Who we are

THE UNC CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

The University of North Carolina Center for Development and Learning (CDL) is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. Y4A is one of several community projects at the CDL.

Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) is a project at the CDL that offers support, training, and technical assistance to increase self-advocacy for individuals with disabilities and their families. The STIR team offers practical, hands-on approaches to learning leadership tools.

The Center for Development and Learning Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill A University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD)

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Project STIR (Steps Towar
Youths 4 Advocacy

Youths 4 Advocacy (Y4A) is a project for North Carolina high school students enrolled in the Occupational Course of Study (OCS) pathway. OCS leads to a standard high school diploma for students with disabilities who need a modified curriculum that focuses on post-school employment and independent living.

What we do

Y4A empowers youths to transition successfully from school to adult life in their communities.

Y4A’s goals are to:

1. Provide training and assistance to schools for OCS students to become strong self-advocates and leaders.
   Peer leader teams use the Speak-Up! Action Manual for Peer Leader Teams learn self-advocacy tools and train other students.

2. Develop a successful model at demonstration-site schools.
   Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools is the Y4A demonstration site.

3. Build a strong network among twelve agencies to expand/sustain transition opportunities across NC.
   Y4A collaborates with 12 projects and agencies that partner to increase opportunities for community inclusion across the state for many years in the future.

Network agencies include

- **Association of Self-Advocates of NC**
  Helping people with disabilities take responsibility for their lives.
  www.asa-nc.org  919.420.7901

- **Exceptional Children’s Assistance Center**
  Providing information and resources to the families of children with disabilities in NC.
  www.ecac-parentcenter.org  704.892.1321

- **NC Council on Developmental Disabilities**
  Promoting full lives in the community.
  www.nc-ddc.org  919.420.7901

- **Disability Rights North Carolina**
  Protection & Advocacy: Champions for equality and justice.
  www.cladisabilitylaw.org  877.235.4210

- **NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**
  Promoting employment and independence for people with disabilities.
  http://dvr.dhhs.state.nc.us  919.855.3500

- **Carolina Health & Transition (CHAT) – NC Division of Public Health**
  Working for a healthier and safer North Carolina.
  www.ncpublichealth.com  919.707.5670

- **NC Department of Public Instruction**
  www.ncpublicschools.org/ec  919.807.3300

- **Alliance for Disability Advocates/Center for Independent Living-ADA/CIL**
  Promoting independence and consumer control by people with disabilities.
  www.allian Cecil.org  919.833.1117

- **Aging & Disability Resource Center-ADRC**
  Developing a locally coordinated network of resources to provide uniform information and access for consumers.
  www.adrc-tae.org  919.855.4428

- **NC Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism**
  Fostering an ethic of volunteerism and community service in North Carolina people of all ages and backgrounds.
  www.volunteernc.org  919.716.0093

- **Family Support Network**
  Providing support for families with children who have special needs.
  www.fsnnc.org  800.852.0042

- **Winston-Salem/Forsyth Schools**
  http://wsfcs.k12.nc.us  336.771.4753

Y4A is funded by the US Administration on Developmental Disabilities as a Project of National Significance.