org](http://www.ampiowa.org) to make a donation online or send your donation to Youth & Shelter Services, Inc., 420 Kellogg Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010. Include AMP in the memo line of your check. You can ensure the dollars are used in your community by listing the AMP council closest to you.

# The AMP Partnership of Iowa Foster Care Youth Councils is...

a collaboration of 11 organizations led by Youth & Shelter Services (headquartered in Ames). The Iowa Department of Human Services is the primary grant funder for AMP, but donations and local community support supplement local youth AMP councils.

The Partnership includes: **American Home Finding Association** (Ottumwa Council), **Children's Square USA** (Council Bluffs & Sioux City Councils), **Foundation 2** (Cedar Rapids & Iowa City Councils), **Four Oaks** (Waterloo Council), **Francis Lauer Youth Services** (Mason City Council), **Youth Shelter Care of North Central Iowa** (Fort Dodge Council), as well as **Youth & Shelter Services** (Ames & Davenport Councils) and its branch in Des Moines known as **Iowa Homeless Youth Centers** (Des Moines Council), **Hillcrest Family Services** (Dubuque Council), and **Young House Family Services** (Burlington Council).

In addition, the Partnership has links to three consulting agencies including the **Youth Policy Institute of Iowa** for participant satisfaction surveys and to train the AMP Youth Advocacy Team, **ISU - RISE** (Research Institute for Studies in Education) to conduct program assessment and analysis of outcome data, and **The Child and Family Policy Center** for legislative advocacy. The partnership networks with other stakeholders including, but not limited to, the **Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parent Association**, **Iowa KidsNet**, the **Iowa Aftercare Services Network**, and group homes/PMICS and shelters.

## Consider Helping!

You can make a difference to youth in foster care through a donation of your time, talent, or treasure. If you are interested in establishing a Foster Care Youth Council in your county, AMP would be very interested in meeting with you. We hope to add several new partner agencies and councils this year.



## AMP Youth Council Locations

**AMES • BURLINGTON • CEDAR RAPIDS •**  
**COUNCIL BLUFFS • DAVENPORT • DES MOINES •**  
**DUBUQUE • FORT DODGE • IOWA CITY •**  
**MASON CITY • OTTUMWA •**  
**WATERLOO • SIOUX CITY •**  
**MOBILE AMP FACILITATOR (New April 2014) •**  
**CALMAR (New September 2014) •**  
**ELDORA STS (New August 2014)**

Visit us on our website and our members only Facebook:



[www.ampiowa.org](http://www.ampiowa.org)  
Achieving Maximum Potential - AMP



## Contact AMP Headquarters

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YSS Family Life Center

125 S. 3rd, Ames, IA 50010

Phone: 515-291-4581 Fax: 515-233-3235

Services at YSS are available in the least restrictive setting, regardless of race, color, physical challenge, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or ability to pay. If you require accommodations to participate in any program offered by YSS, call 515.233.3141 to make a request. Please notify YSS at least 72 hours before any scheduled event. This material is also available in an alternative format by calling 515.233.3141 or Iowa Relay at 711.



## Nothing About Us, Without Us

A Program of The AMP Partnership of Iowa  
Foster Care Youth Councils

[www.ampiowa.org](http://www.ampiowa.org)

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