

Hypothetical 1:

In your small group please review the hypothetical below and attempt to identify:

- **Potential legal issues that youth are experiencing**
- **What policies, practices, training, or advocacy would need to be implemented at an organizational level to address this type of challenge.**

Candice is a 16 year-old girl with a 1 year-old son. She has been couch surfing between her friends' houses and older members of her church since her son was born. Candice left home shortly after she gave birth because of how often she argued with her mother Sarah while she was pregnant. Ms. Theresa from Candice's church watches her son when she's at school, but isn't able to take in Candice and her son without additional funding. Candice has tried to remain in contact with her mom and provide updates about her grandson, but Sarah hasn't been responding to Candice's attempts.

Candice goes to the local social services office to apply for CalWorks for herself and her son. The county worker tells her that she is ineligible because she is a minor. The worker also says that he would need to make a child protective services (CPS) report if no one is providing Candice with care because she is a minor. The worker ultimately refuses to give Candice an application since she wouldn't be eligible anyway.

Candice finds Helen's Dream, a multi-service drop-in center that was designed for LGBTQ+ youth and minor parents who are experiencing homelessness. At the center, Candice takes advantage of resources made available for youth attempting to find housing and employment. Whenever other parents mention wanting to apply for CalWORKs benefits, Candice shares her experience of being ineligible because she was a minor. Upon hearing her story other youth decide not to try to apply because they would be rejected too.

Hypothetical 2:

In your small group please review the hypothetical below and attempt to identify:

- **Potential legal issues that youth are experiencing**
- **What policies, practices, training, or advocacy would need to be implemented at an organizational level to address this type of challenge.**

Skye is a 17 year-old youth who is in foster care in San Francisco. Skye identifies as non-binary and uses they/them pronouns. Skye is out to friends and a school, but has not changed their gender marker on any identification. They went AWOL from their last placement because their foster parents refused to use their requested name and pronouns, insisted they could only dress in “feminine clothing,” and would be yelled at if they were caught reading young adult LGBTQ+ books or watching LGBTQ+ tv shows like Heartstopper. It has been three weeks since Skye left their foster placement and they have been staying with friends when possible, or at shelters or the street when it isn’t. Skye has been moving between locations and does not have a permanent address. Skye has a 24 year-old sister who now lives in San Diego. Skye would ultimately like to live with their sister in San Diego. Skye does not currently have a phone number or address for their sister in San Diego.

Skye finds Helen’s Dream, a multi-service drop-in center that was designed for LGBTQ+ youth and minor parents who are experiencing homelessness. Skye is informed by a worker at Helen’s Dream that they could apply for benefits through CalFresh. Skye goes to the local social services office to apply for CalFresh for themselves. The county worker tells them that they are ineligible because they would be considered part of their friend’s household because they are a minor staying with adults. The worker also says Skye would be ineligible unless they can provide an ID to confirm their identity. The worker ultimately refuses to give Skye an application since they wouldn’t be eligible anyway.

Skye returns to Helen’s Dream and shares with other youth their experience at trying to apply for CalFresh. Other trans youth hearing that they would need an ID to get CalFresh decide to not attempt to get benefits because their gender identity markers on their IDs don’t match their gender identity.